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# Samia lays stone for 6.2bn/- seeds project

The government has already allocated 4bn/- for building the market

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday laid the foundation stone for a 6.2bn/- Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) Kilimi seed estate in Nzega District, Tabora Region.

The project named after the president is expected to produce seeds throughout the year, with the president also visiting the Nzega parking lot market where she listened to traders' grievances.

The seed farm relates to a modern irrigation scheme playing a pivotal role in increasing the availability of quality seeds to farmers around the country.

The president asked traders questions like the price of food at the market where she was surprised to hear that fish sell at higher prices compared to meat, with food vendors selling a plate of food at 1,500/- to 2,000/- while fish (usually Nile Perch) sells at 1,000/- a piece.

She remarked that food prices were just too high as a family of five would need upwards of 5,000/- just to buy fish, wondering if most families have extra cash to buy the maize flour and spices.

In their response, the traders said they too obtain fish at high prices from a major fish market— 'Kariakoo' where a small fish fetches up to 2,000/-.

Onions are sold at 3,000/- per kg, groundnuts 2,500/- per kg, rice at 2,500/- per kg and a bundle of tomatoes at 500/-.

Demanding to know more of the business situations, the traders claimed that the situation is bad as prices of most commodities are high and the customers are limited.

"We are experiencing difficulties," they said, noting that they face difficulties with access to funds to improve their businesses. "People don't have money for shopping," one trader intimated.

President Samia noticed the dilapidated market complex, instructing Nzega Urban MP who doubles as Agriculture minister, Hussein Bashe to make sure the market is repaired.

"The government has already allocated 4bn/- for building the market," she said, pointing at the MP and the district commissioner as responsible for the work. They should come up with strategies for its implementation, she stated, emphasizing that traders operating stalls at the market prior to maintenance should be given priority in allocating trading space later.

The president donated 1.5m/- with instruction that it is distributed to small traders to boost their working capital, meanwhile as she had occasion to address enthusiastic crowds in Puge, Magili and Nzega Rural, with residents praising the government for development projects in their areas.

Nzega Rural MP Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla asked the president to upgrade Nzega into a region, similarly appealing for upgrading Bukene to a district council to ease the provision of services.

Tabora North MP Athumani Maige commended the government for executing various development projects at a cost of 47.6bn/-, also asking the president to disburse funds for construction of a 27 kilometers road from Magili-Kigwa to tarmac level.

Responding, the president said funds for construction of the road will be allocated in the 2024/2025 budget allocations, as currently the government is executing other road projects.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has a word with small traders selling fried fish at a makeshift market in Nzega town yesterday while on a tour during which she had a first-hand account of the challenges members of the business community there commonly face. To her left is Agriculture minister Hussein Mohamed Bashe, who is also Nzega Urban constituency legislator. Photo: State House

# Bus operators seek sharp rises in fares

The last time we issued such a request fuel prices stood at 2800/- on average but now the range is 3500/- to 3600/- per litre in some areas. We can't afford these costs, even spare parts prices have also risen

By Carlos Banda

PASSENGER bus operators have presented proposals to increase upcountry and commuter bus fares to the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) for approval, citing rising operational costs, fuel prices hike and even dollar scarcity.

At a stakeholders' meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the operators gave a presentation with data showing how

the recent scarcity of the US dollar and increase in fuel prices was affecting the business.

Priscus Joseph, Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA) secretary general, said the proposed increase was a reality because the last time fuel prices have been rising on a monthly basis while fares have remained the same.

"The last time we issued such a request fuel prices stood at 2800/- on average but now the range is 3500/- to 3600/- per litre in some areas. We can't afford these costs, even spare parts prices have also risen," he said.

Import prices for vehicles have also increased due to the scarcity of the dollar, and service providers were banking on the new request to restore their operating balances, he said.

The motorists also called for review of the transport legislation so that it can accommodate emergencies in a similar manner as presently, they urged.

"In June, fuel prices stood at 2,800/- but now stand at 3,600/- implying 1000/- per litre increase," he said, underlining that when translated into daily higher expenses, the figure is a heavy burden to carry.

Most operators have loans to service

in banks and other financial institutions, which reduces their ability to take on additional costs, as sharp as the recent fuel prices, he said.

He suggested that passenger bus operators are chalking up losses they seek to obviate by raised fare charges to help them cushion their business.

He cited an upcountry bus operator whose vehicles ply the Dar to Arusha highway, spending 300,000/- on fuel daily on the old fuel price, rising to 400,000/- with current prices.

He said the bus operators are not maneuvering to increase profits but reduce current burdens with sharp fuel price increases, while Sabri Mabrouk, the Dar es Salaam Commuter Bus Owners Association (DACOBA) chairman, said the group is seeking a rise in bus fares to 800/- for routes now fetching 500/- fare charge, 1,600/- for a 20-kilometer route and 2,400/- for a 30 kilometer distance.

Habibu Suluo, the LATRA director general, said the regulatory body will carry out an annual analysis which will be inclusive. This will facilitate reviewing the fuel prices impact to come up with rates which will last longer since fuel prices notification is on a monthly basis, he added.

## SPORTS

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Simba SC, Al Ahly prepare for African Football League showdown

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'No use of charcoal by next February 1'

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Govt vows to boost transport industry

## REA for grid connection to 1000 villages by June 2024

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Rural Energy Agency (REA) plans to connect power to upwards of 1,072 villages by June next year in the third phase of the rural electrification drive, bringing to 12,018 the number of villages connected to the national grid.

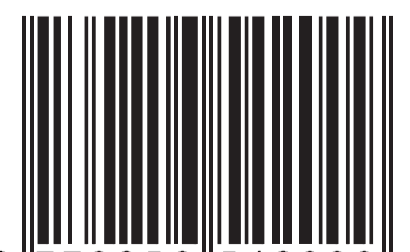
Hassan Saïdy, the REA director general, issued this projection at the launch of the third phase early this week, starting with connecting 120 villages in Iramba District in Singida Region.

Total works for the phase are estimated at 1.6trn/-, he stated, affirming that 11,000 villages had been connected and the remaining 1300 villages will have been reached mid next year.

Since REA was established in 2007 it has helped the Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) take power to most rural areas, as just five percent of rural dwellers were connected to power in 2007, he said.

Access had increased to 70 percent in 2020 when the last evaluation was conducted, he

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## REA for grid connection to 1000 villages by June 2024

FROM PAGE 1

stated, explaining that REA had connected power to 28,659 out of 64,760 hamlets countrywide, using the Hamlet Electrification Project (HEP) funds.

Apart from improving social services, availability of electricity has helped to enhance security, environmental conservation and gender equality as part of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) drive, he said.

"We are implementing this project as stipulated in the ruling party's election manifesto 2020-2025

that requires all the 12,318 villages in the Mainland to be connected with electricity," he declared.

Gracing the launch, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said that villages in Iramba District will be connected in the coming phase, slated to reach all the 178 villages in Mkalama, Manyoni, Ikungi, Iramba and Singida rural districts.

"The job has been completed by 90 percent; we expect all the villages in Singida Region to be connected with electricity by June 2024," she emphasized, pointing at ongoing to strengthen the national grid to eliminate power outages.

## 'Ban on use of firewood, charcoal targets public and private institutions'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government said yesterday that the ban on use of firewood and charcoal targets public and private institutions that prepare food for between 100 and 300 people.

Institutions that use firewood and charcoal to prepare food and feed more than 100 people per day have been given until January 31, 2024 while institutions that prepare food and feed more than 300 people to cease the use of firewood and charcoal by January 31, 2025.

Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Environment and Union), Selemani Jafo said that the institutions will be required to use safe and clean cooking energy.

Dr Jafo said the aim is to control environmental destruction associated with cutting down trees as well as safeguarding people's health.

"When the announcement was made in April this year, people were shocked thinking the ban will involve individuals and food vendors. We only target institutions that prepare food for hundreds of people using charcoal and firewood," said the minister.

He added: "Most of our schools use large quantities of firewood; if you visit other public institutions you will be surprised with the quantities of firewood they use every day; that's why we have decided to start with our own intuitions."

He stressed that the move is geared to reduce environmental destruction as the government and stakeholders embark on initiatives to restore forests through tree planting.

Jafo said the use of charcoal and firewood poses health risks to users and may cause diseases associated with inhaling smoke. He said using dirty energy sources may result in heart complications as well as lung damage and vision impairment.

He added the 2019 state of the environment report shows that Tanzania is currently losing more than 469,000 hectares of forest per year due to tree felling for firewood and charcoal.

"It is estimated that 16 per cent of the land has been damaged and is facing the spread of desert and drought states due to unsustainable activities including deforestation for the aim of having firewood and charcoal for cooking," he added.

He linked the situation with people doing activities at unau-

thorised areas and the use of firewood and charcoal for cooking. He said people prefer charcoal and firewood due to its availability and prices.

Jafo explained that the government's priority is to build an industrial economy, so the use of renewable cooking energy will provide an opportunity for factories to produce alternative charcoal in parallel with producing standardised and efficient stoves for the efficient use of such energy.

He called on gas selling companies as well as those manufacturing stoves and charcoal briquettes to use the ban to maximize their production and sales.

"The ban is an opportunity for gas companies to expand their markets," said Jafo.

Speaking at the World Environment Day in 2021, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed public and private institutions to start using clean energy for cooking and other production activities.

Africa's net forest loss exceeded 4 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2005 and approximately 3.9 million ha annually between 2010 and 2020, according to a 2020 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The global forest loss between 2015 and 2020 was 10 million hectares per year with a net forest loss of 7 million hectares per year from 2010 to 2020, according to FAO.



**It is estimated that 16 per cent of the land has been damaged and is facing the spread of desert and drought states due to unsustainable activities including deforestation for the aim of having firewood and charcoal for cooking**



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango bids farewell to Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yasushi Misawa, after talks at Chamwino State House in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Japan hands over school buildings in Hai District

By Correspondent James Kandoya,

Hai

JAPAN has handed over buildings of a new Kibohehe primary school in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region worth 206m/- that were demolished by heavy rainfall in 2018.

The school building consists of seven classrooms, two teachers' offices, desks and toilets.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony held at Rondoo village in Hai District in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday, the Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania Yasushi Misawa said that the school was constructed through Japan's Grant

Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects to Tanzania.

He said the Japanese government has been supporting a number of projects through grassroots in Tanzania since 1989.

The envoy said that so far, a total of 383 projects worth \$ 27 million have been implemented.

"This is a true testimony of our bilateral relationship that existed for decades," he said.

School headmistress Flora Nathai said that the school was closed after it was completely destroyed by rainfall and strong winds that killed one pupil in 2018.

She said as a result the students were shifted to the neighbouring schools to continue with their

studies.

"It is a historical day as we witness the Japanese government hand over to us new constructed classrooms," she said.

"It is our hope that teachers and students will be able to exercise their duties of teaching and learning," he added.

The headmistress said that currently, Kibohehe primary school has a total of 224 pupils and 184 desks.

Nathai said that apart from the Japan Embassy, 43 m/- was donated from the Office of District Executive Director (DED), 4.4 m/- from stakeholders and six million from the community.

Hai District Council chairman

Edmund Rutalaka said that 50 per cent of schools constructed in the late sixties therefore are old.

He said the Council is working hard to overcome that challenge by constructing new schools adding that the same problem is also noted in secondary schools.

Rutalaka commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for releasing one(1) bn/ to rehabilitate old schools such as Lyamungo and Machame girls to mention the few.

Muksin Bakista, a Standard Six pupil at Kibohehe primary school thanked the Japanese people for the support.

He said that the support will encourage them to study hard and do better in their studies.



East African Community secretary general Dr Peter Mathuki (R) pictured in Arusha city yesterday receiving letters of credence from Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes, who is also accredited to the EAC. Photo courtesy of EAC

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

## Minister calls on public to protect water sources

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Water, Energy and Minerals Shaibu Hassan Kaduwara, has urged the public to protect water sources to strengthen irrigation.

Kaduwara made the call here yesterday when speaking at the climax of the World Food Day 2023 anniversary, which in Isles was celebrated in the Northern Pemba Region.

The minister said the government's strategy is to strengthen irrigation for food self-sufficiency and deter food importation.

He also stated that availability of clean and safe water has reached 67 percent in 2023 from 56 per cent last year and the goal is to reach 76 percent.

He said that the government is

drilling water wells and building water storage tanks in 19 villages and "the idea is to ensure that people get clean and safe water."

According to Kaduwara, Zanzibar government has increased the budget in agriculture from 53.9bn/- to 98.7bn/- this year, an increase of 84 percent.

"This will only be realised when

the public protects water sources during their economic activities. We want to ensure that all water sources are protected to promote the agricultural sector as well as irrigation in rice fields for better cultivation and make sure that we are self-sufficient in food," he said.

He said that the cultivation of

spice crops has been prioritised and brought back the era of Zanzibar to lead the production and export of these products including cloves, chili and vanilla.

Shaban Seif Mwinvi, Permanent Secretary in the ministry noted that farmers have been empowered with modern farming skills as well as getting improved fruit

seedlings during this year's Food Day Exhibitions.

During the exhibition, the government distributed 5,560 improved coconut seedlings such as African tall coconut seeds, which are known for sustainable production of coconuts.

He also noted that 5,000 farmers have been given seedlings of vanilla seeds and the research shows that the kind of vanilla thrives well in the Pemba Island.





Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila speaks to transport stakeholders and LATRA officials to review the proposed bus fares for city and upcountry buses. The event was held at Mnazi Mmoja Arnaoutoglou conference hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is LATRA director general Habibu Suluhu. Photo: Carlos Banda.

# Arusha management is fined for collecting illegal insurance fees

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) has ordered the management of Tanganyika primary and secondary school in Arusha to pay a 5m/- fine for allegedly collecting insurance fees from students for 10 years, contrary to insurance regulations.

The authority has also ordered the school to return the money it collected from Alexander Lugale Oyuge for the entire period that his children were at the school because the collected fees were not used to provide the intended service.

TIRA instructed the school to register with the authority to be allowed to collect insurance fees legally since what it is doing now is contrary to Chapter 394 Section 161 (I) of the Insurance Act.

Addressing journalists yesterday in Arusha, Insurance Commissioner Dr Baghayo Saqware asked the public to refrain from paying for services that are provided by a person or institution that is not registered with the authority.

He said the school charges an insurance fee of 200,000/- per year for each primary and secondary student, while pre-school students pay 90,000/- per year.

Saqware said that as a result of their investigation, the school has collected more than 207,600m/- as insurance fees from pre-primary and secondary school students for all the years. He said the money was spent to purchase first aid kits.

He said that TIRA received a complaint on January 16th this year from Alexander Lugale Oyuge who told them that he had been paying insurance fees for his two children, but they were registered with any health insurance scheme.

The Commissioner said that Oyuge claimed that the money he paid was then used for other school activities and purchases because when one of his children got a leg injury, was returned home for treatment instead of being provided with medical treatment using

his health insurance cover.

The Commissioner said that the school management was summoned by TIRA's law enforcement committee on September 13th this year. He said the school management couldn't show up at the meeting on October 10th this year, hence decisions to penalise the school.

"Failure by the school to pay the fine will lead to the authority arresting and arranging the school owner in accordance with Section 161 (I), Chapter 494 of the Insurance Act.

He asked all the schools in the country to comply with the Chapter 394 of the Insurance Act by taking appropriate measures to register with TIRA.

*...that as a result of their investigation, the school has collected more than 207,600m/- as insurance fees from pre-primary and secondary school students for all the years. He said the money was spent to purchase first aid kits.*

# US, Tanzania partner to boost horticulture sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) yesterday celebrated the first-year achievements for the Feed the Future Tanzania Kilimo Tija (Productive Agriculture) project at the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI) - Ilonga, in Kilosa, Morogoro Region.

The event highlighted the project's achievements and emphasised the grant partnership with MATI Ilonga, which commenced in May 2023. This collaboration played a pivotal role in establishing a horticulture training center (PTC) and providing training on productivity-boosting technologies to government extension staff, MATI - Ilonga students, and the Building Better Tomorrow Youth in Agriculture (BBT/YIA) participants.

The event not only presents an opportunity for stakeholders to celebrate Kilimo Tija's year one achievements, but also serves as a platform to discuss how Tanzania's horticulture sector might be transformed into a regional powerhouse.

In his remarks, the USAID/Tanzania Economic Growth Office Deputy Director Plato Hieronimus emphasised the importance of partnership between Tanzania, the United States, and the private sector to generate opportunities for youth development and job creation.

"Without the critical inputs from the private sector and enormous support from the government of Tanzania, this USAID project would not be possible. Because of this partnership, 2,500 Tanzanian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will have the

support they need to invest \$20 million in growth and generate 7,400 new jobs."

Over the course of implementation (2022-2027), the project also seeks to achieve a 15 percent annual revenue growth for the enterprises and over \$100,000 in sales of produce from smallholder farmers.

In its initial phase, the PTC facility was utilized to provide hands-on training to over 420 beneficiaries, including MATI lecturers and students, extension staff, farmers and 84 BBT/YIA youths incubated at the facility to get practical knowledge and skills in horticulture.

The fruitful collaborations among USAID Kilimo Tija and the MATI-Ilonga teams to the PTC initiative resulted in investments exceeding 124.8m/- at the MATI Ilonga 5-acre demonstration facility, equipped with modern farming technologies.

The facility will continue to equip extension staff with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively support smallholder farmers in the region.

Targeting Tanzania's Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania "SAGCOT" regions of Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro, and Njombe, along with Zanzibar's Unguja and Pemba islands, USAID's \$37.9 million Kilimo Tija's primary goal is to sustainably increase economic opportunities in horticulture market systems, with a special focus on youth. The project works with public and private sector associations, youth-led and women-focused institutions, and national and local government authorities to enhance horticulture market systems and unlock economic opportunities, particularly for the youth.



## Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Provision of Employee Bus Transport Services for AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified, and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Provision of Employee Bus Services for AUMS (T) Ltd

### 1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to [ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com](mailto:ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com) not later than **16:00HRS** Local Time on 27/10/2023 quoting "EOI Provision of Employee Bus Services" in the subject line of your email. Email size shouldn't exceed 20mb's.

### Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following MANDATORY INFORMATION:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Director's list, Organogram, Number of employers with a foreign to national ratio indicated.
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Transport Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years.
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Contracts held in the provision of bus transport services.
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond **16:00HRS** Local Time on **27/10/23** shall not be considered.

### 2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS(T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on **African Underground Mining Services** and its operations please refer to the following website [www.aumsg.com](http://www.aumsg.com).

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## VPNs ban meant to protect digital space from cyber criminals - govt

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has emphasised the ban on the use of unregistered Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) isn't meant to restrict flow of information but to protect the country's digital space from cyber fraudsters.

Minister for Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Nnauye told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the sidelines of an interview after the official opening of the 07th Tanzania Annual ICT Conference 2023 (TAIC 2023) which commenced on October 16 to 20, this year.

The minister Nnauye said that the move is not meant deny Tanzanians their right to information but strengthen surveillance and protect people from falling into hands of fraudsters.

According to him, the new move to register VPNs was important as it will help the government to know various information including user IP address which are important in preventing illegal digital acts to occur.

"We have been receiving a lot of cases of people who are affected by cybercrime with others loosing millions of money but investigations of these cases have been long as fraudsters use hidden networks, so in order to address these challenges and keep all our people safe from cybercriminals," he said.

He encouraged individuals and companies to register their VPNs as the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has announced for them to operate smoothly.

He said despite various measures taken by the government to strengthen cybersecurity, that there still a number of cybercrime challenges, something which need more efforts to curb as it poses a huge threat to the country's economy and people's lives.

He added that the government will continue improving policies and laws to further detect and prevent the cyber-crimes which are prevalent in technology driven economies.

In the opening event, Minister Nnauye said ICT play a key role in the transition from a resource-based economy to a skill- and technology-based economy, and to transform the country's production structure.

The Tanzania's "Third Five-Year Development Plan" also emphasizes the importance of science and technology, innovation and digitalization, to explore development potential through the national digital transformation,

so that Tanzania people can benefit more quality life from the development.

"We are sure that with the current major investment in the ICT sector both by the government and the private sector, will greatly help position Tanzania as one of the country's with rapid technological transformation which stimulate inclusive in the area. We hope that more technological solutions will continue to be produced to further bring positive changes in the country," he explained.

He also said that despite progress, women participation in the ICT sector was still very low, so more coordinated efforts are needed to increase their take up in order to stimulate growth and strengthen individual economy and the nation at large.

He further said the ministry has signed agreement (MoU) with its counterpart in India to strengthen collaborations in the ICT sector by stimulating growth of innovations for sustainable development.

The government recognises efforts of the private sector in constructing modern communication infrastructure, expanding services to underserved communities.

Deputy minister, Eng Mathew Kundo commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her efforts to put conducive environment to stimulate investments and growth of the ICT sector.

Jason Yi, board director - Huawei Tanzania said the firm believes believe that digital transformation is a driving force for innovation, inclusiveness and sustainable growth, stimulating job creation, improve productivity, help to tackle poverty, and together to realize Tanzania's development vision 2025.

"We can see a lot of impressive achievements today especially the national ICT broadband backbone network (NICTBB) which is providing connectivity to seven neighbouring countries, fulfilling the government's commitment to become a regional ICT hub, and connecting neighbouring landlocked countries with international submarine cables for global connectivity. With reliable cyber security systems, Tanzania ranks 2nd in Africa and 37th in the world in the latest Global Cyber Security Index released by the ITU," he said.

He said Huawei Tanzania is committed to imparting ICT knowledge and skills to Tanzanians, and working with industry and academic partners to build the digital talent pool needed for Tanzania's sustainable development.



Members of the National Service corps construct houses for Ngorongoro National Park residents who have shifted voluntarily to Msomera in Handeni District, Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hassan Mabuye

## Four in court over tampering with EFD's

By Correspondent Restuta James

FOUR traders yesterday appeared before Ilala District Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam for allegedly tampering with Tanzania Revenue Authority's electronic tax system and causing a loss of 592.3m/-.

The accused appeared before the magistrate in charge, Susan Kihawa, on Wednesday charged with six counts, including organised crime, which is contrary to paragraph 4(1) of the first schedule to, and sections 57 (1) and 60 (2) both of the economic and organised crime control Act. They also accused of using electronic fiscal device in a manner that mislead the system and the commissioner, issuing of false fiscal receipts, founding in possession of property suspected to be stolen, occasioning loss to TRA

and money laundering.

The accused are Salum Mbegu (38), Peter Ntikula (27), Baraka Ntikula (37) and Hamad Abuu Hamad, from Dar es Salaam and Mkurunga, Coast Region.

Senior state attorney Glory Mwenda assisted with Upendo Mono, Medalagini Emmanuel and Hauni Chimula, told the court that on the diverse dates between 2018 and October 2023, the respondents within Ilala District jointly with intent to reap profit organized a crime racket by using EFDs in a manner that mislead the TRA and issuing forged receipts.

The attorney told the court that, within the same period, all respondents use EFDs to produce illegal receipts uploaded in the System of TRA to enhance other taxpayers to claim for reimbursement of the

VAT amounting to 592,336,714/- from the Commissioner General being the revenue of TRA, contrary to Economic and Organized Crime Control Act (2022).

The respondents were alleged to violate section 86 (1), (c) and (3) of the Tax Administration Act (2019) while Salum Mbegu, Peter and Baraka Ntikula together were accused of possessing unlawfully property contrary to section 312 (1)(b) of the Penal Code (2022).

Mbegu, Ntikula and Baraka, were found in possession of five Electronic Fiscal devices (EFDs), with serial number 03TZ843047351, 03TZ843021655, 03TZ843046877, 03TZ843040838 and 02TZ229317 which are suspected to have been unlawfully obtained.

The attorney told the court that, by unlawful act they caused TRA to

suffer a loss of 592,336,714 by issuing false fiscal receipts which misled the Commissioner General and the system.

All accused were not allowed to enter a plea to the charges because they fall under the Economic and Organized Crime Control Act.

Kihawa also said that the accused person that her court lacked jurisdiction to entertain anything, including bail as the offence of money laundering is not bailable and the proper court vested with jurisdiction to try the case in the Economic, Corruption and Organised Crime High Court's Division.

The magistrate ordered the accused persons to go to remand until October 30, 2023, when the case will be mentioned, as investigations are incomplete.



Access Microfinance Bank Tanzania, Chief Executive Officer, Julius Ruwaichi (R), presents a certificate of appreciation to one of the customers who had performed well during the launch of the customer service month in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. The event was attended by the bank's customers, management and employees. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Dollar scarcity hits Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has been hit by the shortage of dollars, a situation which had led to the increase in prices for essential commodities such as food and fuel.

Speaking to this paper on different occasions some businessmen said availability of dollars in commercial banks was now difficult as the buyer is required to give an explanation for the use.

They also said a buyer is now allowed to buy not more than 500 dollars per day, a move which makes traders fail to import products timely.

One of the traders Mohammed Ali said he had failed to import shoes due to the situation as his reserve was not enough. Another trader Mussa Omar said he had failed to travel for business due to scarcity of the dollar.

Zanzibar's Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Saada Mkuya Salum confirmed the scarcity, but said the situation was not only in Zanzibar as the whole world was almost facing the same.

"This situation is everywhere. This is due to a move by the United States of America to reduce circulation to rescue its economy from rising prices of commodities," she said.

She said however, that the

government through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has taken several steps including increasing circulation of the dollar from \$1 million to \$2 million a day on the market.

She said despite increasing the circulation, priority has been put on importers of essential commodities such as food and fuel while the BoT embarks on a plan to purchase gold and put them on collateral in foreign markets to get dollars.

She said one way of addressing the matter was putting an emphasis on the use of local currencies in payments of services such as fees and rent.

An investigation by this paper has shown that importation of goods declined in August this year where commodities worth 115.7bn/- were imported compared to commodities worth 162.9bn/- which were imported in July which is a 29.0percent shortage equivalent to 47.4bn/-.

The shortage in imports was contributed by the decline in imports by manufacturers by 15.3bn/- from 52.7bn/- in July this year as manufacturers in Zanzibar depend on foreign markets for their products.

According to Dr Ulrick Mumburi, by August this year, the BoT had \$5 billion which was enough to import goods for 4.9 months.

## Call on on public to join fight against FGM

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Minister for Social Development, Elders, Gender and Children, Riziki Pembe Juma has said there are no reasons to continue witnessing violation of human rights and violence against women due to the presence of outdated traditions.

The statement was made yesterday at the closing of the second International Conference of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) held in Dar es Salaam. The conference was themed "Change in Generation" aiming at eliminating the FGM in Africa.

She said that proposals made by participants of the meeting have to be properly implemented to save and protect women and girls from such evil acts in various countries

including Tanzania.

The minister mentioned some of the proposed actions including the participation of all genders in campaigns against FGM and building the capacity of boys and girls to reject it.

Participants also suggested for the African Union Commission to coordinate major meetings with the Ministers of Member States to meet and exchange ideas on best ways to end female genital mutilation.

"Let us come up with effective strategies that are going to bring about changes and ultimately eliminate FGM in our societies," she added.

She explained that Tanzania calls upon the community, local and foreign stakeholders as well as countries, to unite in accelerating

the necessary changes to make women and girls safe from the effects of FGM.

Riziki thanked the African Union Commission and its partners for engaging Tanzania and allowing the country to host the important meeting that brought together stakeholders and ministers from countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia and Uganda.

Fatma Toufiq, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Social Services and Community Development Committee, said the government has prepared a National Action Plan to eradicate FGM and the law of the child as an effort against the cruelty acts.

Meanwhile, participants promised to take and convey the recommendations they made at

the meeting to their countries so that right steps can be taken to fight against female genital mutilation.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, said Tanzania has demonstrated its efforts in eliminating FGM in many parts of the country.

"From the previous reports it shows that in 2010 the rate of FGM was 30 per cent but in 2015 it was only 10 per cent of girls undergoing the FGM but now we know there are still some regions that are still practicing it and we are working hard to stop that custom," said Dr Gwajima.

She said the conference will involve 900 participants from different countries in the world. Out of which 200 will be Tanzanians coming from the regions with high rate of FGM cases.





Zanzibar's Works, Communications and Transport minister, Dr Khalid Salum Muhammed (3rd L), hands over Malindi port documents to AGL president Philippe Labonnt yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

# Mbeya hospital designs unique vehicles to transport patients

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA zonal referral hospital has designed special vehicles to transport patients within the hospital to facilitate the transfer of patients from one ward to another.

The vehicles were launched on Monday and began to be used where it is said that they will increase efficiency in the provision of services to patients in the hospital.

Speaking at the official launch of the vehicles, MZRH managing director, Dr Godlove Mwanji said the vehicles have been designed by experts from the engineering department within the hospital.

Dr Mwanji said the vehicles will be used to transport patients who are unable to walk who are going to be treated at the hospital, noting that the innovation of the special vehicle will reduce the problem of service providers who previously used wheelchairs to take patients to various service areas in the hospital.

He said it will help to increase productivity in the provision of services to patients in the hospital, stressing: "This car is going to replace wheelchairs and wheelchairs, thus helping not to have to use force when carrying patients and thus causing many problems."

He thanked the government through the Ministry of Health for the contribution to support the various health services provided at the hospital as well as the innovations made by experts in the health sector in improving health services in the country.

Dr Mwanji praised the engineering department at the hospital for the various innovations being made, including the system for informing the service provider when the patient needs help, as well as the system for adjusting the temperature in the infant's room.

One of the engineers at the hospital, Fredrick Ndongole said the idea came from the hospital management and the

implementation was carried out by their engineering unit, which implemented it following provided guidelines.

He said that the car is friendly according to the environment of the hospital due to the well-maintained environment, including the roads that connect one ward to another.

"We received this idea from the director of the hospital due to the challenges facing the staff from pushing patients by hand using wheelchairs and wheelchairs," said Ndongole.

Some of the hospital's nurses said that the cars will help them reduce the work of pushing patients in chairs and beds and that the technology is in line with the changes in

the current world.

One of the nurses, Alta Mpogole, thanked the hospital management and said the presence of the special vehicle to transport patients will be a help because previously they were using wheelchairs and wheelchairs.

Mpogole said that the equipment that was used before was causing them to spend a long-time pushing patients to those areas.

*"This car is going to replace wheelchairs and wheelchairs, thus helping not to have to use force when carrying patients and thus causing many problems."*

# Mzumbe University signs MoU to strengthen its digital systems

By Guardian Reporter

MZUMBE University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of academic and technology services with the e-Government Agency (eGA) with the aim of continuing to improve academic and technological services provided by the university.

Mzumbe University acting Vice-Chancellor Prof William

Mwegoha said here yesterday that the pact is part of Mzumbe University's strategy to strengthen digital systems as well as boosting the number of academicians and students in the area.

He said: "So the agreement will help to exchange experience and knowledge between Mzumbe University and e-Government Agency (eGA)."

Dr Eliza Mwakasangula,

acting deputy vice chancellor-academic, research and consultancy said the agreement is the result of the third Information and communications technology (ICT) conference held in Arusha from February 8-12, 2023 and was coordinated by eGA.

"The leadership of Mzumbe University has seen an opportunity and through the higher education project for

economic reform in terms of building collaboration with the private sector, the varsity has had the opportunity to enter into that agreement for the development of the institution and the nation as a whole," said Dr Mwakasangula.

Salum Mussa, e-GA director of corporate services applauded Mzumbe University for the step of improving and strengthening collaborations and being among the Higher Education Institutions that collaborate with e-GA directly.

Mussa promised to continue to provide great cooperation to ensure that the goals set out in the agreement are achieved.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Queen Geofrey, CEO, takes over Backlite, Dar es Salaam – a surprise move within Dar es Salaams media world!**

Queen Geofrey, the CEO of BackLite Media takes over a principal stake in the high quality outdoor advertising company and changes the name to Starlite Vision Limited.

Starlite will continue the company's successful installation and marketing of exclusive backlit signs in the capital.

- "I am delighted to take over and continue the business with high quality advertising signs at the JINIA International Airport and in the city centre of Dar es Salaam, Queen Geofrey said yesterday, when the news was published."

- "I have been 15 years within this field of business and I have seen the growing demand of quality signs from clients."

Queen Geofrey was before the General Manager in BackLite and she is now the CEO of Starlite Vision:

- "We plan to build another 4 signs at the International Terminal III, where we now can see a growing demand after the hard pandemic years.

- In the city centre we have two Double Decker signs at Bagamoyo Road and the region's largest high quality digital sign at Uhuru Park, The Prime Digital.

- We will also start the installation of another Double Decker sign at foot of the Tanzanite Bridge.

For further information contact Queen Geofrey on +255 687 206 226 or via email address queen@starlitevision.tz

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# The Guardian Limited

## JOB VACANCIES

**Position** : SUB-EDITOR - THE GUARDIAN  
**Department** : Editorial  
**Reporting Channel** : Managing Editor  
**Place** : Dar es Salaam

### JOB PURPOSE

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Checking and editing stories, writing captions, placing photos and writing headlines within set deadlines and in conformity with journalistic ethics, editorial objectives and house style
- Checking and correcting editorial copy (news stories, features, etc.) allocated by the Chief Sub-Editor for facts, accuracy, taste, house style, language use, clarity, details, objectivity, spelling, etc.
- Subbing (rewriting) editorial copy to fit allocated space without distorting facts or downplaying the salient points or points of major interest.
- Rewriting editorial copy as necessary for simplicity, clarity and style.
- Writing headlines for the copy by ensuring that they reflect the overriding message of the stories.
- Editing the photos and other illustrations selected by the Chief Sub-Editor - to fit space allocated
- Writing or rewriting captions, taking care not to give obvious details.
- Submitting the edited copy to the Chief Sub-Editor within set deadlines.
- Making up news pages as directed by the Chief Sub-Editor - as a guide to graphic designers
- Checking all headlines, captions, photos/illustrations, copy text, page logos and all other page elements, and signing off the pages (to graphic designers) within set deadlines.

#### Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- Bachelor's degree in Arts or related disciplines
- At least three years' experience working in journalism, with having served as a sub-editor an added advantage
- Mastery of written and spoken English and Kiswahili
- Knowledge of any other language will be an added advantage

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

Apply online via email address: [vacancy@guardian.co.tz](mailto:vacancy@guardian.co.tz) by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023.**

**NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.**

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# The Guardian Limited

## JOB VACANCY

**Position:** SUB-EDITOR – SPORTS DESK – THE GUARDIAN  
**Department:** Editorial  
**Reporting Channel:** Managing Editor  
**Place:** Dar es Salaam

### JOB PURPOSE

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Checking and correcting editorial copy allocated by Sports Editor for facts, accuracy, taste, compliance with TGL house style, language use, clarity, details, objectivity, spelling.
- Rewriting the copy as necessary for simplicity, clarity and compliance with the newspaper's house style.
- Editing photos/illustrations selected by Sports Editor to fit allocated space and writing/rewriting captions taking care not to give obvious details.

#### Minimum Qualification and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in journalism
- At least four years' experience in journalism, in part as sub editor
- Mastery of English and Kiswahili
- Knowledge of any other language will be an added advantage

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

Apply online via email address: [vacancy@guardian.co.tz](mailto:vacancy@guardian.co.tz) by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023.**

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# The Guardian Limited

## JOB VACANCY

**Position** : WEB (SITE) EDITOR - The Guardian/Nipashe  
**Department** : Editorial  
**Reporting Channels** : Managing Editors  
**Place** : Dar es Salaam

### JOB PURPOSE:

This position requires a digital savvy bilingual journalist obsessed with using data & insights to generate engaging content and build audiences across multiple platforms.

\* She/He should have a proven track record in creating targeted, interactive web & social media content, managing online communities and converting casual readers and followers into engaged fans.

\* As an audience-first digital journalist, she/he should be obsessed with quality, clarity, accuracy and speed and should also be comfortable with various content management systems (WordPress, Drupal, CoreMedia), analytics tools (Chartbeat, Google Analytics) and footprint & impact trackers (Keyhole, Hootsuite).

#### Main Responsibilities:

- \* Using audience data to refine content strategies for news, features and special projects for TGL's YouTube and social media pages, focusing on mobile-first delivery.
- \* Developing monthly content calendars (outside events stories) for guardian.co.tz, ensuring a consistent pipeline of original digital reporting and exclusive web stories.
- \* Uploading & distribute articles (text, visuals & audios) to guardian.co.tz and other TGL sites and social media channels
- \* Ensuring accurate and timely content delivery for distinct/specialised audiences.
- \* Editing headlines and copy for websites, video & social media platforms utilising SEO bestpractices (use of metadata, tags, keywords, internal linking, optimised media).
- \* Championing the use of videos and interactive photographs across TGL websites & social media pages
- \* Ensuring content is of evidently publishable quality.
- \* Prioritizing web coverage to focus on readership (engagement) and impact, giving prominence to content demonstrating confirmed newsworthiness and clarity.
- \* Developing and deploying new content formats, including new segments for existing TGL video platforms (YouTube & Instagram), interactive stories and visualisations.
- \* Researching and cultivating & operationalised new digital distribution platforms for TGL content (e.g. TikTok, Discord), working closely with managing editors, on Online & New Content.
- \* Cultivating and effectively managing relationships with various sources and stakeholders to ensure that

newsmakers talk digital-first.

- \* Serving as digital liaison and champion with TGL's various news desks & content team, helping them learn to deliver news for digital platforms first.
- Generating and disseminating creative multimedia content in keeping with changing news landscape realities and convergence requirements.
- Researching, preparing and producing content for TGL online publications
- Reacting to stories trending on social media and making live presentations on TGL Digital, informing the public on the same
- Website management and Content Management Systems (CMS) - updating TGL's websites on a 24-hour cycle to meet targets for assigned sub-sections
- Proofreading and editing online copy for newspaper websites.
- Ensuring all articles and posts observe correct grammar and style guidelines.
- Testing website usability and appearance for attractiveness and errors.
- Designing new features for website to increase user engagement.
- Monitoring website communications to discern and forestall problems
- Integrating SEO (search engine optimisation) and improving content to maximise effectiveness
- Fulfilling any other duties or responsibilities assigned by head of unit.

#### Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

- \* Bachelor's degree in Journalism/Mass Communication or equivalent from a recognised institution.
- \* Three years' working experience, preferably in a newsroom or other media environment in progressively responsible editorial or content production roles.
- \* Expertise relating to digital audiences, content creation and distribution using various CMSes, editing & sharing video (Premier Pro, Final Cut, MimoLIVE).
- \* Knowledge of motion graphics, animations, visual effects (Blender, Adobe AE), HTML, CSS, & JavaScript will be an added advantage.

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

Apply online via email address: [vacancy@guardian.co.tz](mailto:vacancy@guardian.co.tz) by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023.**

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# The Guardian Limited

## JOB VACANCIES

The Guardian Limited, publishers of leading Tanzanian newspapers The Guardian, Nipashe and Nipashe Jumapili, is looking for motivated and experienced professionals to fill the following positions:

**Position** : REPORTER - THE GUARDIAN  
**Department** : Editorial  
**Reporting Channel** : Managing Editor  
**Place** : Dar es Salaam

### JOB PURPOSE

Entails going out on assignment as well as use of own initiative to gather news. The job holder will ensure that the news stories submitted are factual, of public interest, detailed, well-researched and in conformity with TGL's editorial objectives and house.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- \* Developing and writing news stories and feature articles to finished form so that no major rewriting is required or no extensive additional reporting is needed.
- \* Briefing News Editor or Chief Reporter on newsworthy information gathered and writing stories using the selected facts by set deadlines.
- \* Following up news leads (tip-offs or hints) and maintaining close contact with news sources (using own contact book).
- \* Consistently building up own contact book and demonstrating its value.
- \* Preparing daily news coverage docket and forwarding it to the News Editor every day.
- \* Keeping abreast of political and other trends and developments in Tanzania, elsewhere in the East Africa region, and globally.
- \* Building enough rapport with a wide range of newsmakers and other people to cultivate and maintain a decently long list of credible news sources.
- \* Developing workable ideas for development into quality news stories, feature articles, commentaries, photographs, graphics and other news material.
- \* Implementing these and other ideas by conducting focused interviews and research, and actually writing news stories, features, etc.
- \* Strictly observing set newspaper production deadlines as well as journalistic and social ethics, the Company's Editorial Policy and other guidelines.
- \* Helping in grooming or mentoring interns on media attachment at TGL as well other junior writers.
- \* Generally assisting the News Editor, Chief Reporter and other senior writers in ensuring that the News Desk functions properly.
- \* Performing any other duties as may be assigned by your supervisor.

#### Minimum Qualifications and Experience

- \* Bachelor's degree or Diploma in Journalism or Mass Communication
- \* At least three years' working experience
- \* Mastery of spoken English and Kiswahili
- \* Knowledge of any other language will be an added advantage.

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

Apply online via email address: [vacancy@guardian.co.tz](mailto:vacancy@guardian.co.tz) by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023.**

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Water melon dealer Fred Burasha (L) attends to his customers at the Veterinary market in Dar es Salaam. One water melon is sold for 2000/-. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# UN calls for more action to reduce agri pollution

By Henry Mwangonde

UNITED Nations resident coordinator Zlatan Milisic has called for more action to reduce agricultural pollution caused by hazardous pesticides, improve water quality, and reduce food safety risks at the farm-level, to prevent food contamination and keep the aquatic food systems healthy.

The UN official made the call on Monday when speaking in Kigoma Region at an event to commemorate the World Food Day.

In his speech made available here, Milisic said it is important to equip farmers with the right tools, skills, and technologies for sustainable agricultural practices that are friendly to the environment, use water more efficiently and provide better protection against climate change.

"Ninety-five per cent of our food is grown on land, and it all starts with soil and water. Sustainable soil management is critical for addressing water challenges and promoting overall environmental sustainability to enhance water retention in soils and land, while reducing the negative impacts of agriculture on water resources," he said.

He said there is great strength in working together to achieve common goals and address challenges collectively adding that the UN is committed to work closely with the government, farmers, communities, and other stakeholders to transform agri-food systems through better production, better nutrition and better environment.

"The UN family fully supports the ambitious agenda of the government in expanding irrigation as a means to promote food security and resilience to climatic shocks," he said.

According to Milisic the budget allocation of \$181 million in 2022/2023 for irrigation schemes,

compared to only \$20 million the previous year, was a huge step forward and will lead to significant benefits, especially in guaranteeing that smallholder farmers have access to water.

"We assure you of our commitment to this agenda and our willingness to make water resources available to those in need through our various programs," he added.

Each year on 16 October, more than 150 countries commemorate WFD to focus on different aspects of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.

This global event aims to raise awareness about the crucial need to address hunger, especially in times of crisis. It also promotes collective efforts to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has access to sufficient, safe, diverse, and nourishing food.

This year's theme was, "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind," which emphasizes the responsibility of the government, private sector, civil society, and all stakeholders, to collectively ensure that our food systems produce a variety of foods to nourish a growing population while also sustaining the planet.

**We assure you of our commitment to this agenda and our willingness to make water resources available to those in need through our various programs**

# Prof Mbarawa vows to boost transport industry

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has pledged to continue providing necessary support to Tanzania's transport industry for the betterment of all stakeholders in the sector's value chain.

Transport Minister Prof Makame Mbarawa made the pledge yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the National Institute of Transport (NIT)'s 1st international conference that brought on board transport and logistics stakeholders.

Themed: 'Reliable Transport and Logistics Management for a Sustainable Economy', the conference gives a platform for

participants to share experience on how to bolster the transport sector.

According to Prof Mbarawa, the theme aligns with the National Development Vision 2025, CCM election Manifesto 2020 - 2025, Tanzania Development Vision 2030, Africa's Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"This theme is directly linked to the development of the National strategic projects in the transport sector including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Standard Gauge Railways (SGR), Construction of Tanzanite, Nyerere and Kigongo Busisi Bridges, modernization of ports, Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL)

by equipping it with modern flights—passengers and cargo flights."


He said that the government's idea is to take the transport sector to the next level. "I can assure you that we're determined to work tirelessly and address different challenges facing the sector in collaboration with all stakeholders."

He noted: "Other similar projects include rehabilitation and construction of new airport and the development of the Blue Economy, Oil Pipeline from Hoima, Uganda to Chongoleani Tanga, Tanzania, and Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station project. I believe that, through this Conference, different stakeholder and development partners will

find avenues for collaborations to ensure that Conference resolutions are taken on board for implementation."

He tasked the institute to produce human resources with high quality that can support the government's major projects in the transport sector, noting that the forum marks a major milestone for NIT, the nation, and the region at large.

Prof. Zacharia Mganilwa, NIT rector said: "This year's Conference is a milestone towards the realization of targets as outlined in our Five Year Rolling Strategic Plan IV 2021/2022 - 2025/2026. Our aim is to make it a regional platform for the scientific community in the fields of transport, logistics and management."



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## JOB VACANCY

### PROJECT ASSISTANT – FOREST PROGRAMME

Want to make a positive difference to the future of people and our one shared home, the Earth? Working at WWF could be your opportunity of a lifetime. WWF Tanzania is seeking to hire a competent and motivated Project Assistant for its Forest Programme based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Background**  
The project will support tree nurseries by continuing to support the existing tree nursery in Maguruwe village (in Kisarawe district) from the previous project and introduce nurseries establishment to the communities as a means of livelihood through the establishment and operationalization of tree nurseries and woodlots business plans. Tree planting activities will be given due consideration in the second phase of the project. Stakeholders will be supported to undertake tree planting on degraded forest lands, homestead, avenues, farmlands, and village institution compounds such as school, dispensaries, village offices etc. The project will also build the capacity of communities to monitor newly planted trees through post planting survival assessment in areas that have been restored. Tree planting will not be limited to the areas highlighted above, it will further be extended to watershed areas, woodlots for charcoal, firewood and timber at village and household level. Fruit and commercial crop trees (cashew nuts and citrus) will as well be planted for food and alternative income generation

**Major Functions:**  
Generally the major role of the staff will be to support the implementation of the WWF-CH Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) support project in the Water Towers Landscape

**I. Specific duties and responsibilities include:**

- Assist in supporting field level FLR and forest conservation activities in general through local partnerships with locally-based organisations
- Work closely with CSOs to foster long-term partnerships with service providers with FLR common interests and geographical focus
- Assist in ensuring wider project impact and generate more transformative outcomes on the ground
- Assist in supporting national level engagement with government around policy and governance issues that are confronting field level FLR implementation
- Assist in ensuring that field experiences inform the development of a coherent national advocacy plan and that these experiences feed into and inform advocacy messages directed towards government
- Assist in supporting the documentation of experiences and lessons and ensure wide dissemination of these lessons across the landscape and other parts of Tanzania
- Assist and support the Forest Program Officer on the innovation component of forest related interventions including commercialization of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

**II. Required Qualification**  
A holder of an Ordinary Diploma in Forestry, Agriculture, Environmental Conservation or related fields with experience of 4 years and above. A degree in forestry, natural resources management or Environmental conservation will be an added advantage; Proven track record in successfully managing natural resources management, Forest extension or Forest Landscape Restoration projects; Demonstrated experience in implementing, forest extension and publicity and managing projects in related field;

Additional information, Interested applicants may get the detailed Job Description (JD) through the website: [https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs\\_and\\_opportunities/jobs/](https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/jobs/) Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the Head of People & Culture, via email to: [hresources@wwftz.org](mailto:hresources@wwftz.org), by **Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 17h00**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Female applicants are encouraged to apply. WWF is an equal opportunity employer and committed to having a diverse workforce

WWF has a principle of zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, if you encounter such an incident, then report by sending an email to [fcci@wwftz.org](mailto:fcci@wwftz.org)



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## SECURITIES INVESTMENT AND TRADING COURSE

We are pleased to invite you to join us for the Securities Investment and Trading Course (SIT), taking place from October 30th to November 17th, 2023. These informative classes will be held in the evening, running from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

This course is aimed at enhancing skills and capacity of the securities industry market participants, college students and investors. During this course, participants will understand how they can enhance their knowledge about Bond Trading, Raising capital and financing alternatives, Capital Markets legal framework and DSE Rules, Equity and Debt Research, Financial Statements, Financial Analysis and Valuation of Securities, Asset & Portfolio Management, CSD Registry and Operations and How to operate a stock brokerage.

**Who Should Attend**  
Treasury Managers, Financial Controllers, Risk Managers, Investment advisors, Lawyers, Investment Bankers, Investor Relations officers, Bond Dealers, Audit committee members, Fund Managers, Accounting Officers, employees of securities brokerage firms, Mutual funds, Hedge funds, Pension Funds Managers, Insurance companies, University Students and interested parties.

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Application Fee is TSH 50,000/= Application form is available through this link [rb.gy/nk82j](http://rb.gy/nk82j)

Status	Participation Fees
In- Person Delegate	TSH 1,500,000/=
Virtual Delegate	TSH 1,300,000/=

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THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER, 2023

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## Reminders necessary to cut supply delays in project implementations

**P**RESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has demanded that authorities concerned with projects needing supplies from outside make efforts to be prepared once the supplies are delivered. She was speaking in her latest upcountry tour, briefing a rally in Singida Region that supplies are late being collected from the port and thus projects are delayed. Definitely the concerned authorities will take up the matter in a business as usual attitude, but accountable officials like ministers may indeed act.

The president was inaugurating a water project taking water from Lake Victoria for the use of more than 40,000 residents in Iramba District, asserting that the lack of coordination in the government on project schedules was like a chronic disease. No doubt is there that it is for such reasons that people keep changing places in higher levels of the civil service and the government, so that in the tumult a few and indeed most of them learn where they went wrong. They then make new decisions.

The president went as far as explaining to the local population and even those accompanying her in the tour that when she visited India a while back she had time to talk to the key contractor for the particular water project.

The construction firm relayed a response that project implementation faces hurdles of late tax exemption on supplies, lateness in delivery of work permits for experts and consultants. Late collecting of supplies from the port after being dispatched from India came up too.

She remarkably asserted that all these problems are caused by the government itself, demanding that this habit should stop, that

public institutions put in place a workable arrangement. It should ease the release of supplies when arriving at the port, be removed quickly so that projects can be executed on time. That instruction is of course understandable; what is less plausible is that the president had to make a state visit to India to get a chance to hear from project executors, not own aides.

The question that inevitably comes up is how far plenty of deliberate bureaucratic inefficiency can be removed by that kind of instruction. While it is too early to say if there are possibilities of clearing processes, chances that much of it will remain the same are high. Bureaucrats make use of liberty, tolerance to do as they please.

Admittedly this is one of the numerous problems which in the earlier decades after independence led to the collapse of numerous public sector commercial entities. It is unquestioned that plenty of those same problems are found in development projects, and the president had the chance to hear details on account of the visit to India. It is further reason for the president to emphasise on the public-private format on development projects, as this way bureaucracy isn't totally free to act as it wishes, as there will be stakeholders who demand or ensure speed, efficiency.

This format of implementation of development projects is not that popular even now among bureaucrats, as they are used to standard methods of planning, getting funds. Then follows the usual shenanigans on how to obtain extra funds, including fines in removing supplies from port, paying contractors, etc. It is a drawn out problem of development administration.

## Taking medicine with milk would be simple, but not for many people yet

**C**IRCUMSTANCES in which medication is fast absorbed in the body and produced the right results is a subject that is continually researched upon by medical students or scholars. It all has to do with the fact that the human body contains all sorts of enhances and impediments to take up of medicine, at times differing from one person to another, and more often the considerations are similar. A recent advice on the suitability of taking the 'three in one' drug for treatment of malaria along with milk is one of them, as experts say there is lactose intolerance in many people, which interferes with projections of effective use of such addition.

An interesting aspect of this advice is that it came from the Mloganzila branch of the Muhimbili National Hospital, as in a number of areas it is beginning to have its own staff and identity, and seemingly this is moving into research output as well. It isn't clear how far it still depends on specialist doctors being rushed there for this or that operation, but this instruction, coming from the hospital, is reassuring, that things are improving at that hospital. It might not become a duplicate of its parent institution overnight, but doing a lot to make itself identifiable as an institution.

There is a series of medications for which the use of milk is being recommended instead of swallowing it with water, including drugs for fungus that were specifically mentioned as Afro Conazo and Griseofulyin. They say milk should be used for all the period that the medicines would be used, which needs to be seen against the data on average consumption of milk in the country. At the same time many people take medication

on their own without prescription because seeing a doctor is itself costly, and tests before prescription may cost up to 10,000/- at once.

There is expression by activists in non-governmental organisations and at times by statesmen and women, that poverty is a major cause of death rather than disease as such, as once disease strikes, inability to purchase drugs or visit a dispensary, health centre or hospital can claim an individual's life. Now we hear something different, that some drugs need to be taken with milk rather than water, which at a minimum is an additional cost on drugs. One can expect that most patients will be to afford buying milk when they need to do so, and if they hear of this instruction.

This instruction also illustrates how experimental is plenty of the medication that people take, as the 'three in one' drug formula for malaria has been in place for more than a decade, and only at present is this requirement being raised. It means that original research showed that it works for most people or at least for the vast majority, or maybe for two thirds of the population. Malariaquine that was being used at that time was not treating malaria for 25 per cent and it was promptly removed from hospital shelves and pharmacy stocks.

New drugs were introduced which burned skins on some people, and no data exists how many may have lost their lives due to the hurried medication formulas adopted just for convenience. It also suggests that research into adaptability of the new drugs was continuing and one of its results is now being published, ten or more years later. We can imagine how many people got it wrong in the meantime.



## Building peace in Ethiopia: Hopes and challenges

By Solomon Wassihun

**E**THIOPIA is home to a variety of ethnic groups, all with their own traditions, languages, and customs. This ethnic diversity is a defining characteristic of Ethiopia, shaping its history and contributing to its vibrant cultural tapestry.

Ethiopia's ethnic diversity is a double-edged sword. For centuries, this diversity was complemented by strong socioeconomic ties, cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and social cohesion. However, alongside the richness and beauty of this diversity, Ethiopia has also experienced tensions and conflicts that are trying to erode and wane the strong bond that hold citizens united for centuries.

These conflicts have often been fueled by divisive political and historical narratives propagated by ethnic or religious extremists and ultra-nationalists. What is more unsettling is these negative forces are supported by foreign powers who want to see the word "Ethiopia" wiped off the world map.

Indeed, political history plays a significant role in shaping the current state of peace in Ethiopia. The nation has experienced periods of authoritarian rule, power struggles, and political repression, which experts say, have left deep stains on its social fabric.

Decades of autocratic governance, characterized by the concentration of power in the hands of a few, have undermined trust in state institutions and created a sense of exclusion among marginalized groups. This history of political repression has contributed to a cycle of violence and unrest, as different factions vie for power and influence.

Those injustices made in the previous regimes became additional liabilities that further exacerbated the confusion and arguments that the present generation needs to tackle and settle in its bid to form a stable and harmonious vibrant Ethiopian state, based on the notion of unity with diversity.

Understanding the consequences of this political history is crucial in finding ways to heal wounds and foster reconciliation. It requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the grievances of all parties involved, promotes inclusive governance, and ensures equal say and opportunities for all Ethiopians.

Addressing these concerns is pivotal in achieving lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia. It requires a deep understanding of the historical context in which these tensions have emerged, and the factors that have contributed to their persistence.

Throughout history, ethnic divisions in Ethiopia have



been exacerbated by various factors, including competition for resources, political power struggles, and historical grievances. These divisions have often led to violence, displacement, and human suffering. Above all it led Ethiopians to lose a common ground and understanding of the fundamental national issues.

Understanding the complexities of this divergence is crucial in finding sustainable solutions. It requires acknowledging the grievances of different ethnic groups, and communities, by promoting unhindered dialogue and reconciliation and addressing the root causes of inequality and marginalization.

By acknowledging the historical context of the unrest and tensions in Ethiopia and addressing its underlying causes, the nation can pave the way for a more peaceful and prosperous future. It requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders, both within the country and from the diaspora, to support the country in its journey towards lasting peace and stability.

Building a sustainable peace requires addressing the underlying grievances and inequalities that contribute to conflicts. The Ethiopian government is working towards inclusive policies that promote equal opportunities and address the root causes of these conflicts.

The incumbent government plays a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the rule of law in the country. Effective governance, inclusive policies, and a commitment to justice and human rights are essential in building trust among the population and ensuring long-term peace. However, such things are uphill tasks involving so many challenges in the process of their actual implementation.

One solid instance that shows the Ethiopian government's commitment to peace was that it has made huge concessions in the interest of peace when it decided to

halt its army advancing to Mekelle a year ago and sit at the negotiating table with TPLF and subsequently signing the Pretoria Peace Deal.

Further actions that facilitate the robustness of the justice system are a key to ensuring accountability for human rights abuses and promoting the rule of law is crucial in preventing further violence and fostering reconciliation. The government provided support for the investigation of alleged atrocities committed during the Tigray conflict. It is to be recalled that the joint investigation by the UN Human Rights Office and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) into alleged violations of human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law committed by all parties to the conflict in Tigray has been conducted two years ago.

Above all, the government initiated the establishment of an independent commission for national dialogue to create an effective and practical platform where all stakeholders both from and abroad would be involved in meaningful dialogue with the intent of producing political consensus on fundamental national issues, and building trust and foster a sense of national unity and lay fertile ground for reconciliation and sustainable peace.

One of the potential avenues for peacebuilding in Ethiopia lies in grassroots movements. The active engagement of local communities and civil society organizations can bring about positive change on the ground. By empowering these movements and providing platforms for dialogue, sustainable peace can be achieved.

That is exactly the strategy implied by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission in its move to achieve its objectives. In his recent briefing, ENRC Chief, Mesfin Araya underscored that of the five players designated by his commission as major stakeholders in the national dialogue, that people and traditional institutions at the grassroots level

are the most important ones. Thus they will account for over 30% of the seats at the table of the national dialogue which is expected to gather about 3,000 representatives from all stakeholders.

Looking at the impressive progress made by the ENDC during the last 18 months, it is quite reasonable to be optimistic that the Ethiopians have the required wisdom, confidence, and willingness to materialize their hope of building sustainable peace. The commission has reportedly concluded the selection of representatives from five regional states and two chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. This is a huge achievement considering the unfavorable environment on the ground under which the commission is carrying out its duties.

The other positive thing is leaders of the commission are fully aware of the high expectations the Ethiopian people have of the commission and they are committed to maintaining their work neutral, inclusive, and participatory. They are also appreciative of the fed back and they get from the public, and the government. Mesfin said that, about 40 political parties are communicating with his commission, and universities and federal and regional governments are providing various logistical and human resource supports. "We get all the support we seek from the government. Above all, what made us more excited and optimistic is that the government authorities have pledged to abide by the will of the people, and thus fully respect and co-operate to the implementation of the recommendations of the upcoming national dialogue," says the Deputy Chief of ENDC, Hirut G/Sellasie

So there is high hope that the ENDC will achieve its objective, which is in a nutshell, to lay the foundation for social cohesion and reconciliation which are essential for healing the wounds of the past and building a peaceful future. By fostering dialogue, promoting intergroup understanding, and addressing historical grievances, Ethiopia can create a society where differences are celebrated, and unity prevails.

The sure thing is that, achieving peace in Ethiopia is a complex task that requires a comprehensive approach. By understanding the historical context of conflict, addressing the challenges that hinder peace, and capitalizing on the opportunities for peace-building, Ethiopia can aspire to a future of stability, unity, and prosperity. It is through collective efforts, both domestically and internationally, that sustainable peace may be achieved in this remarkable nation deserving prosperity.



# Teachers have a duty to assist students with learning disorders

Disability is part of being human. Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life. An estimated 1.3 billion people - about 16 percent of the global population - currently experience significant disability, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nearly 240 million children in the world today have some form of disability. This estimate is higher than previous figures and is based on a more meaningful and inclusive understanding of disability, which considers several domains of functioning, including those related to psychosocial well-being. According to UNICEF.

Various studies show that there are a lot of disabilities and learning disorders amongst learners and lack of awareness on the same by teachers and parents causes one side to think that the other is not doing their job. Teachers try hard to produce competent individuals as it is their responsibility and parents on the other side continue to put more pressure on the teachers.

I believe the hardship in finding school fees is what makes parents not tolerant when their children are not performing satisfactorily. If someone tells them about learning disorders, they may receive a slap.

To many parents, the term learning disorders may seem strange and confusing. It was one of them who strongly held that her son is intelligent but only during the holiday she noticed a slow pace in doing school works which were given for the holiday. There are challenges such as Atten-



a teacher has discovered learners who are slow due to some reasons, they need to find out how they can help them finish their work without contradicting the school timetable.

For instance, a teacher can allow a learner to finish their work during break time and submit for marking. Forcing learners to finish their works on normal time may cause other problems such as poor handwriting which is not the preference of any teacher. Learners must be made aware of their challenges and how they can deal with them.

Third is helping learners change their behaviour to cope with the situation. Disorders mean a deviation from the normal or standard and hence a permanent need to strive to supplement what is missing so as to be not so far from the normal required standard. They need to reconcile with the fact that they struggle in some ways but they can do well as others. But for that to happen, they must give up some minor pleasures in order to compensate for the weakness.

Fourth is change of style of presentation. A teacher needs to be aware that they are not teaching perfect learners. They need to make their teaching methodologies and styles suit demands and interests of the entire class. There are learners who prefer discussions while others prefer questions and answers. Asking a learner a question which they cannot answer may embarrass them.

People master themselves at different ages after attaining a certain level of skills and abilities. It is important to allow people, including those with special needs to learn effectively and realize their full potential.



## CLASSROOM MATTERS

By  
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ing of the challenges that learners face that teachers can address them. There should be a kind of environment which can support learners with learning disorders move on with their academic pursuits successfully.

To help learners with special needs cope a teacher can do the following: One is, know their situation. The unknown problem cannot be solved. Therefore, a teacher needs to identify learners with special needs so as to plan on how to help them.

For teachers are leaders who need to know those they lead. They need to know their strengths and

weaknesses so as to find out how to advise them accordingly. A learner can be poor in one aspect of consideration but very good in another. If teachers know their learners well, they can help them use their other strengths to succeed.

Continuing to demand someone register success outside their abilities is a waste of time and entertaining frustrations. It is wise for the teachers to judge learners based on their capability. This makes learners comfortable with their learning and hence absence of stress and discomfort.

Second is giving them regulated freedom. After

tion Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) which may cause learners to lack ability to concentrate and only attracted to plays and other engagements which can be time wasting as some parents would put it. Are all parents aware of ADHD?

Another case is a learner whom I discovered to have challenges with forming letters when writing. The good thing with this boy is that he noticed this challenge since he was in standard one as he is now in standard six and he has come up with

a remedy. The remedy was to change the way he holds the pen. But discovering how to improve his hand-writing has generated another challenge; he is very slow in writing, always not finishing class works on normal time.

It is with understand-

By Maria Beumont

# Behind each climate disaster awaits a tuberculosis crisis

At the end of September, two weeks after the United Nations held a High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB), a torrential storm dropped 6" of rain on New York City. The intensity of the storm recalled that of Hurricane Ida two years earlier, which—in the largest city in the United States—damaged more than 3% of buildings, killed 13 people, and left 380 families homeless.

As recently as the early 1990s, New York City was a hotspot for TB. Throughout the decade, the city spent more than a billion dollars to contain the disease, which had become entrenched in its more impoverished communities—including those without homes. TB has plagued the world for millennia, for as long as communities have been separated by wealth.

Today, it remains the leading infectious cause of death in the world, responsible for 1.6 million deaths a year, and is an active and acute crisis in many countries.

The low-resource settings where much of the world's TB burden is concentrated are the same places set to bear most of the impact of climate change and whose health systems are ill-equipped to handle added burden.

In August, two typhoons slammed into the coast of Southern China, forcing the evacuation of almost one million people. At the same time, a surprise cyclone hit Southern Brazil, leaving 1,600 people without homes. And earlier this year, Cyclone Freddy hammered Mozambique and Malawi, forcing hundreds of thousands of people into temporary shelter. All four countries have a high burden of TB cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

India, another high-burden TB country, has been hit hard this year by heat waves and drought. It is estimated that



**Tuberculosis remains the leading infectious cause of death in the world, responsible for 1.6 million deaths a year, and is an active and acute crisis in many countries. Credit: Athar Parvaiz/IPS**

17 million Indians will face climate-change induced hunger by 2030. Increases in climate-induced food insecurity will only add to the existing crisis; the UN estimates that 735 million people around the world faced food shortage in 2022.

If rises in human displacement and hunger are tragic first order effects of climate change, TB is a giant, looming second order effect. Displacement and malnutrition are established risk factors for TB, and both are exacerbated by climate change. Though such im-

pacts are not directly tracked, we can assume that recent climate-enhanced superstorms, heat waves, and droughts amplified the TB burden in Brazil, China, India, Malawi, and Mozambique.

While climate change is a leading topic at major global forums around the world, including at the UN, the TB pandemic remains largely ignored. In 2018, TB appeared on the global radar when the UN held its first High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB. National delegations agreed to four ambitious goals on providing treatment to people with TB,

and drastically increasing the amount of funding devoted to tackling the disease and developing new tools for this effort.

The world was already behind in fulfilling these commitments when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, derailing TB funding and care. As COVID-19 raged, the limited funding and attention for TB had to be diverted to face the new threat. As a result, TB deaths increased for the first time in more than 20 years. Ultimately, not one of the primary

commitments from the HLM were met. As climate change intensifies along with the effects of displacement and malnutrition, it may lead to future TB outbreaks and further strain already fragile health systems.

Despite these setbacks, there have been notable achievements in TB research and care. A treatment for the highly drug-resistant forms of the disease was approved by the US FDA and other regulatory authorities, and was endorsed by the WHO. Additionally, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance on a four-month treatment for drug-sensitive TB, reducing treatment duration for the first time in decades.

TB researchers remain optimistic. Changing the way we fight TB is achievable, and we have a strong research pipeline of promising new TB treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines. Breakthroughs are on the horizon—and they are sorely needed. The impact of safe, shorter, effective, and affordable tools to control TB is anticipated to be significant.

At the UN's second High-Level Meeting on TB this past September, another batch of ambitious goals were adopted—including a six-fold increase in funding for services and research. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we all witnessed the results of focused efforts and appropriate funds. The same is true for TB: with adequate funding and resources, we can develop the next generation of tools to fight TB. Support from world leaders now is critical, as we can end one of humanity's oldest diseases if we come together, while also mitigating the impact of one of the climate change crisis. This opportunity cannot be missed.

**Maria Beumont, MD, is Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for the TB Alliance**



# Housing in Cuba a problem with no solution in sight

By Luis Brizuela

**T**O emigrate to the United States and fulfill her hopes for a better life, Ana Iraida sold almost all of her belongings, including the apartment that, until her departure, saved her from the uncertainty of living in rented housing in Cuba, a country with an unresolved housing crisis.

"I inherited the apartment in Havana from my maternal grandmother, who passed away in 2015. It was small, but comfortable. I sold it for 6,000 dollars to pay for my documents, paperwork and airfare," the philologist, who like the rest of the people interviewed preferred not to give her last name, told IPS.

From Houston, Texas in the U.S., where she now lives, the young woman said that, thanks to loans from friends, "I raised another 4,000 dollars. I got to Nicaragua in December 2022 and from there I continued by land to the U.S. border."

Ana Iraida said she feels "fortunate" to have had a home that was "furnished and in good condition," with which she covered her expenses. She said that others "have a more difficult time because they do not have a home of their own."

In the last two years, emigration from Cuba has skyrocketed amidst the deterioration of the domestic economic situation, fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic, the tightening of the U.S. embargo, partial dollarization of the economy, the fall in the purchasing power of wages and pensions, shortages of essential products and inflation.

Errors and delays in the implementation of reforms to modernize the country and the ineffective monetary system implemented in January 2021 have also played a role.

In this country of 11 million people, in 2022 the exodus led some 250,000 people to the United States alone, the main receiving nation of migrants from this Caribbean island nation, from which it is separated by just 90 miles of sea.

To stem the wave of immigration, on Jan. 5 the U.S. government extended to nationals of Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti a humanitarian temporary residency permit program, known as "parole", similar to the one implemented in October 2022 for Venezuelans and previously for other nationalities.

As of the end of August, more than 47,000 Cubans had obtained the humanitarian permit, of whom 45,000 had already immigrated, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

One of the requirements for the temporary residency permit is to have sponsors who are U.S. citizens or hold some other legal status, in addition to having the financial resources to support the beneficiary or beneficiaries.

## Swapping or selling parole

Owning your own home can also be an opportunity allowing whole families to move abroad.

"People are swapping houses for parole status. A few weeks ago I facilitated the exchange of a house for five parole permits to the United States. And in another case, with a residence in Miramar (a wealthy neighborhood in western Havana), nine people were the beneficiaries," said Damian, a historian who



A view of Havana from Cerro, one of its 15 municipalities. This city of 2.2 million inhabitants, the biggest in the country, has the largest housing deficit in Cuba, exceeding 800,000 housing units. CREDIT: Jorge Luis Baños / IPS

privately engages in buying and selling, for which he charges a commission.

Damián explained to IPS that "residents in the United States ask for 10,000 to 12,000 dollars to provide a guarantee for parole status. The number of people they give a guarantee for depends on the value of the house. When the process is completed, the property is sold to a relative or friend of that person in Cuba."

Walking through the streets in the Cuban capital, the most varied signs reading "for sale" can be seen on crumbling or remodeled buildings. The same is true in other cities and towns of the country's 168 municipalities.

On online sites and Facebook groups for buying and selling activities, there is a proliferation of advertisements with photos and information about the properties, such as the number of rooms, the presence of a landline telephone line or an electrical installation that allows the connection of 110 and 220 volt equipment.

Some negotiate the price with or without furniture, others negotiate with buyers who pay cash in hand, or who pay in dollars, euros or make the deposit abroad.

"It is difficult to sell, because many people want to emigrate, and they are practically 'giving away' the houses. But at the same time hard currency is scarce and a person with thousands of

dollars prefers to use them to leave the country," said Elisa, a lawyer who told IPS she is interested in settling with her husband and son in Spain.

She said she has been trying to sell her apartment in La Vibora, another Havana neighborhood, for a year. "I can't find a buyer, not even now that I dropped the price to 10,000 dollars, half the initial price, and it's furnished," she complained.

In Cuba's informal real estate market, offers range from 2,000 dollars or less to a million dollars. The lowest of these figures is far from the average monthly salary, equivalent to 16.50 dollars on the black market.

## Hurdles despite the reforms

Now, Cubans can sell their properties even to move away from the country, a situation very different from 15 years ago, when only swaps of houses between two or more owners were possible. Homes could only be sold to the government, and they were confiscated if the people living there emigrated.

Under laws passed in the early years after the 1959 revolution, most citizens became homeowners.

The Urban Reform Law of 1960 turned housing properties over to those who lived in them, prohibited their sale or lease, and abolished private construction and mortgages.

After decades of prohibitions, in Oc-

tober 2011 the 1988 General Housing Law was amended and the doors were opened to free purchase and sale between Cuban citizens and even foreign residents, endorsed before notaries and with the payment of taxes.

The law also eliminated certain formalities and official regulations on swaps.

Prior to the restitution of the right of ownership of residential units, in 2010 the government approved permits allowing people to build, repair or expand their own homes.

In view of the government's reduced capacity for construction and the decline in housing funds in that same year, the free sale of cement, sand, gravel, cement blocks and corrugated iron bars was also authorized, which until then had been exclusively centrally allocated or sold in convertible pesos (CUC, a now defunct currency equivalent to the dollar).

The authorities promoted the granting of subsidies to vulnerable families, especially those affected by hurricanes, and micro-credits to build, expand or remodel homes.

These measures helped drive a boom in private construction and repairs.

As in other areas marked by the scarcity of materials, red tape and unequal purchasing power, the granting of housing and sale of materials is not exempt from corruption, theft and poor quality work, which has given rise to repeated complaints from the public.

There is still a housing deficit of more than 800,000 homes, while one third of Cuba's 3.9 million homes are in fair or poor condition.

The largest deficits are concentrated in Havana, a city of 2.2 million inhabitants, as well as in Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey, the other three most populated cities.

In 2019, a Housing Policy was launched, aimed at eliminating the housing shortage within a decade, based on the incentive of local production of construction materials and recyclable inputs, in addition to the contribution from the government and the centrally planned economy.

But the policy has run into hurdles as a result of the economic crisis, and multiple factors such as delays in pa-

perwork and procedures, loss of material resources, unfinished subsidies and financial resources tied up in the banks.

The shortage of foreign currency and insufficient investment stand in the way of increasing production and incorporating equipment to boost construction capacity and sustainability.

Official data show that in 2022, more than 195 million dollars were dedicated to business services, real estate and rental activity, including hotel construction, which represented almost 33 percent of investment in the sector.

On the other hand, only 8.5 million dollars were allocated to housing construction, or 1.4 percent of the total, according to the government's National Statistics and Information Office (ONEI).

Since 2019, 127,345 housing units were completed and 106,332 were remodeled or repaired, said Vivian Rodríguez, general director of Housing of the Ministry of Construction, during the most recent session of the Council of Ministers, on Oct. 1.

The authorities acknowledged that compliance with the year's plan of 30,000 new units is under threat. Maintaining this pace would mean eliminating the housing deficit in more than 28 years.

## No immediate solution

The lack of housing and the deterioration of existing homes continue without a viable solution in the short or medium term.

On many occasions, people of different generations are forced to live together in small homes, many of which are in a state of disrepair, putting a significant number of families at risk.

Access to housing has also been identified as a factor in the low birth and fertility rates that Cuba has been experiencing for decades.

There is also a problem after tropical cyclones and heavy rains, when centuries-old buildings that have never been remodeled or repaired collapse, or those vulnerable to strong winds are left roofless.

The private practice of professions such as architecture is also not allowed, and although since September 2021 the government has authorized the incorporation of micro, small and medium-sized companies, some of which specialize in the construction and repair of real estate, they still encounter obstacles to their practice.

"There could be many solutions, but in my opinion an essential one is that building materials must be available and at affordable prices; or that houses can be sold to workers so they can pay for them on credit. Otherwise, families will continue to be overcrowded, roofs and walls will collapse on us, or we will grow old without a place of our own," Orlando, a prep school teacher living in Havana, told IPS.



A man pulls a cart loaded with building blocks past a house for sale in the municipality of Centro Habana. In view of the government's diminished construction capacity and the decline of funds for housing, since 2010 the government authorized the free sale of various materials for construction, repairs, remodeling and expansion. CREDIT: Jorge Luis Baños / IPS

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One





A medical worker administers medication to malaria patients in Baringo County, Kenya

# Chinese-made drug transforms malaria treatment in Kenya

that disproportionately affects children and pregnant mothers.

Yu Jun, the vice president of Guilin Pharma, a subsidiary of Fosun Pharma, said the development of artesunate injectable drugs aligns with the objectives of China-Africa health collaboration to combat the continent's high malaria burden.

"We support and cooperate with clinical study institutions, and through their clinical studies, we have confirmed that our product is safe and effective and can be widely used to treat severe malaria and save lives in African countries," Yu said.

Fosun Pharma's second-generation artesunate for injection represents an improvement over artemisinin-based combination therapies, which have been WHO-recommended drugs for treating malaria.

The Chinese firm has also initiated a "Future Stars Program for talent training in Africa" aimed at enhancing the skills of local health-care workers in response to an initiative of the Chinese government to promote talent development in the continent.

According to a policy brief from Fosun Pharma, the program will also include scholarships and internship opportunities for Africa's frontline healthcare workers to better equip them to deal with deadly infectious diseases like malaria.

Ahead of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation scheduled for Beijing from Tuesday to Wednesday, the battle against malaria has emerged as part of China-Africa health collaboration, yielding fruitful outcomes.

Through the successful implementation of its 1-3-7 strategy, China was declared malaria-free by the WHO in June 2021, inspiring African

countries to adopt the same best practice. The strategy calls for reporting a malaria case on day one, confirming a case after three days, and halting the disease's spread on the seventh day. It was implemented in Tanzania with China's assistance from 2016 to 2018, leading to a significant reduction in malaria cases in endemic districts, according to the WHO.

Malaria is responsible for approximately one percent of Africa's annual gross domestic product loss, with 215 million cases and 384,000 deaths attributed to the disease in the continent in 2019, according to the WHO.

In Kenya, where 6.7 million malaria cases and 4,000 deaths were reported in 2021, the increased availability of Chinese-manufactured artesunate has significantly reduced fatalities among severely ill children, according to Kibor Keitany, the head of the National Malaria Control Program.

China-Africa health cooperation has flourished in line with the goals of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, yielding positive results, including improved responses to infectious diseases like malaria.

Robert Opoka, a professor of pediatrics and child health at Nairobi's Aga Khan University, said Sino-African collaboration in health research, technology transfer, training and innovations has been a game-changer in the fight against malaria.

"China has been able to extend its experience in managing malaria and producing drugs for treating the disease to Africa," Opoka said, commending Chinese pharmaceutical firms for producing highly effective anti-malaria drugs. "icient in service delivery," he added.

NAIROBI

**B**EAMING with excitement, dozens of patients braved the humid afternoon weather to queue for a Chinese-manufactured anti-malaria injectable drug at a private hospital in the western Kenyan county of Kisumu, where the tropical disease is endemic.

Manufactured by the Chinese pharmaceutical company Fosun Pharma, the injectable artesunate has significantly improved malaria treatment in Kisumu and the wider Lake Victoria basin, according to local health officials and doctors.

Kenya is one of 18 African countries where artesunate for injection, marketed under the brand name Argesun, has been introduced to help treat severe malaria in children.

Approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification team in June, the drug can clear malaria-causing parasites from a patient's blood within 24 hours. It is affordable, highly effective, and safe, said Walter Otieno, a pediatrician and malaria researcher at the Kenya Medical Research Institute.

Through collaboration with a local subsidiary, Fosun Pharma has expanded the supply of the injectable malaria drug in both public and private health facilities, assisting Kenya in its fight against a disease

## TENDER NOTICE

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT OF SACCOS MANAGEMENT SOLUTION

1. National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2023/2024, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the development, implementation, and support of Saccos Management Solution.
2. Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the Saccos Management Solution. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the development, implementation, and support of Saccos Management Solution.
3. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website [www.nbc.co.tz](http://www.nbc.co.tz) and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
4. All Proposals should be sent in one original document and a copy properly filled in, and enclosed in a sealed envelope marked as development, implementation, and support of Saccos Management Solution and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
5. Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive /Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
**TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPLICATION FOR LICENCE UNDER THE CONVERGED LICENSING FRAMEWORK

**NOTICE** is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received applications for Licences under the Converged Licensing Framework from the following applicants: -

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	TYPE OF LICENCE	SHAREHOLDERS / NATIONALITY	SHARES %
1.	Vaspro Limited	National Application Services	1. Andrew Akwesera Alligula-Kenyan 2. Nelson Mwaura Kigome- Kenyan	50 50
2.	Registered Trustees of Calvary Assemblies of God	Content Radio Broadcasting (Free To Air)-District (Shinyanga)	Registered Trustees of Calvary Assemblies of God: 1. Dunstun S. Maboya - Tanzanian 2. Emmanuel I. Machana - Tanzanian 3. Kindamba A. Lekaki - Tanzanian 4. Nzuamkende G. Maseki - Tanzanian 5. Mathew Maduhu - Tanzanian	Trustees don't own shares they only administer property on behalf of beneficiaries
3.	EL Gibor Media Company Limited	Content Radio Broadcasting (Free To Air)-District	1.Christina Joseph Lembae-Tanzanian 2.Joseph Aminiel Lembae-Tanzanian 3.Nelson Joachim Chami-Tanzanian 4.Wilfred Gabriel Nnko-Tanzanian 5.Aron Peter Hilbajajo -Tanzanian	20% 20% 20% 20% 20%

Pursuant to Section 8 Of Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the applications.

**Comments should be addressed to:**

**Director General  
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
P. O Box 474  
14414 DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel: +255 22 241 2011-2  
Fax: +255 22 2412009  
E-mail: [dg@tcra.go.tz](mailto:dg@tcra.go.tz)**



**Our Arusha office  
is moving!**



**20 October 2023** will see our Arusha office complete its relocation to a new building. All other contact information remains unchanged.

**In case of any enquiries please do contact us.**

<b>Old Address:</b> PricewaterhouseCoopers 4th Floor, PPF Plaza, Corridor Street P.O Box 3070, Arusha	<b>New Address:</b> PricewaterhouseCoopers Plot No. 114 Block Z, PAPU House, 10th Floor, Sekei - Philips P.O Box 3070, Arusha	<b>Contacts:</b> PricewaterhouseCoopers +255 27 254 8881 +255 766 488236 <a href="mailto:info@pwc.co.tz">info@pwc.co.tz</a> <a href="http://www.pwc.co.tz">www.pwc.co.tz</a>
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By Hisham Allam

# Egypt sacrifices part of UNESCO site for new road development

THE Egyptian government is clearing a vast area in Historic Cairo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to make way for new main roads and flyover bridges, which it says will improve traffic flow in the sprawling, congested megacity.

The developments are being pitched as part of an effort to modernize Egypt and connect the heart of the capital with a new administrative one being built 45km (28 miles) to the east.

However, the affected gravesites are mostly from the past century and include some in the famous City of the Dead, where Egypt's notables have long been buried, often in fancy marble tombs engraved with Arabic calligraphy.

The city's two main cemeteries radiate north and south from a central citadel known as the City of the Dead. Building the new highway will entail removing thousands of family graves, including those of historic figures from Egyptian history and culture.

Dr Islam Assem, an assistant professor of modern and contemporary history, told IPS that the demolition of these historic cemeteries is a "disaster by any measure." He said that there is no rational justification for the demolition and that it is a decision that was not made after any study.

"Under any circumstances, we cannot destroy our heritage with our own hands and erase our identity and history," Assem said.

He cited the example of Egypt's construction of the Aswan High Dam, where it was discovered that the reservoir would cover archaeological sites behind the dam. Egypt worked with UNESCO to save the Abu Simbel Temple and other antiquities that were threatened by flooding.

"The government should have taken its time and found logical solutions for these cemeteries, such as moving them in a respectful way," Assem said.

He added that the cemeteries "carry a history of



Egypt is sacrificing a historic area to make way for a road network to assist with traffic flow in Cairo. Credit: Hisham Allam/IPS

at least 250 years that is not written in books but is written on the tombstones of these places."

Heritage enthusiasts are collecting tombstones, plaques, inscriptions, and unique mausoleums from 17 cemeteries being demolished by the government in Historic Cairo. They are afraid that these items will be stolen or destroyed. The tombs of Ali Pasha Fahmi and the Daramli family, as well as the tomb of the freedmen of Prince Ibrahim Helmy, which was built over a

century ago, are being demolished.

Historian Sameh Al-Zahar said that Historic Cairo is entirely listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, including the cemeteries, which is the area where development and demolition work is taking place. This is regardless of whether some of the cemeteries are registered or not.

Al-Zahar, a specialist in Islamic antiquities, added that the officials' comment that the demolition is taking place on un-

registered cemeteries is "a true statement with a false intention." The meaning of the government not registering them is that this denies their significance, as some employees believe that we have enough antiquities and, therefore, there is no need to register them.

Some of these cemeteries date back historically between 700 and 1,000 years. Al-Zahar explained that this land was allocated by Omar ibn al-Khattab, the second caliph of the Mus-

lims, to be a city for the dead for Egyptians for 1,400 years.

He continued that eviction operations are taking place without legal, moral, or humanitarian justification, as the owners of these cemeteries own them with official contracts. Therefore, no one has the right to expropriate their property and transfer their remains without their consent and the consent of their families.

According to Al-Zahar, the government is using double standards by registering some places

as archaeological buildings, such as the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser's home and the Rifa'i Mosque, even though they are less than 100 years old, simply because they are associated with historical and important figures. He stated that the government demolished the graves of al-Maqrizi and Ibn Khaldun in Sufi cemeteries in the 1990s, so the demolition strategy of historic cemeteries is not new.

IPS UN Bureau Report

# RADIO One

# 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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Radio One





## Banking sector's assets grow to 46trn/-

By Guardian Reporter

The banking sector's total assets grew by 17.3 percent to 46.1trn/- in 2022 compared to 39.3trn/- recorded in the preceding year, mainly financed by an increase in deposits, borrowings and retained earnings, the financial supervision report by Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said.

Loans, advances and overdrafts grew by 25.3 percent to 26.09trn/-, compared to 20.8trn/- reported in the corresponding period in 2021.

The growth was attributed to favourable macroeconomic environment, the BoT's accommodative monetary policy and regulatory measures taken to support private sector's credit growth.

The major components of the sector's assets were loans, advances and overdrafts which accounted for 56.5 percent; investment in debt securities (17.5 percent); and cash, balances with Bank of Tanzania, balances with other banks and items for clearing (14.4 percent); while the remaining assets accounted for 11.6 percent of total assets.

Earning assets increased by 19.2 percent to 38.1trn/-, compared to 32trn/- recorded in 2021, the report says.

The ratio of earning assets to total assets increased to 82.7 percent compared to 81.3 percent recorded in 2021, indicating that the significant part of the sector's assets continued to be channeled to productive sectors of the



economy.

The sector remained profitable as depicted by increase in profitability by 67.3 percent to 934.4bn/- from 666.4bn/- reported in 2021.

Return on Assets (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) increased to 3.4 percent and 14.2 percent from 2.8 percent and 11.5 percent recorded in 2021, respectively.

The increase in profitability was driven by increase in interest income consistent with growth of loan portfolio, increase in non-interest income and improvement in operational efficiency.

Non-interest expenses to total income ratio decreased to 43.9 percent from 49.8 percent reported in 2021 as a result of decrease in non-

interest expenses.

Asset quality improved as evidenced by a decrease in non-performing loan ratio to 5.8 percent compared with 8.5 percent recorded in the preceding year, though the ratio remained slightly above the desired benchmark of not more than 5.0 percent.

The improvement in asset qual-

ity was attributed to increase in a loan book while maintaining asset quality, the improved credit risk management practices by banks and financial institutions and measures instituted by the Bank.

The measures included monitoring of the banks' implementation of NPLs reduction strategies; ensure banks and financial institutions strengthen credit risk management practices including credit underwriting and monitoring processes; enhance banks' staff integrity; and implement remedial measures to contain non-performing loans.

Loan portfolio was diversified in various sub-sectors of the economy, personal loans (38.1 percent); trade (16.5 percent); manufacturing (10.0 percent); agriculture (8.6 percent); building, construction and real estate (7.0 percent).

The remaining sectors accounted for 19.8 percent of loan portfolio.

Total capital of the sector composed of share capital (35.4 percent), retained earnings (41.0 percent), share premium (6.7 percent) and other capital items (16.9 percent).

Total capital increased by 11.9 percent to 6.9trn/- com-

pared to 6.2trn/- recorded in the preceding year, mainly on account of an increase in retained earnings by 37.9 percent to 2.8trn/- from 2trn/- in 2021.

The increase in capital signifies enhanced resilience of the sector to withstand shocks that may emanate from both internal and external environments.

According to the report, the sector remained adequately capitalized as evidenced by core and total capital adequacy ratios which were 17.9 percent and 18.7 percent compared to 19.5 percent and 20.2 percent reported in 2021, respectively.

Both ratios were above the minimum regulatory requirements of 10 percent and 12 percent for core and total capital, respectively.

The decrease in capital adequacy ratios was attributed to increase in risk weighted assets such as loans, advances and overdrafts.

However, the decrease in capital adequacy ratios did not affect the banking sector's capacity to absorb shocks that may arise from both internal and external environments.

## Israeli interest rates: Shekel stability trumps cuts

JERUSALEM

The Bank of Israel underscored the urgency of steadying the shekel following its slide to an eight-year low, shifting expectations among economists and traders who bet on a big interest-rate cut as soon as next week.

Citigroup Inc. reversed its forecast for a 75-basis point reduction on Monday, saying the central bank will likely keep the benchmark unchanged and may only ease policy once the shekel weakness subsides.

Israel's wartime monetary policy is taking clearer shape 10 days into a crisis that started with the deadly Hamas assault on the country. Concerns over the impact of a prolonged war on the \$520 billion economy initially fueled wagers on easing.

But on Tuesday, Deputy Governor Andrew Abir said the central bank is focused on stabilizing markets to give the "maximum certainty for the economy and the public at this time," signaling it will avoid monetary steps that could imperil the shekel's stability.

Following a pledge to sell as much as \$30 billion from reserves to support the currency, policymakers have succeeded in taking the edge off the foreign exchange market, which "has contributed to stabilizing and calming other markets as well," Abir said Tuesday at a meeting with financial forecasters.

The verbal intervention is prompting traders to unwind bets on easing ahead of



the central bank's rate decision on Monday, its first since the militant group's Oct. 7 attack on Israel triggered retaliatory bombardments of Gaza ahead of a likely ground invasion.

Forward-rate agreements, used to wager on future changes in borrowing costs, jumped by the most in more than a year on Tuesday, after falling by more than one percentage point last week. The shekel recouped earlier losses of as much as 0.5% to trade little changed.

"The Bank of Israel initiated its latest announcement to cool expectations of an interest-rate reduction created in markets," said Alex Zabezhinsky, chief economist at Meitav DS Investments. "The central bank clarifies that for the time being it prioritizes

financial stability and certainty rather than a change in the monetary regime."

A hold next week would extend a pause in place since July, which followed a record-long cycle of monetary tightening. The central bank raised its key rate sharply 10 consecutive times starting in early 2022 – from barely above zero – to 4.75 percent, bringing official borrowing costs to their highest since 2006.

While offering relief to borrowers and businesses at a moment of national peril, rate cuts now would contradict the Bank of Israel's unprecedented efforts to smooth out fluctuations in the exchange rate after a depreciation that officials consider the biggest risk for inflation.

Rather than opting for looser monetary

policy, Israel is more likely to lean on "fiscal adjustments" to provide support for the economy, said Yonnie Fanning, chief strategist for Mizrahi-Tefahot.

"While a November cut may still be on the table, we believe that a cut next week coincides less with current macroeconomic and financial conditions," Fanning said.

Economists at Barclays Plc said last week's rally in the local fixed-income market implied market expectations of about 75 basis points of cuts over the next three months.

"This is excessive as we do not expect the Bank of Israel to change its policy rate this year," Barclays analysts including Brahim Razgallah and Zalina Alborova said in a note.

## Banks tap CBK liquidity support loans on cash crisis

NAIROBI

Banks and microfinance institutions tapped Sh54.2 billion in loans from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) to boost their liquidity positions in the financial year ended June, pointing to a growing challenge among smaller lenders.

Disclosures in the CBK's annual report show a 6.3 percent increase in loans advanced to the financial institutions from Sh51.03 billion that was borrowed in the preceding similar period.

The enhanced use of the loans, under the liquidity support framework, was on the back of the sector's overall liquidity dropping from 52.5 percent

to 49.7 percent at the close of June. A 49.7 percent liquidity ratio is more than double the minimum statutory level of 20 percent and the use of the support facility points to a skewed distribution of liquidity in the sector.

The regulator had earlier said, without giving names, that three commercial banks in the year to December 2022 violated Section 19 (1) of the Banking Act on maintaining the minimum statutory liquidity ratio at 20 percent.

The ratio is a key metric for assessing banks' ability to settle their maturing obligations without difficulties.

The CBK's ramped-up liquidity support to the banking system has also come in an environment of rising in-

terest rates on the interbank market.

Banks have other tools for addressing their liquidity, including tapping into the inter-bank market and the discount window but the rates under these options were rising during the review period.

Rates at the interbank market nearly doubled from 5.3 percent at the end of June last year to 10.2 percent at the close of June 2023 and is now at 12.3 percent.

Borrowing from the discount window has been at 14.5 percent compared with 13.5 percent in the previous year.

At Sh54.2 billion, the liquidity support framework was the highest securities and advances from the CBK

to banks followed by Sh41.14 billion repurchase agreements – securitised borrowings by banks using T-bills and T-bonds.

The regulator has been alert to avoid a confidence crisis in the market such as the one caused by three lenders – Dubai, Imperial and Chase banks – that sank into receivership owing to mismanagement.

In April 2016, the CBK announced the rollout of the liquidity support facility for commercial and microfinance banks that come under liquidity pressures not borne out of mismanagement.

### Financial obligations

Banks tapped Sh6.5 billion from

## Dar resident wins vehicle from CRDB simBanking promotion

By Guardian Correspondent

Alex Mwinjuka Bakunda was announced the fourth vehicle prize winner of an ongoing CRDB bank's SimBanking promotion, which was launched earlier this year.

Bakunda said yesterday that he has been using SimBanking for different transactions and payments and is most convenient banking app.

Bakunda is joining previous vehicle winners including Robert Masala, Jared Awando Ojweke and Mayani Yahaya Hassan.

Speaking during the handing over of the vehicle, the CRDB head of consumer banking Stephen Adili said Bakunda deserve the prize because he did not pick up the phone twice until the third time, when he received the call.





## LETTER TO YOUNG BANKERS

CERTIFICATES WILL GIVE YOU JOB,  
INTEGRITY WILL HELP YOU KEEP IT

By Godwin Semunyu

In the words of Warren Buffett, one of the wealthiest human beings, "When I look for people to hire, I look for three qualities: Integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if they don't have the first, the other two will kill you."

Warren placed integrity at the heart of sourcing talents. As a young banker in my hometown of Morogoro, my first day at work was mind-blowing; the vast stacks of cash were too much for a kid who lived off the government advances at Mzumbe University. "Boom" as used to call them.

My boss, a gentle and soft-spoken man, gave me valuable advice: "Godwin, all this you see here, inside this building, are just pieces of papers, not money. From now on, money is what you earn and carry in your pockets. The rest here are papers. A banker is banked on trust. People trust you with their life savings. Your integrity and trustworthiness must remain unquestionable. Even when no one is looking." Sigh.

In a society where "success" is based on material accumulation with little regard to how they are obtained, it is easier to fall into a trap. When my friends heard I got a job at the Bank, their first notion was "Tajiri pale Benki kuna madi-

li sana." Product of our environments. I was suddenly "Tajiri". A catalyst to peer pressure. To most people, Upigaji is heroic. An easier route to "success."

Society peer pressure can easily destroy your career, hopes and dreams. The sad thing is, when it all falls down, you will be on your own. A laughing-stock.

Be patient; stop comparing yourself to anyone. Some have been there for years; some have multiple sources of income. Run your own race. Forgery, fraud, theft, and misconducts are numbered. You can only do so much.

Integrity is, therefore, the unwavering commitment to honesty, truthfulness,

and consistency in following processes and procedures. When in doubt, ask.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock." Seek mentorship, be accountable and maintain transparency where necessary. Remember, the real money is what you rightfully earn. The rest are just papers. After all, even Rome wasn't built in a day.

Thank me later.

**Godwin Jaha Semunyu (pictured) is a seasoned marketer and a communications enthusiast. He is the Head of Corporate Affairs at NBC Bank (T). These are his personal views. He can be reached at: godwingodizo@gmail.com**

Institutions are coming,  
but crypto still waiting

By Mike Leung

The future of finance is here. Financial institutions have been slow to adopt crypto, but digital assets are already transforming the global landscape with neobanks and non-banks leading the charge. While the PayPal stablecoin, central bank digital currency projects and other recent developments may finally awaken the incumbents, the doors to finance have already been blown wide open. The rise of embedded finance through fintechs, telecoms, ecommerce and super-apps is building out new systems through embedded crypto.

Digital assets firms have been preparing for institutional adoption for years. It makes sense for traditional businesses to partner with crypto industry expertise to expedite market entry while minimising upfront costs.

Some banks are piloting ring-fenced projects, including closed-loop retail trading, wealth management products and separate digital banking subsidiaries. But integrating emerging technology into well-established regulated frameworks can be complex.

For the most part, large financial institutions have taken a cautious 'wait and see' approach to adopting crypto, waiting for regulatory clarity and weighing uncertain market opportunities against risks and resources.

While waiting for the institutions to come, digital assets infrastructure providers have been building their technologies and policies to 'bank-grade' standards. Security, compliance and scalability are just some of the non-negotiable requirements of regulated institutions for integrating blockchain technology onto their platforms.

For security, service providers must pass rigorous tests on cyber threats and control vulnerabilities. For compliance, trading and fund flows must navigate a complex web of regulatory frameworks, across securities regula-

tion, money transmission rules and know your customer/anti-money laundering policies. For scalability, implementations must be robust in the face of significant transaction volumes and resilient against downtime.

Leading digital assets infrastructure providers have been operating at these bankgrade standards for years, but because of the non-bank clients who have led adoption. This accumulated experience means that digital assets infrastructure providers can now provide the more conservative institutions with the comfort of being tested partners.

Despite the vision for worldwide transformation of finance, the global crypto industry is still subject to local requirements. First-hand experience across different parts of the world proves that blockchain infrastructure works at scale, but the technologies and best practices still require significant adaptation in each specific country. To succeed, crypto firms will need to demonstrate flexibility in building solutions with their local partners.

While disruptive fintech and embedded finance challengers have been actively pursuing cryptal use cases for digital money, banks have been slow adopters. However, incumbent banks still have many advantages when they choose to get involved due to their long-standing businesses being shaped by the regulatory and localisation requirements in their markets.

Whether bank or non-bank, all players in the crypto financial services race must ultimately find a suitable infrastructure partner. To accomplish the mission of mass adoption, crypto firms must provide the embedded crypto solutions that make technology integration and regulatory compliance easy for their clients to jump in.

**Mike Leung is head of corporate strategy at Aquanow.**



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky

Multilateral banks to harmonise  
procurement systems in Ukraine

MARRAKECH

The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the World Bank have agreed to harmonise procurement practices for public sector investment financed by the MDBs in Ukraine.

Reconstruction needs for Ukraine will be huge. The cost of reconstruction following the Russian invasion of February 2022, based on damage done in the first year of war alone, has been estimated by the World Bank at US\$ 411 billion over 10 years. With billions being committed to Ukraine for economic support now, and much more expected when the time comes for reconstruction, keeping procedures for managing investments transparent and simple is crucial.

A Memorandum of Intent

(MoI) signed on the margins of the 2023 World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Morocco by the heads of the four MDBs responds to expectations by the Ukrainian authorities and donors that international organisations working in Ukraine harmonise and streamline their procurement practices as much as possible, while exercising proper fiduciary oversight.

The MoI is also an early marker of enhanced cooperation between MDBs, in line with the reform agenda set out by new World Bank President Ajay Banga.

World Bank President Ajay Banga said: "This kind of cooperation represents development work at its best. Harmonizing procurement procedures for Ukraine among the multilateral development banks has huge potential to substantially ease demands on

the country at a time when its capacity is already stretched to the limits. For its part, Ukraine's strong emphasis on digital transparency in procurement has made this collaboration possible."

EBRD President Odile Renaud-Basso said: "Ukraine's financial needs are vast, and coordination among its international partners to maximise effectiveness is vital. The EBRD, approaching €3 billion of finance for wartime Ukraine, sees this agreement as an important step forward. Enhanced cooperation between multilateral development banks on harmonising procurement approaches will support Ukraine and its people. The MoI reflects the current procurement context and the agreed way forward without losing sight of the need for fiduciary oversight."

EIB President Werner Hoyer said: "This agreement is an ex-

ample of enhanced cooperation among the world's multilateral development banks. Our collective commitment to the colossal task of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction is carefully coordinated. It can count on EIB financial backing of over €2 billion for Ukraine's most urgent needs and the roll out of the EU for Ukraine Fund, backed by Member States contributions and European Commission guarantees of €500 million so far. This agreement demonstrates our resolve and we are determined to ensure that each euro we invest advances Ukraine on the path toward a robust and sustainable future."

CEB Governor Carlo Monticelli said: "Harmonizing our procurement practices in Ukraine will speed up the delivery of much needed support to the country through our loans. This MoI is a step in the right direction. The CEB will continue working closely with the Ukrainian authorities, other MDBs and donors to ensure the country's reconstruction for the benefit of its people."

The MoI builds on progress already made by the four MDBs' procurement heads in making a series of mutual reliance agreements to facilitate jointly co-financed projects. These have delegated authority for a shared project to a designated lead financier for supervision and approval of procurement transactions.

The MDBs also agree on common approaches in supporting usage of electronic procurement systems together with adequate procurement monitoring mechanisms to support the needs of the Ukrainian authorities. The MDBs recognise the significant progress made by the Ukrainian authorities in aligning the national e-procurement system (ProZorro) with MDBs' policy requirements and best international practices. The MDBs commit to increase their reliance on Ukraine's e-procurement system once the upgraded system becomes functional, ensuring adequate transparency, fair international competition and value for money for Ukrainian citizens.

Goldman Sachs profits drop 36pc  
after pullback from retail banking

New York

Goldman Sachs has reported a 36 per cent drop in third-quarter profits, the bank's eighth straight quarter of falling earnings, as it grappled with losses following its pullback from retail banking and writedowns on its real estate investments.

However, Goldman eked out a year-on-year increase in investment banking revenues for the first time in almost two years in a sign that the dealmaking drought may be coming to an end.

Goldman said on Tuesday that net income to shareholders for the quarter was \$1.88bn, down from \$2.96bn a year earlier and just shy of analysts' estimates for about \$1.92bn, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Goldman's earnings were hit during the quarter by a loss on the sale of home im-

provement lending platform GreenSky to a private equity-led consortium, and the sale of what the bank called "substantially all" of its Marcus loan portfolio, as it nears an exit from its retail lending business.

Goldman also took a \$358mn impairment on its real estate investments in its asset and wealth management division.

"We continue to make significant progress executing on our strategic priorities and we're confident that the work we're doing now provides us a much stronger platform for 2024," chief executive David Solomon said in a statement.

Unlike peers JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley, Goldman lacks the same diversification in other businesses to compensate for a period of weaker performance in its core investment banking and trading activities.

Solomon, who has come under criticism

from some employees over his running of the bank, has outlined a strategy of diversification into asset and wealth management, but those activities still make up a relatively modest part of Goldman's profits.

Goldman's asset and wealth management division reported revenue of \$3.2bn. That was down 20 per cent from the same period last year due in part to losses on investments made by the bank, including in real estate.

Goldman is in the process of selling down these investments, which have a record of being very lucrative but are volatile and deemed risky by regulators. The bank is instead prioritising the management of third-party funds, which offer more stable fee-based income.

Revenue from investment banking climbed to \$1.6bn in the quarter, up 1 per cent compared with a year earlier.





# New look at global banks unveils risks from higher-for-longer interest rates

By Charles Cohen & Srobona Mitra

Central banks could keep interest rates higher for longer as they fight to curb inflation that remains stubbornly high in many countries—and slow their economies by doing so.

Such an environment hasn't confronted the world's financial markets in a generation. That means financial supervisors must sharpen their analytical tools and regulatory responses to address emerging threats. And the new risks gathering in the banking system and beyond mean it's time to redouble efforts to identify the weakest lenders.

Accordingly, we enhanced our stress-testing tools to focus on risks from rising interest rates and incorporate the kind of funding pressures that toppled some banks in March. We also developed a new surveillance tool for tracking emergent banking fragilities using analyst forecasts and traditional bank metrics. These monitoring tools, based on public data, aim to complement stress tests by supervisory authorities and by IMF-World Bank teams in Financial Sector Assessment Programs, which use more granular confidential supervisory data.

Rising rates are a risk for banks, even though many benefit by collecting higher interest rates from borrowers while keeping deposit rates low. Loan losses may also in-



crease as both consumers and businesses now face higher borrowing costs—especially if they lose jobs or business revenues. Besides loans, banks also invest in bonds and other debt securities, which lose value when interest rates rise. Banks may be forced to sell these at a loss if faced with sudden deposit withdrawals or other funding pressures. The failure of Silicon Valley Bank was a dramatic example of this bond-loss channel.

Stress testing  
The banking system ap-

pears broadly resilient, according to our new global stress test of almost 900 lenders across 29 countries, outlined in a chapter of our latest Global Financial Stability Report. Our exercise, which shows how lenders would fare under the baseline scenario we project in the latest IMF World Economic Outlook, identified 30 banking groups with low capital levels, together accounting for about 3 per cent of global bank assets.

But if beset by severe stagflation—high inflation with a 2 per cent global economic

contraction—coupled with even higher central bank interest rates, the losses would be much greater. The number of weak institutions would rise to 153 and account for more than a third of global bank assets. Excluding China, there are many more weak banks in advanced economies than in emerging markets.

This group of weak banks suffer from rising interest rates, rising loan defaults, and falling securities prices. Importantly, additional analysis shows that losses from selling securities un-

der deposit run scenarios are less painful when banks have access to central bank lending facilities, such as the Federal Reserve's discount window.

To complement the global stress test, our new surveillance tool incorporates traditional supervisory metrics, such as the ratio of capital to assets, as well as market indicators, like the ratio of the market price to the book value of bank equity. These have historically proven important predictors of lost confidence during banking stress events. It flags banks for further review if they appear to be outliers across three or more of the five risk metrics we consider: capital adequacy, asset quality, earnings, liquidity, and market valuation.

During periods of stress, many banks may show up as potentially vulnerable, while few ever do experience significant distress. Back testing this tool shows a surge of potentially vulnerable institutions at the onset of the pandemic, as well as a sustained rise in late 2022 as higher interest rates began to bite. This latter group included the four banks that either failed or were taken over in March.

Based on current market data and consensus analyst forecasts, these indicators point to a substantial group of smaller banks at risk in the United States, and concern for some lenders in Asia, including China, and Europe as liquidity and earnings pressures persist.

## Bank of America profits beating forecasts

NEW YORK

Bank of America reported an increase in third-quarter profits as the country's second-largest bank continued to benefit from higher interest rates and its traders delivered their best performance in a decade.

Profits climbed 10 per cent to \$7.8bn in the quarter from a year ago, the bank said on Tuesday, as its revenues edged up 3 per cent.

The bank's Wall Street businesses, notably its fixed-income and equities trading, proved a bright spot in a quarter marked by volatility across bond markets.

Revenues at its sales and trading business climbed 8 per cent to \$4.4bn, including a 10 per cent jump in revenue from its equities business, which hit \$1.7bn.

Third-quarter results from the biggest US banks have proven more resilient than analysts expected given concerns that the US economy may be facing a downturn as interest rates stay higher for longer.

Spending by BofA's credit card customers rose 3 per cent in the quarter compared with a year ago. Lending also increased, but only by 1 per cent.

In a sign that the bank is braced for some stress among its customers, BofA set aside \$1.2bn for potential loan losses, up more than 20 per cent from the same period a year ago.

"Our teammates delivered another strong quarter," said BofA chief executive Brian Moynihan in a statement released with the earnings. "We did this in a healthy but slowing economy that saw US consumer spending still ahead of last year but continuing to slow."

While BofA managed to increase earnings in the quarter, it did so at a slower pace than some rivals. Wells Fargo and JPMorgan last week reported a 68 per cent and 38 per cent jump in profits respectively. Earnings at Citigroup, which last month announced a big restructuring in a bid to remedy years of poor performance, reported a 2 per cent rise in third-quarter profits.

BofA shares were up 1 per cent in pre-market trading following the results.

# TPA opens logistics office in Harare

By Guardian Reporter

The Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) has further improved its services in Africa by opening another office in Zimbabwe to facilitate the transportation of cargo by ship through the Indian Ocean.

The move has come after TPA opened its offices in Tanzania's neighboring countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the office in Harare recently, Transport Minister, Prof Makame Mbarawa said in the new office is also part of strengthening the relationship between Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Prof Mbarawa said the office will provide solutions to problems and challenges that hinder the growth of business

between Harare and Dar es Salaam.

In the event attended by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of Zimbabwe, Joy Makumbe, Professor Mbarawa mentioned the advantage of opening the office as using the economic opportunities available for the benefit of the citizens of two countries, placing TPA closer to customers, enabling business to be carried out efficiently through the Port of Dar es Salaam.

He said the government through TPA, has planned to increase the contribution of the port sector to grow the national income by reaching the existing markets in the country and providing high quality services to withstand competition and make Tanzanian Ports the right choice for exporters in the Southern Africa re-



Transport minister Prof Makame Mbarawa

gion. Speaking at the event, Makumbe, said there is a significant increase in trade between Tanzania and Zimbabwe in the vehicle transport business sector through the Port of Dar es Salaam.

He said that the situation forces their government to take deliberate steps to manage the prosperity of the business by

removing the existing challenges.

Earlier, the Deputy Director General of TPA, Juma Kijavara speaking on behalf of the Director General, said that the Zimbabwean market is of great importance and he has planned to direct his efforts to find and use the opportunities available in the business of transporting cars and other

cargo through the Port of Dar es Salaam.

Kijavara, said TPA thanks the Sixth Phase Government led by President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan for making large investments and enabling it to grow rapidly due to the high efficiency of the service of all ports in the country.

However, he said they are making major improvements in the infrastructure of their ports by purchasing modern equipment, doing national and international marketing campaigns, working side by side with their stakeholders.

"These efforts have brought about a great revolution and the result is an increase in cargo and income of TPA, the reason that makes us direct our efforts to reach the markets of neighboring countries where studies show that there

are opportunities to further develop the scope of our business and our income," said Kijavara.

Speaking about their plan in the financial year 2023/2024, he said TPA is starting the implementation of new projects for the expansion of Dar es Salaam Port by building pier number 12 to pier number 15.

The Ambassador of Tanzania to Zimbabwe, the retired Inspector General of Police (IGP), Simon Sirro, said that the Chamber of Commerce in the country is satisfied with the services of the Port of Dar es Salaam for their country and asked TPA to work hand in hand with his office to facilitate the economic diplomacy efficiently and produce the expected fruits for all the stakeholders of two countries.

BANKING & FINANCE

# Qnet comes up with new products on 25th anniversary

MUMBAI

GLOBAL wellness and lifestyle company, QNET has celebrated its 25th anniversary in a spectacular double convention in Penang, Malaysia reassuring commitment to promote a healthy lifestyle and reducing its environmental impact.

The event brought together a staggering 20,000 attendees from over 20 countries for two back-to-back conventions in September 2023.

The company launched two products at the anniversary introducing the advanced Homepure Nova with Pi-Plus Cartridge, an enhanced version of the company's bestselling HomePure Nova 9-stage water filtration system, which promises improved hydration and fortified antioxidant benefits in your drinking water.

The five-day conventions provided a valuable platform for QNET's customers and distributors to deepen their product knowledge,

engage with experts, and experience dynamic product demonstrations.

Attendees also benefited from business-building training sessions, learning opportunities from accomplished distributors, and insights into industry knowledge. The events were further enlivened by guest appearances from Bollywood celebrities and performances by international entertainers.

Demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, QNET implemented several eco-conscious initiatives during the conventions to reduce carbon footprint.

From partnering with environmentally responsible vendors for booth constructions, eliminating single-use plastics, minimising printed materials through digital alternatives like QR Codes, to distributing purchases in reusable bags made from eco-friendly materials, every facet of the event embodied sustainability.

QNET's venue of choice, the Setia



Qnet CEO, Malou Caluza

SPICE Convention Centre in Penang is the world's first hybrid solar-powered convention centre and is also Green Building Index certified.

The centre has also implemented initiatives such as bottling drinking water in-house, waste segregation, and rainwater harvesting to sup-

port its net zero goals.

Additionally, in a further step towards environmental stewardship, QNET has pledged to plant

2,500 trees in Malaysia, to offset the event's carbon footprint. This comes at a time where all the world key players are coming together to offer sustainable solution in the growing efforts toward climate action.

While QNET originated in Asia, it has expanded its operations globally, including in Africa.

QNET's CEO Malou Caluza reflected on the journey stating that the company's business model is based on empowering entrepreneurs and offering them the opportunity to start their own businesses with minimal capital.

"We are immensely proud of the empowering ecosystem we've nurtured, grounded in our core philosophy of RYTHM—Raise Yourself To Help Mankind. As we commemorate this significant milestone, we also cast our eyes forward to a future filled with promise and potential," he said.



## WORLD

## Xi: BRI represents humanity's joint pursuit of development

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said yesterday that the Belt and Road Initiative represents humanity's joint pursuit of development for all.

It has opened up a new path for exchanges among countries, and established a new framework for international cooperation, Xi said while delivering a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in the Chinese capital, Beijing.

Pointing out that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the initiative he proposed, he said the BRI aims to enhance policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity, inject new impetus into the global economy, create new opportunities for global development, and build a new platform for international economic cooperation.

Over the past 10 years, the Belt and Road cooperation has progressed from "sketching the outline" to "filling in the details," and blueprints have been turned into real projects, said the Chinese president.

When COVID-19 struck, the Belt and Road became a life-saving road, he said.

China provided more than 10 billion masks and 2.3 billion doses of vaccines to other countries and jointly produced vaccines with over 20 countries, making a special contribution to BRI partners' efforts in fighting COVID-19. And China also received valuable support from more than 70 countries when it was hit hard by the pandemic, he said.

A large number of signature projects and "small yet smart" people-centered programs have been launched, said Xi.

The Belt and Road international cooperation has gotten off the ground, grown rapidly and produced fruitful outcomes in the past 10 years, he said.

The cooperation has extended from the Eurasian continent to Africa and Latin America, and more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations have signed cooperation documents, he said.

Belt and Road cooperation was proposed by China, but its benefits and opportunities are for the world to share, he said.

The global network of connectivity built under the BRI has injected fresh vitality into the millennia-old Silk Road in the new era, Xi said.

## Silk Road spirit

The Silk Road spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit is the most important source of strength for Belt and Road cooperation, he said.

"I once said that the pioneers of the ancient silk routes won their place in history not as conquerors with warships, guns, horses or swords. Rather, they are remembered as friendly emissaries leading camel caravans and sailing ships loaded with goods."

"Belt and Road cooperation is based on the belief that flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire and that mutual support can get us far," he added.

Xi noted that such cooperation seeks to deliver a good life not only to people of just one country, but to people in other countries as well. It promotes connectivity, mutual benefit, common development, cooperation and win-win outcomes.

"Ideological confrontation, geopolitical rivalry and bloc politics are not a choice for us. What we stand against are unilateral sanctions, economic coercion and decoupling and supply chain disruption," he added.

## Community with shared future

Stressing that humankind is a community with a shared future, Xi said, "China can only do well when the world is doing well. When China does well, the world will get even better."

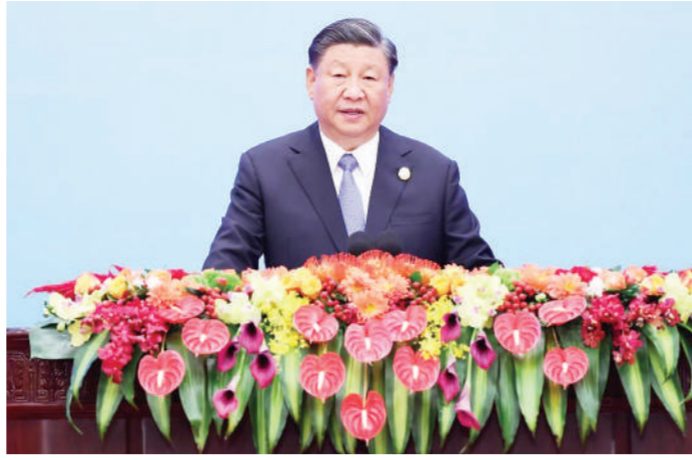
Through Belt and Road cooperation, China is opening its door even wider to the world, with its inland regions turning from "fulbacks" into "forwards," and coastal regions scaling new heights in their opening-up, he said.

China has become a main trading partner of more than 140 countries and regions and a primary source of investment for more countries. Both Chinese investment overseas and foreign investment in China have boosted friendship, cooperation, confidence and hope, according to Xi.

## Win-win cooperation

President Xi said win-win cooperation is the sure way to success in launching major initiatives that benefit all.

He pointed out that when countries embrace cooperation and act in concert, a deep chasm can be turned into a thoroughfare, land-locked countries can become land-linked, and a place of underdevelopment can be transformed into a land of prosperity.



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation and delivers a keynote speech at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. XINHUA

"Countries taking the lead in economic development should give a hand to their partners who are yet to catch up. We should all treat each other as friends and partners, respect and support each other, and help each other succeed," Xi said.

As the saying goes, "when you give roses to others, their fragrance lingers on your hand." In other words, helping others is also helping oneself, he said.

Viewing others' development as a threat or taking economic interdependence as a risk will not make one's own life better or speed up one's development, said the Chinese leader.

## New stage of high-quality development

China will work with all parties involved to usher Belt and Road cooperation into a new stage of high-quality development, and make relentless efforts to achieve modernization for all countries, said Xi.

Global modernization should be pursued to enhance peaceful development and mutually beneficial cooperation and bring prosperity to all, he said.

China is endeavoring to build itself into a stronger country and rejuvenate the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization. "The modernization we are pursuing is not for China alone, but for all developing countries through our joint efforts."

## Advancing practical cooperation for BRI

China will carry out practical cooperation for the BRI, promoting both signature projects and "small yet smart" livelihood programs, he said.

Xi vowed more financing support for BRI projects on the basis of market and business operation in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China will each set up a 350 billion yuan (\$48.75 billion) financing window, and an additional 80 billion yuan will be injected into the Silk Road Fund, he said.

The country will carry out 1,000 small-scale livelihood assistance projects, and enhance vocational education cooperation through Luban Workshops and other initiatives, he said, adding that more efforts will be taken to ensure the safety of BRI projects and personnel.

The CEO Conference held during the forum saw the conclusion of agreements worth \$97.2 billion, he said.

## Integrity-based B&amp;R cooperation

President Xi proposed promoting integrity-based Belt and Road cooperation.

Together with its cooperation partners, China will release the Achievements and Prospects of Belt and Road Integrity Building and the High-Level Principles on Belt and Road Integrity Building, and establish the Integrity and Compliance Evaluation System for Companies Involved in Belt and Road Cooperation, he said. "We will also work with international organizations to carry out research and training on promoting integrity in Belt and Road cooperation."

## Green development

China will continue to promote green development as one of the major steps to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, said the Chinese leader.

He said the country will further deepen cooperation in areas

such as green infrastructure, green energy and green transportation, and step up support for the BRI International Green Development Coalition.

"China will continue to hold the BRI Green Innovation Conference, and establish dialogue and exchange mechanisms for the solar industry and a network of experts on green and low-carbon development," Xi said.

He added that China will implement the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road, and provide 100,000 training opportunities for partner countries by 2030.

## Sci-tech innovation

China will continue to advance scientific and technological innovation as one of the major steps to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, President Xi said, adding that the country will continue to implement the Belt and Road Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, and hold the first Belt and Road Conference on Science and Technology Exchange.

China will also increase the number of joint laboratories built with other Belt and Road parties to 100 in the next five years, and support young scientists from other countries to work on short-term programs in China, he said.

China will put forward the Global Initiative for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance at this year's forum. "We stand ready to increase exchanges and dialogue with other countries and jointly promote the sound, orderly and secure AI development in the world."

## Strengthening institutional building

Proposing strengthening the institutional building for international Belt and Road cooperation, Xi said China will work with its Belt and Road Initiative partner countries to strengthen the building of multilateral cooperation platforms covering energy, taxation, finance, green development, disaster reduction, anti-corruption, think tank, media, culture and other fields.

China will continue to host the BRF and establish a secretariat for the Forum, he said. Xinhua

## Jordan cancels four-way summit planned to halt Gaza conflict

AMMAN

JORDAN has decided to call off the four-way summit here yesterday, Jordan's state-run Petra News Agency reported.

The summit was planned to bring together King Abdullah II of Jordan, US President Joe Biden, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi.

Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said yesterday that the cancellation of the summit was due to the ongoing Israeli assault against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

He pointed out that the summit was planned to produce a solution to stop the war, respect the humanity of the Palestinians, and provide necessary aid. He added that the decision to refrain from holding the summit came after consulting with the Palestinians and Egyptian counterparts, as well as discussions with the United States.

Safadi urged the international community to put an end to the bloodshed and added that the summit will be held at a time when it can stop the war, deliver humanitarian support to the people of Gaza, and put an end to the catastrophe.

He also confirmed that the US president would not be visiting Jordan on Wednesday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday decided to cancel his participation in a four-way summit to be held in Amman, the capital of Jordan, on Wednesday and returned to Ramallah.

"President Abbas decided to return to the homeland and called for a meeting of the Palestinian leadership tonight," the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization said in a brief statement.

Abbas met in Amman with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday afternoon, in preparation for the quadrilateral summit scheduled for Wednesday, which includes King Abdullah II of Jordan, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, US President Joe Biden along with Abbas.

Abbas's decision came after the bombing of the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in central Gaza City on Tuesday, which left hundreds of deaths and injuries. The Gaza-based health ministry said the airstrikes were carried out by Israel, while the Israeli military said the Islamic Jihad organization is responsible for the "failed shooting" that targeted Israel.

Additionally, King Abdullah II of Jordan will hold separate meetings with the US, Egyptian, and Palestinian leaders, with a focus on ending the Gaza conflict and addressing the broader regional concerns it raises, as well as facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The king will also host a three-way summit with the Egyptian and Palestinian presidents, the statement said, adding the main goal of these discussions is to evaluate the Gaza situation and jointly seek a political solution to revive the peace process.

Also on Tuesday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib called on the international community to pressure Israel to stop the attacks on Gaza and return to negotiation.

The foreign minister made the remarks during his meeting with Turkish top diplomat Hakan Fidan in Beirut, during which he also urged the Israeli side to stop attacks in southern Lebanon, according to Lebanon's National News Agency.

The Lebanese minister also called for lifting the siege on Gaza and immediately delivering food, water, medicine, and electricity to people there.

For his part, Fidan said Türkiye is making efforts to prevent the spread of the war to other countries, especially to Lebanon.

He added that while this round of fighting may lead to significant and destructive wars, it may also lead to a historic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Xinhua



This combo photo shows (from left) Jordan's King Abdullah II, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, US President Joe Biden, and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi. (PHOTOS / AFP)

## Foreign Minister Saud thanks counterpart Jaishankar over evacuation of Nepal citizens under 'Operation Ajay'

KATHMANDU

EXPRESSING gratitude to his Indian counterpart, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar for the evacuation of Nepal citizens from Israel, Nepal Foreign Minister NP Saud has said the help is appreciated.

Thanking Jaishankar, Saud said that the people of Nepal are helpful for the same.

"Your Excellency @DrSJaishankar, we appreciate this help in difficult time. Nepal and Nepali people are thankful," Saud posted on X on Tuesday.

The fifth flight carrying 286 Indian na-

tionals including 18 citizens of Nepal arrived in New Delhi late on Tuesday night. Upon arrival, they were received by the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, L Murugan.

"Wherever Indians are stranded, our priority is to bring them back. We have successfully conducted Operation Ganga and Operation Kaveri now under Operation Ajay we are bringing people back from Israel. This is the fifth flight, and we have already brought 1180 people back home. We are the first country to start the evacuation,

and we are also bringing people belonging to our neighbour (Nepal) countries..." the Minister said.

Along with Indian nationals, there were some Nepal citizens as well, who were also evacuated by India under 'Operation Ajay'.

Ambika, a Nepali citizen who returned from Israel told ANI, "The situation in Israel is dangerous. We were scared, there were explosions. I want to thank the Indian Govt for bringing us back.

Several Nepali citizens still stranded in Israel..."

Following the evacuation, the Ambassa-

dor of Nepal to India, said, "We would like to thank the Indian Govt for bringing Nepali citizens back from Tel Aviv to Delhi.

They have arrived here safely. Flights are also being sent from Nepal to evacuate Nepali citizens. There are around 4,500 Nepalis in Israel, out of which 400 have been evacuated. Nepal Govt is working to bring them back..."

Operation Ajay is an ongoing operation conducted by the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate Indian citizens from Israel during the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.

ANI

## Publishing cooperation promotes mutual learning between China, Arab countries

THE Riyadh International Book Fair 2023 recently concluded in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia. As one of the largest book exhibitions in the Arab world, the event was attended by over 1,800 publishing houses from some 30 countries and regions, and received over 1 million visits.

During the book fair, Chinese publishing companies gathered to showcase a collection of excellent China-themed books to Arab readers. Various cultural exchange activities between China and Saudi Arabia, as well as China and other Arab countries, were held to inject new vitality into promoting China-Saudi Arabia publishing cooperation and enhancing mutual understanding and exchange between civilizations.

An exhibition booth in the

exhibition hall No. 3 with an eye-catching red color caught the attention of many visitors. Neatly arranged on several rows of shelves were China-themed books in Chinese, Arabic, English, and other languages. Among them were notable titles such as "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" and various books on Chinese history, philosophy, and tourism.

Bayt Al-Hekma Cultural Group, a publishing house mainly devoted to the Arabic translation of Chinese books as well as Chinese language learning books and courses, is the sales agent of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" in Arab countries. Ahmed al-Saeed, CEO of the group, told

People's Daily that the fourth volume of the book in Arabic is popular among readers in Arab countries.

"Many readers hope to gain a comprehensive, multi-dimensional, and vivid understanding of China's achievements today through this work," he added.

As this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), many books on Belt and Road cooperation in Arabic were displayed at the book fair, such as "The Belt and Road Comparative Studies on Regional and National Economic Development" and a picture encyclopedia of the Silk Road history. They served as valuable references for readers to gain a deeper under-

standing of the achievements of the BRI.

Dr. Hamad A. Altowajiri, assistant professor of Economics at the College of Business Administration, Saudi Arabia's King Saud University, told People's Daily that the deep synergy between the BRI and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 formed in recent years has forcefully driven the development of the relations between Saudi Arabia and China.

"It is believed that the publishing cooperation between the two countries will inject more wisdom to the steady and long-term development of Saudi Arabia-China ties," he noted.

"Do you have any books related to ancient Chinese history?" A

14-year-old boy from Saudi Arabia named Rakan, who was attending the book fair, said that he had been studying Chinese for 10 months, and an increasing number of his friends were beginning to learn the language as well.

"I hope to have the chance to delve into Chinese history, which will allow me to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture," he added.

As China-Saudi Arabia relations continue to develop, there has been a surge of interest in learning the Chinese language in Saudi Arabia.

Since 2019, the Saudi Arabian government has incorporated the Chinese language into the country's national educational

system, and launched a series of measures to stimulate students' enthusiasm for learning the language.

Relevant enterprises have also released Chinese language textbooks and supplementary materials tailored to the specific conditions of Arab countries and catering for learners at different proficiency levels.

At the book fair, there was a constant flow of Saudi Arabian readers seeking to purchase Chinese language textbooks.

During this book exhibition, China and Saudi Arabia signed an implementation plan for projects in the fields of literature, publishing, and translation, which was a high on the agenda of the event.

It marked the beginning of a new chapter of publishing exchange and cooperation between the two countries.

Yahya Mahmoud Bin Junaid, Chairman of Saudi Arabia's Center for Research and Intercommunication Knowledge, pointed out that China has a long history and a splendid culture, and in recent years, more and more international readers are eager to understand China as the country constantly increases its global influence.

"Arab countries attach great importance to the Arabic-Chinese translation and publishing industry, aiming to help more Arab readers gain a deeper understanding of China through these efforts," he noted.

People's Daily



## Deeply shocked, civilian deaths concerning: PM Modi after explosion at Gaza hospital

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday consoled the loss of lives in an explosion at a hospital in Gaza, saying he was "deeply shocked" by the incident.

Also expressing concern over the mounting civilian casualties in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, those behind such deaths should be "held responsible".

Taking to his official handle on X, PM Modi posted, "Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured. Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved should be held

responsible."

Also responding to the attack on a Gaza hospital, US President Joe Biden said earlier on Tuesday that he was "outraged and deeply saddened" after learning of the incident, the White House said in a statement.

The White House statement quoted President Biden as saying further: "I am outraged and deeply saddened by the explosion at the Al Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza, and the terrible loss of life that resulted."

After learning of the incident, the US President called up Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Abdullah II.

"Immediately upon hearing this news, I spoke with King Abdullah II of Jordan, and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel



Palestinians wounded in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip seek treatment in a hospital in Khan Younis on Tuesday. AP

and have directed my national security team to continue gathering information about what exactly happened," the White House statement quoted Biden as saying.

"The United States stands unequivocally for the protection of civilian life during conflict and we mourn the patients, medical staff and other innocents killed or wounded in this tragedy," he added.

French President Emmanuel Macron also condemned the attack on the hospital, saying that the attack on civilians cannot be "justified".

"Nothing can justify striking a hospital. Nothing can justify targeting civilians. France condemns the attack on the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, which made so many Palestinian victims. Our thoughts are with them. All the light must be shed on the circumstances," Macron tweeted from his handle on X.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, Tal Heinrich, a spokesperson for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, told CNN that the IDF "does not target hospitals."

"We only target Hamas strongholds, arms depots, and terror targets," he added.

Heinrich made the remarks after Palestinian sources claimed that initial estimates suggest that attack on the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City resulted in 200 to 300 fatalities.

An explosion at the hospital in Gaza City on Tuesday claimed the lives of hundreds of people, according to health authorities in the Hamas-run enclave, Reuters reported.

A Gaza civil defence chief claimed on Al-Jazeera television that over 300 people were killed in the explosion at the Gaza hospital.

ANI

## Lula da Silva speaks to Iranian counterpart Raisi over release of captives in Gaza

BRASILIA

PRESIDENT of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi called Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the president of Brazil, on Tuesday to discuss the ongoing situation in the Middle East and the release of captives held in Gaza.

According to an official statement released by Brazil government, Silva noted that there are a group of Brazilians waiting to leave the Gaza Strip near the Egyptian border, and expressed his sympathy for the women and children suffering from the fighting in the area.

The Iranian president called for an immediate end to Israeli bombings and an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

President Lula (pictured) asked that everything possible be done to reach a consensus that would create a humanitarian corridor and appealed for the release of all hostages, which would be the best signal for an appeal for an end to the bombings in Gaza, according to the release.

"The most important thing is to ensure that women, children and the elderly do not suffer the consequences of those who want war," Lula said during the conversation.

"I get sad when I see how difficult it is for poor people to build a house, a hospital. And how easily this is destroyed in war."

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Herzi Halevi on Tuesday issued a message for its soldiers ahead of Israel's announcing that the preparations being made to launch a ground offensive on the Gaza Strip in retaliation to the Hamas attack on its territory.

In a message note shared on X, the IDF called the Hamas terror attack on Israel a "murderous surprise attack" against Israel and said that they are striking the "enemy" from air, ground and sea.

Addressing the IDF soldiers and commanders, it said on X, "On Saturday morning, October 7 2023, Hamas terror organization commenced a murderous surprise attack against the State of Israel.

They seek to destabilize Israel's sovereignty by carrying out cruel and criminal actions. During this fateful hour, we are keeping our oath to protect our homeland and Israel's freedom and are fighting back. This is the eleventh consecutive day that the IDF is striking the enemy from the air, ground and sea."

The letter added, "We destroyed enemy infrastructure, leadership and capabilities and caused significant damage. We will pursue and catch them everywhere and will strike them with force. We are determined and unified in our mission to protect our home and are prepared for any situation at every front. Our uncompromising responsibility is to overwhelm the enemy and restore security everywhere."

Further highlighting the significance of the moment, the IDF chief of Staff asserted that the IDF would win the war and said that the army is trained for the mission.

"We took a hard hit and we are responsible, but now the initiative is in our hands. Every single one of you has a role in the challenges we face ahead. The war will be difficult and long and the IDF will prevail. The IDF will prevail because of our dedication to the mission, our bravery, and camaraderie.

The IDF will prevail because our war is just. The IDF will prevail thanks to the might of the nation we are a part of. We will prevail because of our abilities and because we trained for this mission. We will prevail, and in everything that we do we will act according to the IDF spirit and its values" the IDF Chief of Staff said in his message to troops. ANI



## Emirates launches new wildlife amenity kits highlighting endangered species

DUBAI

EMIRATES Airlines is taking a bold step in its commitment to environmental sustainability and wildlife conservation by introducing new complimentary amenity kits for its Premium Economy and Economy Class passengers on long-haul flights worldwide.

These kits, now available onboard, are the result of a unique collaboration with United for Wildlife, designed to shed light on some of the planet's most endangered species.

Preservation of wildlife and its natural habitats has long been at the heart of the Emirates Environmental Sustainability Framework.

The unveiling of this new amenity kit collection underscores Emirates' enduring partnership with United for Wildlife and its dedication to raising awareness about endangered species and curbing the illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products.

The kit pouches and bookmarks feature illustrations of some of the most



trafficked and vulnerable creatures on Earth, including the green sea turtle, African elephant, blue macaw, gorilla, hammerhead shark, lion, pangolin, and black rhino.

United for Wildlife has provided alarming statistics, emphasizing the gravity of the situation. Globally, 100 elephants are poached every day, a rate

that could lead to their extinction in the wild by 2025.

The rhino population has dwindled to a mere 30,000 in the wild, a stark decline from the 500,000 that existed at the start of the 20th century. Meanwhile, pangolins have become the most trafficked mammal on the planet.

David Fein, Co-Chair of United for

Wildlife, commented on the critical issue, stating, "The illegal wildlife trade represents an international organized crime that is pushing many iconic species toward extinction at an alarming pace.

Airlines and other transport operators play a pivotal role in disrupting the supply chains of traffickers. Emirates has consistently demonstrated leadership and commitment in combatting this global threat. We are delighted to see the new amenity kits from Emirates now onboard and hope that passengers find them informative and inspiring."

Emirates has been actively engaged in the battle against illegal wildlife trafficking and exploitation and is an active member of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce.

The airline maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards the illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products. Its cargo division, Emirates SkyCargo, has enforced a complete ban on transporting hunting trophies of elephants, rhinoceros, lions, and tigers.

Agencies

By Sergey Lavrov

THE recently held general political discussion during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly affirmed that the world is going through profound and tectonic changes.

We are witnessing the emergence of a new and fairer multipolar order that reflects the world's cultural and civilisational diversity. The future world is taking shape in the midst of a battle.

The global majority, representing 85 percent of the world's population, advocates a more equitable distribution of global resources and respect of cultural diversity, as well as consistent democratisation of international affairs.

On the other hand, a select group of Western nations led by the United States is endeavouring to hinder progress through neo-colonial methods and to maintain its waning dominance.

The disregard for the principle of equality and total inability to reach and honour agreements has become the hallmark of the collective West.

Accustomed as they are to looking down at the rest of the world in a leader-follower relationship, the Americans and their Western satellite nations make commitments left and right. Some of them are made in writing and are legally binding, but they disregard them anyway.

President Vladimir Putin has accurately called the West an "empire of lies." Like many other nations, we know this first-hand from the time when even prior to the surrender of Nazi Germany, our WWII allies - Washington and London - were devising plans for a military operation codenamed Unthinkable against the USSR.

In 1949, the United States was developing plans for nuclear strikes on the USSR. These plans were thwarted when Moscow developed its own retaliatory capabilities.

After the Cold War ended

## The future world is taking shape in the midst of a battle

and the Soviet Union played a crucial role in the reunification of Germany and the establishment of a new European security framework, the Soviet and later Russian leadership were given concrete assurances that NATO would not expand to the East.

The records of these talks can be found in our archives and the archives of the Western countries. However, the assurances by the Western leaders were a deception and they had no intention of honouring them.

They were never concerned by the fact that bringing NATO closer to Russia's borders was a gross violation of their formal commitments made at the top level in 1999-2010 through the OSCE not to strengthen their own security at the expense of other countries' security and to avoid the military and political dominance in Europe of a country, a group of countries or organisations. Yet, NATO has persistently pursued precisely what it pledged not to do.

In late 2021-early 2022, they spurned our proposals to sign agreements with the United States and NATO on ensuring mutual security guarantees in Europe without altering Ukraine's non-aligned status.

The West continued its systematic efforts to militarise the Kiev regime, which was brought to power in the wake of a bloody coup and has been used as a bridgehead for making direct military threats to our country and obliterating its historical heritage on land that falls under Russia's legitimate interests.

The series of recent joint exercises conducted by the United States and its European NATO allies, including scenarios involving the use of nuclear weapons on Russia, was unlike anything seen

since the end of the Cold War. The stated objective of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia has impaired the vision of the reckless politicians who are convinced of their own impunity and have lost their basic sense of self-preservation.

The attempts to expand the alliance's sphere of influence across the entire Eastern Hemisphere under the deceptive slogan of "the indivisibility of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security" are a new and dangerous manifestation of NATO expansionism. To achieve this goal, Washington is creating and running military-political mini-alliances, such as AUKUS, the US-Japan-South Korea trio and the Tokyo-Seoul-Canberra-Wellington quartet.

It is encouraging their participants to engage in practical cooperation with NATO, which is establishing its infrastructure in the Pacific theatre. The openly anti-Russia and anti-China focus of such efforts seeking to break up the inclusive and consensus-based regional architecture built around ASEAN creates risks of a new explosive geopolitical hotbed of tensions in addition to the already simmering Europe.

One can't help but get the strong impression that the United States and its subservient "Western team" have decided to impart a global dimension to the Monroe Doctrine. These ambitions are as illusory as they are extremely dangerous, yet it doesn't stop the masterminds of the new edition of Pax Americana from doing what they are doing.

It has reached the point where Western ruling elites, in violation of the UN Charter, are telling other countries who they should maintain relations with and how. In fact, they are taking these nations' right to national in-



terests and an independent foreign policy away from them.

In NATO's Vilnius Declaration, the growing partnership between Russia and China is viewed as a "threat to NATO." Speaking before French ambassadors some time ago, President Macron expressed deep concern about the expansion of BRICS, calling it evidence of "complications in the international arena which pose the risk of weakening the West and, in particular, Europe..."

The international order, its principles, and various forms of organisation where the West continues to hold dominant positions are being revised." These confessions are quite telling: if anyone anywhere is getting together and making friends without them, or without their permission, it is seen as a threat to their dominance. NATO's advancement in the Asia-Pacific region is positive, whereas the expansion of BRICS is dangerous. The US-led collective West has unilaterally assumed the role of master of the fate of all humanity and, driven by a complex of exceptionalism, is increasingly disregarding the legacy of the founding fathers of the United Nations.

They intend to replace the UN-centric architecture of global governance with a rules-based order. No one has ever seen these rules (or, rather they were never shown to anyone), but by observing the duplicitous and hypocritical actions of Anglo-Saxon and other geopolitical engineers, one can gain a clear understanding of how this scam is being put into practice.

In words, the West never denies the importance of respecting the norms and principles of the UN Charter, but it always applies these principles selectively, picking the ones that serve its momentary, self-serving geopolitical interests.

However, all charter principles should be upheld not selectively but in their entirety, as a collective and interconnected set, for the sake of ensuring the fair regulation of international relations, namely, sovereign equality of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity, equality and self-determination of peoples, and respect for fundamental freedoms for all, as well as the obligation to implement UN Security Council resolutions and to strengthen the UN as the coordinating centre.

It is quite telling that Washington, London, and their allies never mention, let alone engage, the foundational charter principle that the Organisation is based on - the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members.

This principle is meant to ensure that all countries have a dignified place in the world, regardless of their size, form of

government, or political and socioeconomic structure.

However, the West is trying to divide the world into democracies which can do as they please, and others, which must serve the interests of the golden billion.

Western exceptionalism is epitomised by EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell publicly calling Europe a garden, and the rest of the world a jungle. This is not sovereign equality, but pure colonialism.

The collective West consistently violates the fundamental principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. There are numerous examples ranging from Central America and Yugoslavia to Iraq and Libya. Currently, their focus is on expanding into the post-Soviet space.

It is widely known that since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the United States has openly sought to bring Ukraine to heel. As acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland proudly stated in late 2013, Washington spent \$5 billion nurturing obedient politicians in Kiev.

In 2004-2005, aiming to bring a pro-American candidate to power, the West gave the green light to the first coup in Kiev, forcing the Constitutional Court of Ukraine to make an unlawful decision to hold a third round of elections that was not provided for by the country's fundamental law.

An even more brazen act of interference in the country's internal affairs occurred during the second wave of Maidan protest in 2013-2014. Back then, a bevy of Western envoys strongly encouraged participants in anti-government demonstrations to engage in violence.

In particular, Victoria Nuland discussed with the US Ambassador to Ukraine the members of the future government to be formed by the coup plotters. At the same time, she reminded the EU of its actual place in global politics telling it to mind its own business. In February 2014, the individuals handpicked by the Americans became key figures in the violent takeover of power, which happened just one day after an agreement was reached by the legitimately elected President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, and opposition leaders with the mediation of Germany, Poland, and France. The UN Charter principle of non-interference in internal affairs was repeatedly trampled upon.

Immediately after the coup, its leaders said that their top priority was to curtail the rights of the Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine. Residents of Crimea and Donbass, who refused to accept the outcomes of the unconstitutional seizure of power, were labelled terrorists, and a punitive operation was unleashed against them. In response, Crimea and Donbass held referendums in full compliance with the principle of equality and self-determination of peoples, as outlined in Article 1, Paragraph 2 of the UN Charter.

Western diplomats and politicians consistently avoid mentioning this crucial norm of international law when they talk about Ukraine, and seek to reduce the ongoing developments to respecting territorial integrity.

Sergey Lavrov (pictured) is the Russian Foreign Minister





Members of jogging outfits located at Makumbusho Ward in Dar es Salaam are pictured taking part in training as part of the culmination of the 24th anniversary of the death of the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarege Nyerere, organized by a Kinondoni-based Community-Based Organization (CBO) tackling gender-based violence, known as WAJIKI. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

## Access Africa Music Festival set for November

By Guardian Reporter

THE music festival, known as Access Africa, held alongside a large conference bringing together artists and businessmen in the music industry, has been slated for November 9-11 in Tanzania.

The festival, organized by the Music in Africa Foundation (MIAF), is set to be held in the country for the second time and will involve more than 40 artists from within the country and their counterparts from other African countries.

The organizers pointed out the festival is expected to provide an opportunity for local artists to learn and exchange knowledge with great artists, and international music producers, as well as get a chance to show their works.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, MIAF's Executive Director Eddie Hatitye said the festival will also provide opportunities for visitors to visit various places of interest in the country.

He said that among famous people slated to participate in the conference is South African artist and entrepreneur, Sho Madjozi, who will grant an interview to the Voice of America channel.

"This is a great opportunity for African artists, especially (artists found) here in Tanzania, after the success of last year's festival that was also held here, artists will have another opportunity to show their prowess and meet successful people in music," Hatitye revealed.

The MIAF Executive Director said other famous people who will par-

ticipate in the festival include the founder of Symphony OS, Chuka Chase from the United States, and Roxanne Sonia's founder Boton-Gboh (France).

International Development Officer of SACEM Africa, Akotchayé Okio (France), and the General Director of Sony Music Publishing, Rowlin Naicker from South Africa, will also be in attendance.

Musicians expected to participate in the festival are Marioo (Tanzania), Siti Muharamma and the band 'The Unguja All Stars' (Tanzania), Ngwaka Son Système (DRC), Nour Harkati (Tunisia), Zolani Mahola & The Feminine Force (South Africa), and Alostmen (Ghana).

Feli Nandi (Zimbabwe), Leo Mkanyia (Tanzania), Kasiva Mutua (Kenya), Madalitso Band (Malawi), Abdallah Ahmed 'Dulla Makabila', and Damian Soul from Tanzania are also the festival's participating musicians.

Speaking about the coming event, Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA)'s Executive Secretary Kedmon Mapana asked domestic artists to take advantage of the opportunity by registering to participate in the conference and the festival.

"Music is a business, this is another opportunity for local artists, they should register early to meet prominent people in music and gain knowledge," Mapana disclosed.

He said the hosting of the festival for the second time was brought about by the good environment set by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in developing arts and sports in the country.

## Taifa Stars ready to shock giants at 2023 AFCON

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA senior national football team's players are unfazed by facing African heavyweights at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast, insisting they are ready to shock the continent's top sides.

Taifa Stars has been placed in Group F of the continental tournament alongside Morocco, DR Congo, and Zambia, with the showdown slated for early next year.

Morocco - the 2022 World Cup semi-finalists - is representing the biggest threat in Group F, alongside DR Congo and Zambia which also boast a greater AFCON pedigree.

Despite being pitted against teams with a far greater AFCON pedigree, Tanzania's squad remains upbeat about causing an upset.

"We have already gained experience in this competition, and we are aware of the strength of these two teams we've played before," the squad's striker Simon Msuva noted, referring to DR Congo and Zambia.

The attacker revealed: "The im-

portant thing is for us to go and fight hard. Even those nations seen as African football giants started like us. We are now going up, and I'm sure we will shock them."

Msuva, who plays club football for Algeria's JS Kabylie, believes Taifa Stars' European-based players can help bridge the gap if they perform to their potential.

Midfielder, Novatus Dismas, echoed Msuva's defiant tone, stating: "There are no big names anymore in football. We will not be weak, we will fight hard as the nation's hope."

Tanzania has never progressed beyond the Group Stage in four previous AFCON appearances, most recently in 2019.

Taifa Stars nevertheless are confident of holding their own against the continent's star-studded sides when the finals kick off in less than 100 days.

The top two teams in each of the six groups will advance to the knockout rounds, along with the best four third-placed teams.

## Moshi Khalsa clinches 2023 Nyerere hockey tournament silverware

By Guardian Correspondent

KILIMANJARO's Moshi Khalsa hockey side has clinched this season's Nyerere hockey tournament's top honour, commanding a 10-9 win over Dar es Salaam's Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) outfit in the penalty shootout of the final played in Moshi last weekend.

The game started at a fast pace, with TPDF - led by veteran forward Elias Samala - opening the scoring in the 19th minute through the experienced attacker.

Although Moshi Khalsa was pegged back with the opponents' early goal, the Moshi squad was still billed to emerge victorious thanks to featuring on home ground and enjoying the backing of the crowd.

The home team's fanatics' motivation had the team working hard and eventually drawing level in the 30th minute through the dependable forward Mussa Edward.

Both teams displayed classic stick work which kept the spectators cheering throughout the game and, in the third quarter, Abdallah Jabir of TPDF put the Dar es Salaam outfit ahead having scored the second goal.

Moshi Khalsa, sensing the danger, stepped up their game and made several forays into the TPDF team's goal.

The host team's relentless efforts eventually paid off in the 51st minute, given it leveled matters through Edward, leaving the scoreboard reading 2-2 until the last minute of the pulsating duel.

The penalty shootout had to take place to settle the tie, in



Moshi Khalsa's players pose with a trophy after the culmination of this season's Nyerere hockey tournament at Sikh Union Club in Moshi last weekend. Moshi Khalsa lifted the showdown trophy after defeating Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) outfit in the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

which the finalists were again locked to a draw 5-5 draw, forcing the encounter into the sudden death penalties, which ended with Moshi Khalsa recording a 3-2 victory over TPDF.

The TPDF side had booked a place in the final with a narrow 3-2 victory over Kili Vijana in the first semi-final, and the second of the last-four round ties witnessed Moshi Khalsa garnering a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Arusha Twigas.

The Nyerere hockey tournament's winners and runners-up received glittering trophies after the final's conclusion, with trophies also being presented to various players for their tremendous displays.

The showdown's Best Upcoming Player prize went to Athumani Selemani Mdembe of Zanzibar Nyuki, and Moshi Khalsa's Temmission Kisonga received Best Player prize.

Jite Kalsi of Arusha Twigas walked away with the Veteran

Player of the Tournament prize, Best Discipline Team's honour was won by Zanzibar Nyuki. The showdown's Best Goalkeeper award was won by Wilson Yohana of Moshi Khalsa, and the Best Upcoming Goalkeeper prize went to Mufadal Bhai of Tanga Stars.

Hai District Commissioner Amiri Mkalipa, who represented Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, and the Nyerere hockey tournament's chief guest, and the official handed over prizes to the tournament's winners and the best players.

The chief guest inspected both teams before the start of the final and commended the showdown's organizing committee and the sponsors for the smooth hosting of the tournament.

There were encouraging displays, which were worth writing home about, put by Tanga's outfit - Tanga Stars - and Zanzibar Nyuki in this season's Nyerere

hockey tournament.

The Tanga side posed an extremely tough challenge to such strong teams as Moshi Khalsa and TPDF right up to the last minute of their crucial games in Pool B.

Zanzibar Nyuki, which was placed in Pool A and came up against Arusha Twigas and Moshi's Kili Vijana, equally turned out to be a competitor with a promising future.

In some of the Nyerere hockey tournament's round-robin stage, Zanzibar Nyuki settled for a 2-2 draw with Kili Vijana, and Moshi Khalsa got off to an impressive start, cruising to a 1-0 victory over the TPDF outfit.

In other ties, Tanga Stars held Moshi Khalsa to a 1-1 draw, Kili Vijana defeated Arusha Twigas 1-0, the TPDF outfit scrapped through to a 4-3 win over the resilient Tanga Stars, and Arusha Twigas walloped Zanzibar Nyuki 3-1.

## Tanga Stars revel in 2023 Nyerere hockey tourney feat

By Guardian Correspondent

TANGA Stars hockey outfit has expressed pride in a spirited performance the outfit put in this season's Nyerere tournament which took place in Kilimanjaro last week.

Sikh Club of Moshi organized this season's Nyerere hockey tournament, played from Friday to Sunday, under the auspices of the Tanzania Hockey Association seeking to improve the game's standard at the domestic level.

The showdown, which takes place annually, is also held in honour of the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarege Nyerere, who passed away on October 14, 1999.

Even though the Tanga outfit could not qualify for this season's Nyerere hockey tournament semi-finals, its officials were happy to have seen it showcase its mettle in the showdown's round-robin stage.

Tanga Stars was put in a tricky Pool B of the Nyerere hockey tournament, coming up against perennial title contenders, Moshi Khalsa and Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) side.

In Tanga Stars' opening tie, they went head-to-head against the showdown's most successful outfit, Moshi Khalsa, and the two outfits were locked to a thrilling 1-1 draw.

In the second game, Tanga Stars displayed their prowess, notching three early goals against the TPDF squad that boasted of experienced attacker, Elias Samala.

However, a late-game surge showcased by TPDF



Hockey players making Tanga Stars pose for a picture before taking part in one of this season's Nyerere tournament ties that took place in Moshi, Kilimanjaro last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANGA STARS

saw the Tanga outfit lose 4-3, given luck was not on the latter's side.

One of the remarkable aspects of Tanga Stars, the outfit's officials noted, is their commitment to nurturing young talent.

The team had, in this season's Nyerere hockey tournament, provided an opportunity for the squad's young players to shine on the field.

The performers include John Simon, Tesso Ezika, Osman Salim, Joseph Steven, Antony Ngapi, Hafidhi Mkuti, Bahati Kalebi, Jackson Tairo, Ally Nshoro, and others. Their performance, Tanga Stars' officials revealed, was outstanding and showcased the potential for a bright future for the team.

The officials noted that the particularly striking aspect of Tanga Stars is the team's commitment to developing young talent.

While the team boasts

some experienced senior players including Jatin Vaja, Deep Visram, Huzefa Dadawala, Bashir, and Smitesh Vadgama, it also believes in giving young talents a chance to shine.

These young players, the officials stated, did not disappoint as they played exceptionally well in the tournament.

The outfit's goalkeeper Mufaddal Bhai, in particular, delivered an outstanding performance, and defender Daniel Oduka's performance was also nothing short of outstanding.

In the heart of Tanga, a remarkable story of dedication and triumph is written, and it centers around Tanga Stars.

With unwavering commitment and the support of their community, the team has been making waves in field hockey in Tanzania.

At the core of the squad's success is coach Shamsudin Shamsudin,

whose relentless efforts have been pivotal in shaping the young talent in the team.

Shamsudin's dedication to training local youngsters, the squad's officials revealed, has not only honed their skills but also instilled a sense of discipline and teamwork that is driving the outfit to success.

Deep Visram, Tanga Stars' manager, has also played an essential role in steering the team towards victory.

His tireless work behind the scenes has ensured the smooth operation of the team and allowed the squad to focus on the game.

Smitesh Vadgama, Tanga Stars' other official, has been instrumental in keeping the spirit of hockey alive in Tanga.

His dedication to developing the sport and ensuring Tanga Stars' participation in various tournaments has not

only been helping the squad gain experience but also boosting its confidence.

Vadgama's commitment to preserving the legacy of hockey in Tanga, the side's officials pointed out, is commendable.

The officials added Tanga Stars is quick to acknowledge the invaluable support of the community and local businesses in the region.

The generous contributions of various sponsors, according to the officials, have been instrumental in the team's participation in this season's Nyerere hockey tournament.

The sponsors are Sun Tradex (T) Ltd, Mamujee Products Ltd, Shaya Tamu, Gupta Auto Spares and Hardware Ltd, Fairway Clearing and Forwarding Co Ltd, and Mawe Group. Yogi Hardware, Kaushik Doshi, Avinash Galani, Ashers Ltd, New Builders, and Sohanpal Engineering also make the list of the team's sponsors.

The officials said the squad is profoundly thankful for the support, which made their dreams a reality.

As Tanga Stars continue to rise in the world of field hockey, the side's journey is a testament to the power of dedication and community support.

With a blend of experienced senior players and emerging young talents, the Tanga team's future looks promising and bright.



## Man United sale saga leaves fans with more questions than answers

LONDON

NEARLY a year after Manchester United opened the doors to outside investment, British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe looks set to buy a 25 percent stake in the English Premier League club.

A proposed deal worth a reported £1.3 billion (\$1.6 billion) is expected to be ratified at a United board meeting on Thursday.

But the fact that the Glazer family will remain in control of the club comes as a bitter disappointment for most fans, who were desperate to see the back of the unpopular Americans.

"It would be wildly optimistic to think the Glazers are acting in the interests of supporters or are making ownership decisions which don't centre on their own priorities," the Manchester United Supporters Trust (MUST) said in a statement this week.

United's fortunes on and off the field have suffered since the Glazers took charge at Old Trafford in a leveraged takeover in 2005 for £790 million.

The brilliance of former manager Alex Ferguson kept the Red Devils at the top of the English and European game during the early years of the Glazer reign.

However, United have not won the Premier League since Ferguson retired in 2013 and last lifted the Champions League back in 2008.

A miserable start to this season has left Erik ten Hag's men 10th in the Premier League and at risk of an embarrassing early Champions League exit after losing their opening two group games for the first time.

- Where does the money go? -

Ratcliffe, founder of petrochemicals giant INEOS, will reportedly seek to take control of the club's football operations in return for his sizeable investment. But many question how a minority owner can have the sway in practice to control the core operation of a business.

"How does a minority shareholder stop cultural decline across a whole organisation if the people who have overseen this decline still have a majority shareholding?" Gary Neville, a former United captain turned pundit and businessman, asked on social media.

Moreover, it is unclear where the proceeds from Ratcliffe's investment will go.

Figures from March showed the club's debt has spiralled to £970 million. But funds are also required for a long-awaited upgrade of the club's stadium.

AFP

## Messi double helps Argentina stay perfect, Neymar injured as Brazil slump

BUENOS AIRES

LIONEL Messi scored two goals as Argentina extended their perfect start to South American qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday with a 2-0 victory over Peru.

The Inter Miami star took his international goal tally to 106 with strikes in the 32nd and 42nd minutes at Lima's Estadio Nacional.

Messi's first-half brace left reigning world champions Argentina on top of the South American qualifying table with 12 points from four games, five points clear of Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela, who all have seven points.

Restored to the starting line-up after coming off the bench in last Thursday's 1-0 win over Paraguay, Messi showed no sign of the injuries that have recently limited his appearances in Major League Soccer.

The 36-year-old crashed home an emphatic opener just after the half-hour mark, then added a second 10 minutes later after good work by Enzo Fernandez down the left flank.

The win leaves Argentina firmly on track to return to the World Cup finals in 2026, which are being expanded to include 48 teams and will be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The top six teams in South America's 10-team qualifying competition will be guaranteed a place at the finals.

While Argentina continued their serene progress through qualifying, arch-rivals Brazil suffered a nightmare 2-0 defeat in Montevideo, crashing to a first loss against Uruguay in 22 years.

The defeat was compounded by the sight of veteran forward Neymar being stretchered off just before half-time with what appeared to be a knee injury.

Uruguay's Darwin Nunez struck with a bullet header on 42 minutes to open the scoring in a dour first half at the Estadio Centenario.

The Liverpool striker then played a pivotal role in Uruguay's second, holding up the ball well from a throw-in and cutting back for Nicolas de la Cruz to fire past Brazil goalkeeper Ederson on 77 minutes, sealing a 2-0 victory.

The win was Uruguay's first over Brazil in a World Cup qualifying fixture since a 1-0 victory over the Selecao in Montevideo in July 2001.

AFP

# Much-changed African Football League set for modest launch

DAR ES SALAAM

THE African Football League (AFL) kicks off in Tanzania tomorrow, bearing little resemblance to the original concept.

It was launched amid much hype last year and called the CAF Africa Super League with record prize money for an African club competition, including \$11.5 million (10.9 million euros) to the winners.

A total of 24 clubs -- eight each from the north, west/centre and south/east regions chosen on merit -- would compete and get \$2.5 mn each in advance to buy players and cover travel costs.

There were supposed to be 197 mini-league and knock-out matches, culminating in a final African Football Confederation (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe said would be the "Super Bowl of Africa".

But South African billionaire Motsepe has since admitted to the local media that the AFL has struggled to lure sponsors, resulting in a major downgrading of the first edition.

Motsepe said the name change came after unnamed "European friends" told CAF they should scrap



African Football League, the biggest club football tournament in the continent, gets underway at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

"Super League" from the title.

"This advice was based on negative associations with the failed attempt in 2021 to launch a super league in Europe," he said.

A planned European Super League collapsed within 48 hours after a backlash from players, supporters and governments forced nine of the 12 clubs who signed up to pull out.

First prize has been slashed to four million dollars, only eight clubs will participate and, instead of a "Super Bowl" climax, there will be a two-leg title decider.

The AFL named Saudi Arabian tourism body Visit Saudi as its major sponsor just seven days before Simba of Tanzania host African giants Al Ahly of Egypt in the opening quarter-final first leg.

TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo host Esperance of Tunisia and Petro Luanda of Angola have home advantage over Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa on Saturday.

- Hectic schedule -

The last first leg is scheduled for Sunday in the Nigerian city of Uyo, where Enyimba will

confront Moroccan visitors Wydad Casablanca.

Each round features home and away matches with a hectic schedule, potentially including several trips covering the length of the continent, due to conclude on November 11.

Ahly and Wydad met in the last two CAF Champions League finals, winning one each, and they will be the teams to beat in the AFL.

The build-up has been beset with problems, including the South African Premiership banning Sundowns from taking part, saying it would lead to do-

mestic fixture congestion.

Premiership officials later performed a u-turn and agreed that Sundowns -- a club owned by Motsepe and run by his son Tlhopane -- could take part.

A CAF official, who requested anonymity, told AFP Congolese customs officials have blocked the import of VAR equipment for the Mazembe match. There have also been delays in issuing visas. Mazembe called the actions "inexplicable" in a statement, with the club risking having to move their home match from Lubumbashi to Dar es Salaam in neighbouring Tanzania.

Petro are contesting a two-year suspension by the Angolan football federation for alleged domestic match fixing.

Swiss-born Ahly coach Marcel Koller has criticised the schedule, saying many players will return to the Cairo club only two days before facing Simba due to the October internationals window.

"The dates of the African Football League fixtures are not suitable. The international players, whether Egyptians or another nationality, will suffer because of the dense schedule," he warned.

Tunisian Ali Maaloul, Malian Aliou Dieng and South African Percy Tau are among the foreigners in the Ahly squad. AFP

## England reveal the flaws of Italy's high-risk Spallettiball

By Richard Jolly

IT was neither Catenaccio nor Cannavaro, nothing from the glorious traditions of Italian defending. There was Alessandro Bastoni contriving to head Marc Guehi's punt backwards, Harry Kane beating the Champions League finalist and Giorgio Scalvini to surge clear and score. Italy were unlocked by one long ball and one centre forward.

For a nation of connoisseurs of clean sheets, it was a particularly damning goal to concede. It was easy to imagine Franco Baresi sweeping up with imperious ease, Paolo Maldini winning the first header, Claudio Gentile resorting to the illegal but preventing the goal. Luciano Spalletti had his regrets after Kane's second goal, and England's third, at Wembley, condemned him to a first defeat in charge of the Azzurri. They were not necessarily those of the stereotypical Italian manager. Then again, the 2023 Scudetto winner, and the new Italy manager, is not the stereotypical Italian manager.

"We are trying to press the opposition and force them to play it long but when they do we have to defend better than we did for the third goal," he said. "We want to play this brand of football where we are pressing high up the pitch."

It is high risk, high reward. The danger is that Italian defenders who lack the quality of their heralded predecessors end up isolated and exposed. Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini,



Italy coach Luciano Spalletti reacts, during the Euro 2024 group C qualifying soccer match between England and Italy at Wembley stadium in London, Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023.

the hardy perennials who anchored the Euro 2020 win, may have retreated to the sanctuary of their penalty area. Not their successors: in Spallettiball, much of the defending is done in the final third. His team conceded twice on the break.

"When they beat the press, we need to know how to deal with that," he accepted. "We did some good things for almost the whole 90 minutes but occasionally there was a bit of confusion. There were big moments where we switched off and occasionally our decision-making was found wanting."

His own choices are characterised by courage. "Tonight's result is not going to tell us we can't be daring or play

then we need a radical rethink and that will take a great deal more time," he claimed.

The counter-argument is that, with international managers deprived of time and pressing requiring the cohesion of regular coaching, it is harder to implement. It is a reason why international football is not as sophisticated as the club game, though another is that few managers of the calibre of Spalletti are found in charge of national teams.

Another concern is that Serie A serves as imperfect preparation, often lacking the speed of the Premier League and the Bundesliga. Spalletti's Napoli were exceptions but he concurred. "Matches such as these need to inspire us to withstand these physical confrontations, the pace and intensity," he said.

All of which helps explain why the default Italian reaction was to defend. If his predecessor Roberto Mancini had more progressive plans, too, and Italy won Euro 2020 in part by attacking, they also did so with a goalkeeper as the player of the tournament. Yet

if Spalletti's blueprint is bolder, he has long stood apart from some of his country's traditions. He played a false nine before Pep Guardiola, configuring his Roma side in a 4-6-0 formation and yet becoming Serie A's top scorers.

Roma still came second then. Fast forward 15 years and Italy would settle for a similar position. They languish in third in Group C, three points behind Ukraine, with a game against North Macedonia in hand. A shootout with Ukraine in Leverkusen beckons but Italy, the first country to win two World Cups, could now miss two consecutive international tournaments.

They exist in a paradoxical position, both among the elite and the imperilled. Gareth Southgate talked about the "top nations" and, indisputably, Italy are among them. Spalletti's vision is designed to justify that billing; Italy may have played underdog football for much of their history, with a low block and men behind the ball, but with an inferior group of players,

he wants to assume the initiative.

Once again, it is risk and reward. The danger in the next few games is that another piece of high pressing gone wrong could deny them a place at Euro 2024. Even after Gianluca Scamacca gave them the lead, it did not rank as a shock when England defeated Italy for the second time in 2023. The side who embarked on a world-record 37-game unbeaten run under Mancini lost to North Macedonia, too, in a World Cup play-off: it makes the play-off place their Nations League form could earn is no guarantee of qualification, either.

For Italy, another tournament spent in front of the television could beckon. "I am not afraid of anything and I would be very surprised if the players showed any fear," Spalletti insisted. Fearless football could propel Italy into a competition they won two years ago or exclude them from it. But either way, it will be Spalletti's way.

THE INDEPENDENT

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Much-changed African Football League set for modest launch**

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**EATV THURSDAY**  
11:00 DADAZ  
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA  
13:00 Movie  
13:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
14:00 Movie  
14:30 Ujenzi (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Ubongo Kids  
16:00 Zote Kuntu  
16:55 Dondoo za Michezo  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 Kili Za Wana  
18:30 #HASHTAG  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 TOP 10  
21:30 Zote Kuntu  
23:00 Kurasa  
23:05 EATV SAA 1

**TO NIGHT @ 9:00**

**TOP 10**  
It is a list of the hottest Bongo Flava music videos that are loved by the viewers

**eastafrica RADIO**  
05:00 Supa Breakfast  
09:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
19:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
**DAR ES SALAAM**

## CAF president Motsepe admits AFL struggled to lure sponsors

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE African Football League (AFL) kicks off in Tanzania tomorrow, bearing little resemblance to the original concept.

The new competition's opening match is set to be played in Dar es Salaam as Simba SC welcomes African giants, Al Ahly, for the first leg of the quarterfinals at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

It was launched amid much hype last year and was known as the CAF Africa Super League, with record prize money for an African club competition including \$11.5 million (10.9 million euros) to the winners.

A total of 24 clubs, eight each from the north, west/center, and south/east regions chosen on merit would compete and get \$2.5 million each in advance to buy players and cover travel costs.

There were supposed to be 197 mini-league and knock-out matches, culminating in a final. Confederation African Football (CAF) president Patrice Motsepe said would be the 'Super Bowl of Africa'.

Motsepe, a South African billionaire, has since admitted that the AFL has struggled to lure sponsors, resulting in a major downgrading of the first edition.

The continental football body's leader said the tournament name change came after unnamed 'European friends' told CAF they should scrap 'Super League' from the title.

"This advice was based on negative associations with the failed attempt in 2021 to launch a Super League in Europe," he said.

A planned European Super League collapsed within 48 hours after a backlash from players, supporters, and governments forced nine of the 12 clubs who signed up to pull out.

The first prize has been slashed to four million dollars, only eight clubs will participate and, instead of a 'Super Bowl' climax, there will be a two-leg title decider.

The AFL introduced Saudi Arabia's tourism body Visit Saudi as its major sponsor, just seven days before Simba SC of Tanzania hosted African giants Al Ahly of Egypt in the opening quarterfinal first leg.

TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo will host Esperance of Tunisia in Dar es Salaam and Petro Luanda of Angola have a home advantage over Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa the following day.

# Simba SC, Al Ahly prepare for African Football League showdown



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training at Mo Simba Arena, Burju in Dar es Salaam recently in preparation for various tournaments including the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and African Football League (AFL). PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

**A**FRICAN Football League (AFL), the biggest club football tournament on the continent, gets underway at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

Hosts, Simba SC of Tanzania, opens the tournament with a quarterfinal match against record African champions, Al Ahly of Egypt.

The tournament with a prize fund of more than \$9.6m will feature eight of the top clubs from every region on the continent competing for a title every year, starting tomorrow.

The league, which is set to change the future of club football on the continent, will have teams from every region competing for a title every year starting tomorrow.

This year's competing football clubs, selected following CAF rankings, will include Al Ahly (Egypt), Wydad AC (Morocco), Simba SC (Tanzania), and Esperance Sportive de Tunis from Tunisia.

TP Mazembe from the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria's Enyimba FC, Mamelodi Sundowns from South Africa, and Petro de Luanda from Angola complete the contenders' list.

The Egyptian giants resumed training on Tuesday

in Cairo after the international FIFA break and had their players who had been away for national team duty joining the outfit.

The 2023/24 CAF Champions League defending champions were expected to land in Dar es Salaam lat-

er yesterday aboard a chartered flight.

The AFL's first match host, Simba SC, on the other hand, resumed training on Monday and has plenty of confidence ahead of perhaps the side's biggest match ever.

The Tanzanian side has been boosted by the availability of goalkeeper Aisha Manula who had been out with an injury for the last four months.

Meanwhile, CAF has announced a partnership with Rwanda's government, through the Rwanda Development Board, Ministry of Sports, and RwandAir.

According to CAF reports, the partnership aims to develop African football through the new African Football League that features the best soccer clubs in the continent on a global stage.

As a founding partner of the league, the 'Visit Rwanda' branding will be visible on the sleeves of players' jerseys.

The brand's logo will also be found in stadiums which will host the tournament's encounters, partner workshops and events, broadcast and online media channels, websites, and more.

Rwanda's national carrier, RwandAir will further be an airline partner of the league and will transport participating teams to countries that are on its routes.

## Mtibwa Sugar takes on Kagera Sugar in intriguing NBC Premier League clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE first game in the sixth round of fixtures in the 2023/24 NBC Premier League campaign takes place in Morogoro this afternoon as Mtibwa Sugar meets Kagera Sugar.

Hosts Mtibwa Sugar have been struggling and are currently placed at second bottom. The outfit, which yesterday parted ways with head coach Habib Kondo, has managed to amass two points out of five ties and is one of just three sides that are yet to taste victory this season.

They have managed two draws and three defeats in their opening five league matches.

Kondo had, before being relieved of his duty, yet to press the panic button despite the shaky start. He stated that he has found the international break beneficial for this team's training and preparation.

The gaffer said he has had the opportunity to assess all aspects of the squad and individual player performance during the break.

Mtibwa Sugar has fire power in former Young Africans SC striker, Matheo Anthony, who has three goals, Juma Luizio and Ladack Chasambi.

On the flip side, Kagera Sugar may not be heading to the Manungu Stadium for the match with a swagger, having settled for back-to-back draws



Mtibwa Sugar's attacker, Joseph Mkele (up), challenges Kagera Sugar's center-back, Abdallah Mfuko, when they locked horns in a 2022/23 NBC Premier League tie in Morogoro in November last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

but head coach Mecky Mexime will take comfort in their three-game unbeaten streak.

The visitors are placed 11th in the league with five points. Despite their recent

renaissance, Kagera Sugar is still only a point clear of the relegation play-off spot, so there is still plenty of work to do to escape potential disaster this season.

Mexime's team has found

away wins difficult to come by of late, a 1-1 draw against JKT Tanzania last time out in the league means that Kagera Sugar have now failed to win in their previous seven games on the

road dating back to last season.

Mexime stated he is optimistic of his players posting positive results especially after the boys displayed hard work and dedication in their last outing.

Kagera Sugar can rise as high as fifth with a victory today, they would require a fanciful five-goal annihilation to overtake Mashujaa FC, though.

The trio of striker Anuar Jabir, midfielder Cleophae Mkandala, and winger Gasper Mwaipasi will be crucial if the Misenyi-based side yearns to leave Manungu unscathed.

This will be the 27th league meeting between Mtibwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar since the 2009/10 season.

Kagera Sugar has a slight edge in this rivalry having recorded 11 wins compared to 10 for Mtibwa Sugar, while five games ended in a stalemate.

However, their last meeting ended in a 3-0 home victory in favour of Mtibwa Sugar last season.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

