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Samia leads AU leaders at Nyerere's statue event

It is my hope that the memory of Mwalimu Nyerere will inspire the current and future generations to light their own torch in search of hope, love and dignity where these values are absent

ADDIS ABABA

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and other African leaders yesterday unveiled a life-size statue of the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, erected on the premises of the African Union (AU) headquarters.

The event was an auxiliary item for the 37th ordinary session of the assembly of the Heads of State and Government, as Mwalimu, who led the country for 24 years, was among the founding leaders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and presided over its pivotal OAU Liberation Committee, a key illustration of his legacy.

President Samia said ahead of the unveiling ceremony that unveiling the statue recognizes Mwalimu's contributions to African liberation, unity and peace, and manifests Africa's overall pride in that heritage.

Nyerere's sculpture is the third statue erected on the premises of the AU headquarters next to the late Emperor Haile Selassie, and Osagyefo Dr Kwame Nkrumah, independence leaders of Ethiopia and Ghana, respectively.

She asserted that no African country can achieve real prosperity without a prosperous Africa, affirming that Africa's uniqueness matches its inter-dependence.

Complementing political liberation with economic transformation is important for our future to be secured," she stated before a gallery of other leaders, including former president Jakaya Kikwete, Angolan President Joao Lourenco, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and AU Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Mahamat said Nyerere, Nkrumah and the Ethiopian emperor are credited with a pioneering role in the establishment of the OAU in 1963, a milestone event in pursuit of African unity.

The sculpture was designed, built, and transported to the AU headquarters in cooperation with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) which grew out of the liberation era solidarity, along with, Nyerere's family and the government, he said.

Samia urged Africans to realize that unity and prosperity is in the numbers and that no one can have lasting prosperity without a prosperous Africa.

"It is my hope that the memory of Mwalimu Nyerere will inspire the current and future generations to light their own torch in search of hope, love and dignity where these values are absent," she said.

Mwalimu Nyerere had a great vision and made sacrifices to have a free and peaceful Africa, placing the interests of the continent before his personal interests or those of his country.

"This is even reflected in our national anthem, where we pray first for the well-being of mother Africa and then for Tanzania," she explained, while indeed the anthem, common to South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania in its opening stanza, shows a spirit of Pan-Africanism as underlining its composition.

Even after leaving office, Nyerere continued to support work for conflict resolution and African causes at the global level, especially as chairman of the South Commission uniting a wide range of socialist leaders among the developing countries.

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PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan and other dignitaries applaud during the launch of the Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere statue at the African Union headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, yesterday. Combo photos: State House

'Sugar prices stable at 4,000/- in Lake Zone'

By Guardian Reporters

SPORADIC government efforts to control the spike in sugar prices were registered in the Lake Zone in the past week while prices continue to rise countrywide, a survey has indicated, Reports said that the

Nyamagana district commissioner in Mwanza Region paid a visit to the chief sugar supplier for Lake Zone region after the supplier was identified to have sold the commodity at hiked prices, while some leading supermarkets in Dar es Salaam, where all sales are accom-

panied by tax rolls, no longer place sugar on the shelves.

Suppliers say that selling sugar at indicative prices lead to making losses on account of wholesale hiked prices, since imported sugar is repackaged by local producers to stymie effects of

competition from sugar imports.

George Fabiani, the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) monitoring and evaluation manager, similarly went on an inspection tour accompanied by police officers in the lake-side city, detaining four businesspeople of whom

three are retailers and one a wholesaler.

Board investigators and police officers were taking statements from the traders, with the monitoring officer expecting that the four will be taken to court to face charges of hiking sugar prices, he said.

The overall feeling among the public is that sugar prices are persistently high despite the government's push

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'Erratic weather via earth warming fuel locust surge'

By Special Correspondent

EXTRME wind and rain are likely to lead to bigger and worse desert locust outbreaks, as earth warming-induced climate change intensifies weather patterns enabling intense outbreak risks, a UN consultant has declared.

Xiaogang He, a consultant for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and assistant professor at the National University of Singapore, says in a

research paper in 'Science Advances' academic journal lately, that more frequent and severe extreme weather events due to climate change potentially spark wider locust outbreaks.

The desert locust - a short-horned species found in some dry areas of northern and eastern Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia - is a migratory insect that travels in swarms of millions over long distances and damages crops, causing famine and food insecurity.

A square kilometer swarm comprises 80 million locusts that can in one day consume food crops enough to feed 35,000 people. The FAO describes it as the most destructive migratory pest in the world.

The research paper asserts that these outbreaks will be increasingly hard to prevent and control in a warming climate, to which he suggests that concerned countries address the impacts of climate variability on locust dynamics.

The focus area is climate change reper-

cussions on agricultural productivity and food security, he said, urging better regional cooperation and liaisons with control organisations to respond quickly and build early warning systems.

To assess the risk of locust outbreaks in Africa and the Middle East and the connection to climate change, scientists analysed incidents of desert locust outbreaks from

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'Sugar prices stable at 4,000/- in Lake Zone'

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against hoarding by sugar traders, while experts assert that exercising controls on sugar imports enables local producers to sell the product at prices they want, and regulators offer 'crocodile tears.'

While regulators harangue the traders against hiking prices, there is no relief as consumers in various parts of the country are forced to dig deep into their pockets to access the commodity.

A random survey in the lakeside city at the weekend showed that traders sell the commodity at 4500/-, 5000/- and even up to 6000/- per kilo while regulators still assert that the right price is 2800/- to 3200/- per kilo.

Food vendors have difficulty raising prices of buns, pancakes or other routine bites taken with tea or coffee as rises in prices lead to a crash in buyers.

Ester Joseph, a vendor at Mabatini suburb said many vendors skip bites that need much sugar as they have to limit what they produce since they have to hike the price.

Purchasing a kilo of sugar at 4500/- leaves little room to sell buns or pancakes in the old prices, leading to misunderstandings as customers complain over the higher prices. The result is that some vendors skip snacks that need much sugar, as even cups of tea and coffee fetch higher prices, she said.

The vendor had shifted to selling peanuts on the streets as sugar-based bites are harder to sell, but peanuts are far too slow to sell compared to snacks, she said.

Juma Kilangwa, a tea vendor, said he lost customers after hiking the price of a cup of coffee from 200/- to 300/- or 350/-.

The high price apart, the commodity is also scarce, with vendors spending much time looking for sugar, which makes the vending business unpredictable in what it offers.

Justin Emmanuel, a wholesale trader said a 25-kilogramme of sugar is sold at 105,000/- due to the scarcity, thus he has to wake up early to join a queue of traders lined up at the main supplier in the Lake Zone. Sometimes a day would end without being able to buy the commodity, he stated. Patrick Oswald, a trader in Sengerema district said traders aren't the ones making a kill as they also purchase it at high prices.

The indicative price for a 25-kilogramme bag of sugar was supposed to be sold at 72,000/-, but traders are offered the tonnage at 100,000/- or 105,000/-, making it impossible to sell at indicative prices.

While many want the government to "heighten efforts to curb the on-going scarcity of sugar" there is no demand for sugar liberalisation where traders import it without seeking permits.

Local producers are favoured when it comes to import permits thus reinforcing scarcity as they can stock until they can harvest again at their own good time, observers noted.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan has an audience with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali in Addis Ababa yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia leads AU leaders at Nyerere statue event

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Mwalimu's personal admiration of the Chinese revolution and agrarian socialist drive was an inspiration to Ujamaa villages policy from 1967, leading to Tanzania's key role in canvassing for China's readmission into the United Nations and taking over the Security Council seat

then held by Taiwan.

This event fostered a lasting friendship between China and African even as commitment to liberation was placing the country on the road to a coup as with Dr Nkrumah in Ghana, mid-1966, leading to major re-orientation of state outlook to remobilise the population with the idea of socialism and self-reliance.

Ghana and Tanzania were the only OAU member states to have broken diplomatic relations with Britain despite an OAU resolution to that effect when Britain failed to take action to stop the unilateral declaration of independence by the minority whites in Southern Rhodesia, later Zimbabwe.

Nyerere rattled African leaders with his recognition of

breakaway Biafra during the Nigerian civil war of 1967 to 1970, while scores of African leaders loudly grumbled at the way Tanzanian forces, in the wake of a take-over by an Ugandan unit of the Kagera salient, went into Uganda along with Ugandan resistance groups, removing Gen. Amin in 1979.

The model was later used by an alliance of Rwandese and

Ugandan forces, plus Congolese resistance groups led by Laurent Kabila, to remove the 30 odd years' regime of then Zairean President Mobutu Seseseko.

Kabila took office as the new leader, while like Ugandan resistance leader Yoweri Museveni, he spent most of his years of exile in Tanzania.



Dr Hussein Hassanali, a cardiovascular surgeon with Dar es Salaam's Saifee Hospital Tanzania, pictured at the specialised medical facility yesterday briefing Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on minimally invasive heart surgery. Under the ultramodern system, surgeons don't "crack open the chest". Photo: PMO

Africa seeks bigger voice at global stage amid structural reform calls

ADDIS ABABA

THE 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) has called for augmenting Africa's voice on the global stage, supported by structural reforms to address inequalities in the current international system.

The two-day meeting, which opened Saturday and brings together African leaders from AU members at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, called for a major shift in the international system.

The summit, in particular,

highlighted the growing trend of hegemonism, injustice, and inequality as a manifestation of the current international system. Participants of the summit noted that such realities often disproportionately affect countries in the developing world, especially in Africa.

Noting that the African continent is bearing the brunt of malfunctions in the current international order, Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat said the reality is further exacerbating the incessant challenges the African continent is currently facing.

According to him, these challenges include political and institutional instability, poverty, climate change, and weak economic governance.

"Not only have social inequalities widened and injustices multiplied, but hegemony and the absurd desire to resolve our differences through brutal and futile violence have prevailed in the eyes of all," the AU Commission chief said.

For his part, Mohamed Ould Cheikh Ghazouani, Mauritanian president and chairperson of the AU for 2024, emphasized the imperative for reform within the interna-

tional system on the basis of equality and inclusiveness.

"In its current state, the international system is characterized by significant inequities and uneven standards, often to the detriment of the most vulnerable and least developed countries," Ghazouani told the AU Summit.

He called on African leaders to join hands to create "a more balanced, equitable, and inclusive multilateral international order for the least developed countries, ensuring that our continent has a voice and effective influence."

Agencies

'Erratic weather via earth warming fuel locust surge'

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1985 to 2020 using the FAO's Locust Hub data tool.

They applied a data-driven framework to examine the insects' ecological patterns to find out links in long distance outbreaks, covering 10 countries, including Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Yemen and Pakistan. This zone experienced a breath of the locust outbreaks scattered among 48 countries.

The worst outbreak of desert locusts in 25 years struck East Africa in 2019 and 2020, when the insects ravaged hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland and damaged crops, trees and other vegetation, impacting food security and livelihoods.

Elfatih Abdel-Rahman, a scientist at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology who wasn't part of the new study, said that widespread desert locust outbreaks due to climate change substantially threaten livelihoods in the affected regions, with reduced food production and price increases.

The magnitude of desert locust outbreaks was tied with weather or land conditions like air temperature, precipitation, soil moisture and wind, he stated. Desert locusts are more likely to infest arid areas that receive sudden extreme

rainfall, with the number of the insects in an outbreak strongly related to weather conditions, the study noted.

El Nino, a recurring and natural climate phenomenon that affects weather worldwide, is also strongly tied to bigger and worse desert locust outbreaks, the study affirms.

University of Delaware entomology professor Douglas Tallamy, who wasn't part of the research, said erratic weather and rainfall trigger spurts in vegetation and therefore fuels enormous population growth in locusts.

"As such variability increases, it is logical to predict that locust outbreaks will increase as well," he said, noting that the latest study is yet another example of what should be a very strong wake-up call in climate change impacts, he said.

Paula Shrewsbury, an entomology professor at the University of Maryland. Shrewsbury was not involved in the study, said that societies across the globe need to come together to reduce climate change and its impacts, implementing strategies in response to global events such as increasing threats of desert locusts.

The study found that vulnerable locations like Morocco and Kenya remain high-risk but locust habitats had expanded since 1985, she

said, projecting that they will continue growing by at least 5.0 per cent especially in the western part of India and west central Asia.

It gives the example of the Rub' al Khali, or Empty Quarter, a desert in the southern Arabian Peninsula, as a place that was historically uncommon for desert locust outbreaks but then became a hot-spot. The desert experienced locust outbreaks in 2019 after uncontrolled breeding following cyclones, which filled the desert with freshwater lakes, researchers noted.

World Bank data indicates that major locust outbreaks can have huge financial impacts, noting that it cost more than \$450m to respond to a locust outbreak that happened in West Africa during 2003 to 2005. It caused an estimated \$2.5bn in crop damage, experts projected.

The Singapore consultant affirmed that countries affected by desert locust outbreaks are already grappling with climate-driven extremes like droughts, floods and heat waves.

The potential escalation of locust risks in these regions could exacerbate existing challenges, thus failure to address these risks could further strain food production systems and escalate the severity of global food insecurity, he added.



Mzumbe University scholars move the casket bearing the body of former Tanzanian politician and diplomat Dr Diodorus Buberwa Kamala (Nov 26, 1968 – Feb 12, 2024) into Dar es Salaam's Isidori Bakanja Boko Parish church yesterday ready for the paying of respects, pending burial in his native Kagera Region tomorrow. He received his doctorate in economics from Morogoro-based Mzumbe University, his thesis being on intra-regional trade in the East African Community. Photo: Correspondent Lulu Mussa

More than 1,000 pupils yet to report to school in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

A TOTAL of 1,507 pupils who were selected to join secondary education in public schools in Morogoro District have not reported.

Wema Ayubu, Morogoro District acting secondary education officer, said here to the weekend that a month had passed since the start of the new school calendar but the over 1,000 pupils were yet to be seen.

She made the statement during the district council meeting where councillors sat to review and approve budget estimates for the 2024/25 financial year.

According to her, only 76 percent of a total 6,237 pupils who excelled in the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) 2023 have reported to school, something which calls for increased efforts to search for the remaining others.

"Up to February 8, a total of 4,730 pupils (76.5 percent) had reported to schools; we still have a good number of pupils who are yet to report. However, the legal deadline for all selected pupils to report to schools is end of March. Therefore, we still have time to look for those who have not reported and bring them to school," she said.

Morogoro District Council Chairman Lucas Lemomo said the government has made massive investments in improving infrastructure in education sector but some pupils have not reported to schools they were selected to join.

He underscored the need to heighten efforts to ensure that all pupils report to school.

Bank donates desks, iron sheets to schools in Rorya

By Guardian Correspondent, Rorya

NMB Bank has donated desks and roofing materials worth over 80m/- to five schools in Rorya District, Mara Region, to complement the government's efforts to improve education.

The donation includes 250 desks and 368 iron sheets distributed among the beneficiary schools thus bringing smiles to pupils and staff.

Speaking during the hand-

over ceremony at Minigo Primary School, Rorya District Commissioner Juma Chikoka expressed gratitude to the bank for the significant contribution to improving educational infrastructure in the district.

Apart from Minigo Primary School which received 100 desks, other beneficiary schools are Nyanduru Primary School (100 desks), Girango Primary School (168 iron sheets) and Kiamwani Primary School (100 iron sheets).

Additionally, Professor Philemon Sarungi Secondary School was the recipient of two new dormitory buildings and a cash donation of 15m/-.

The bank also undertook renovation of seven classrooms at Minigo Primary School and completed construction of a new classroom at the same institution.

Chikoka said: "We are very grateful for all that you have been doing to the people of Rorya and the entire Mara Region; your contributions are

significant and you are also a good partner in the prosperity this district is proud of."

He acknowledged the district's persistent challenges with deteriorating educational infrastructure and commended the support received from NMB Bank, which helped three secondary schools in Rorya District which ranked among the top 10 in Mara Region in the latest form four national examinations.

Chikoka also appealed to the bank to consider sponsoring educational

awards in Rorya District, aimed at incentivizing schools to achieve better results in national examinations.

In a separate request, Chikoka asked the bank to extend financial assistance to fishermen and farmers in order to strengthen modern fishing as well as irrigation agriculture.

NMB Bank's Lake Zone acting manager, Hamadan Sillia reiterated the lender's commitment to continuing community support, emphasizing that addressing various societal challenges remains a key priority for

the institution.

He urged teachers and employees in the district to make use of a range of NMB Bank services, including opening NMB Pesa accounts, which can be established with as little as 1000.

Joseph Onyango, Minigo Primary School head teacher, said the assistance will help increase pupil attendance due to improved classroom facilities and expressed optimism for improved academic performance in the future.

Women hit harder by climate change impacts

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Bagamoyo

AS Tanzania works to involve more women and men in environment and wildlife conservation, it has come to light that climate change affects each gender differently, with the former on the receiving end.

This was said in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region recently during another round of journalists training programme on biodiversity conservation organized by the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from USAID.

Dorothy Nyoni, monitoring and evaluation collaborative learning officer at USAID-supported Tuhifadhi Maliasili project said there are some a few cases where women are incorporated into conservation efforts.

"We have seen remarkable examples in the Burunge area of Manara Region where tourism outfits like Honey-guide foundation, Chem-Chem Association and Asilia safaris empower women to benefit from conservation initiatives," she said.

Women are engaged in making and trading traditional souvenirs for tourists, involved in cultural programmes for visitors as well as young men and women being recruited to be village game scouts.

Dr Kalumanga Elikana, private sector engagement manager at RTI

International said that the adoption of men and women in matters of climate change is usually different due to the existing gender roles as shaped by norms, cultures and traditions.

"Given the predominance of women's engagement in climate sensitive sectors such as water, agriculture and energy, the gender impacts of climate change are already apparent and reported in many different parts of the country," he said.

He explained that the most reported incidences include increased women's burden on household chores such as walking longer distances to fetch water due to drying of shallow wells and seasonal rivers and springs.

It was also described that increased farming tasks due to frequent droughts, and family healthcare due to increased diseases from climate related extreme weather events.

According to the National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021-2026, such factors have been reported to have increased health risks and affected welfare of women due to walking long distances to unsafe places to fetch water, increased duties for family care owing to men's migration to urban areas in search of new jobs and income generating opportunities after abandoning traditional activities such as farming, fishing and livestock keeping.



Hamadan Sillia (R), acting manager of NMB Bank's Lake Victoria zone, symbolically presents to Rorya district commissioner Juma Chikoka 84m/- worth of various items including 150 desks for use by the district's Minigo Primary School. The consignment also consisted of 100 desks for Nyanduru Primary School, 168 roofing sheets for Girango Primary School, 100 roofing sheets for Professor Sarungi Secondary School as well as the renovation of seven Minigo Primary School classrooms. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

WB allocates \$300m for renewable energy in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE World Bank has allocated nearly USD 300 million to the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (TDB) to support Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) and clean cooking projects in eligible countries under its International Development Association (IDA).

The initiative builds on TDB's successful financing of off-grid solar projects through a previous USD 415 million facility in 2020.

This funding is part of the initial

phase of the IDA's USD 5 billion 'Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation' (ASCENT) programme. ASCENT aims to provide electricity to up to 100 million people in Africa over the next seven years, contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 7. The facility is financed by IDA and a grant from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme (ESMAP).

Under the extended facility, the ASCENT Regional Energy Access Financing (REAF) platform will be established and implemented.

The platform aims to facilitate electricity access for up to five million people, clean cooking access for up to one million people, and add up to 35MW of energy capacity to the region.

Loans under this facility will support DRE and clean cooking companies, with smaller loans available to SMEs through TDB Group's Trade and Development Fund (TDF). Additionally, performance-based grants will be provided to support companies entering new markets and piloting innovations. Technical assistance

and capacity building will also be offered to enhance sustainability and address aspects such as climate resilience and gender equality.

Improving access to energy is crucial for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable growth in Africa. It enables education, inclusion, job creation, and industrial development. Access to clean energy is particularly important for improving health outcomes, especially for women, by reducing indoor air pollution.

Admassu Tadesse, TDB Group

President and Managing Director, emphasized the need for increased financing to meet Africa's growing energy demand while transitioning to sustainable and clean energy sources.

Boutheina Guerhazi, the World Bank's Director for Regional Integration in Africa and the Middle East, reiterated the significance of sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy access for Africa's development and poverty reduction efforts.

She expressed the World Bank's satisfaction in strengthening its

partnership with TDB Group and looked forward to collaborating to unlock additional sources of financing for various private sector actors through the new ASCENT Regional Energy Access Financing Platform (REAF).

Guerhazi emphasized the importance of collective efforts in addressing the energy access challenges facing Africa and the potential of collaborative initiatives like ASCENT to make a meaningful impact on the continent's development trajectory.



Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisyan, pictured in Dar es Salaam late last week speaking at a virtual roundtable meeting involving Russian fertiliser investors and producers and members of the Tanzanian business community. Photo: Carlos Banda

PM lauds private sector role in providing health services

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that the government values the contribution of private sector in provision of health services in the country.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of Saifee Hospital, saying that the private sector plays an important role in promoting wellbeing of millions of Tanzanians.

According to him, the launch of the hospital and other modern facilities in the country shows that the government is committed to creating conducive environment for investment in health sector. "All these are the results of good work being done by the government to make our country one of the most attractive places for investors to initiate projects for provision of various services," he said.

He added: "The private sector's contribution in the country's development is big; construction of modern hospitals like Saifee helps to promote medical tourism."

The Premier said he was impressed by the services provided by the hospital especially surgical services undertaken by using modern medical equipment.

This, according to the PM, will

help reduce the number of patients going outside the country for specialized medical services and eventually reduce costs incurred by the government and patients for treatment overseas," he said. Health Minister Umyi Mwalimu said the ministry will continue to cooperate with the private sector to improve health services in the country.

She said there are over 12,000 health service provision facilities in the country whereby 60 per cent of them are owned by the government and 40 per cent by the private sector.

She said it was time for Tanzanians to wake up and change their lifestyles to conquer non-communicable diseases which involve adopting healthy foods, regular exercises and refrain from excessive use of alcohol.

Murtaza Alibhai, chairman of Saifee Hospital Board of Directors, claimed that the hospital is the first private facility in the country to conduct heart surgery without opening the chest.

He said the hospital is committed to providing quality medical services at affordable cost, adding that it currently has a total of 370 employees, out of whom 350 are Tanzanians.

He further said the hospital is scheduled to start to perform kidney transplant soon.

Samia to grace peace, reconciliation week in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is next month scheduled to grace peace and reconciliation week at national level in Mbeya city.

The peace and reconciliation week is spearheaded by religious and traditional leaders to sensitize public on the importance of peace and reconciliation and this year's peak will be on March 6.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said this at the weekend when speaking to journalists and peace and reconciliation community leaders from all districts across the region.

Homera said that preparations for the celebration are ongoing and before the climax, various social activities will be held in the region, including blood donation, tree planting in various areas to take care of the environment as well as sports.

He said that apart from various activities, community leaders will conduct a special campaign against sexual violence against women and children in all areas of the region.

"I instruct all district commissioners to cooperate with communities to carry out these activities. Blood donation in Kyela District has already started and they have collected more than 100 units. I request you to continue with other areas so that we can save the lives

of our people," he said.

Rev Oscar Ongere, Mbeya regional peace and reconciliation chairman asked various development stakeholders in the region to support the community so that it can perform its duties properly before the climax.

He said they intend to plant more than 2,000 trees in various areas of the region, including at water sources and public institutions.

He said that in order to carry out those activities, they need to be

supported by various stakeholders, explaining that they need tools to accomplish the mission.

"We are grateful to our colleagues at the CRDB Bank who have provided us with 2,000 trees that we will plant in various places; we ask other stakeholders to help us by donating more money so that we can reach the goal of collecting 1,000 units of blood," he said.

Rocket Mwashinga, a traditional leader in Mbeya District, asked the government to thor-

oughly enforce the environment protection law to prevent environmental damage, especially reckless cutting of trees which exacerbate the impact of climate change.

He said that many forests managed by the government through its institutions are being destroyed unlike those managed by chiefs, explaining that no one is allowed to enter chiefs' forest and carry out activities other than chiefs themselves.

US 'strongly condemns' violence in DRC after alleged drone attack

KINSHASA

THE United States has condemned growing violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), blaming an armed group it says is backed by neighbouring Rwanda.

Fighting has flared in recent days in the eastern part of the DRC between the M23 rebel group and government forces, resulting in dozens of soldiers and civilians being killed or wounded.

The fighting has also pushed tens of thousands of civilians to flee towards the eastern city of Goma, which is located between Lake Kivu and the border with Rwanda.

"This escalation has increased the risk to millions of people already exposed to human rights abuses including displacement, deprivation, and attacks," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

"The United States condemns Rwanda's support for the M23 armed group and calls on Rwanda to immediately withdraw all Rwanda Defense Force personnel from the DRC and remove its surface-to-air missile systems, which threaten the lives of civilians, UN and other regional peacekeepers, humanitarian actors, and commercial flights in eastern DRC," Miller added.

On Saturday, the DRC accused Rwanda of carrying out a drone attack which damaged a civilian aircraft at the airport in Goma.

"It had obviously come from the Rwandan territory, violating the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo," Lieutenant-Colonel Guillaume Ndjike Kaito said in a video broadcast.

The DRC, the United Nations and Western countries have accused Rwanda of backing the rebels in a bid to control vast mineral resources, which Kigali has denied.

South Africa said on Wednesday it would send 2,900 troops to support the DRC's forces against the armed group.



Standard Chartered Tanzania CEO and managing director Herman Kasekende addresses the bank's workers and government officials at a meeting held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

China out to be a force for stability in enhancing global governance

MUNICH

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that China will be a force for stability in enhancing global governance.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks when delivering a keynote speech during the 'China in the World' session at

the ongoing Munich Security Conference.

Wang said that today's international system faces serious challenge from unilateralism and power politics, and it is the common call of the international community to revitalize multilateralism and strengthen solidarity.

He said the United Nations' authority and core status must be strengthened and by no means be weakened,

adding that the purposes and principles of the UN Charter have never been outdated, but are more important.

Wang said China has become the largest troop contributor to peacekeeping operations among the five permanent members of the Security Council and the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping assessments.

He said China supports the

Security Council's primary role in peace and security issues and supports the UN in holding the Summit of the Future to put forward more feasible solutions to challenges.

In the face of the climate threat, China played a positive role in bringing about the UAE Consensus at the UN Climate Change Conference and will achieve the largest reduction in carbon emission intensity in the shortest time

in world history, said Wang, stressing that China will live up to its words.

In the face of AI challenges, China supports the establishment of an international AI governance body under the UN framework to jointly safeguard the well-being of mankind, he said.

Wang said China has worked actively to strengthen solidarity and cooperation in the Global South, promoted

the historic expansion of BRICS membership, supported the African Union in joining the G20, and been committed to increasing the representation and voice of developing countries in the global affairs, so as to make the global governance architecture more balanced and effective.

As the world's largest developing country, China has also been committed to providing

the world with more public goods within its capacity, he said.

From the Belt and Road Initiative to the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, China continues to make its own contributions to tackling global challenges based on the principles of cooperation, openness and equality, he said.



Ahmed Elhamrawy (C), Al Ataa Charitable Foundation's managing director, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam at the weekend on a medical camp for children with cleft lips and cleft palates the foundation is organising in the city in collaboration with the Qatar Charity Foundation. He is flanked by a health officer with the latter agency, Dr Abdulmajeed Alhumaid (R), and Al Ataa public relations officer Abubakar Rajab. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Royal Tour' film named as tourist numbers up

By Correspondent Pascal Mayalla

THE number of tourists visiting Tanzania increased from 1,454,000 tourists recorded as of December 2022 to 1,806,000 in December 2023.

Angellah Kairuki, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, said this recently when she visited the Dar es Salaam-based National College of Tourism (NCT).

Kairuki (pictured) attributed the increase of tourists to a number of factors, including Tanzania: The Royal Tour documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan as a tour guide.

"The documentary which premiered in April 2022 has started to pay off as the number of visitors continues to go up every year," she said, urging other stakeholders in the tourism sector to play their role by marketing more Tanzanian tourist attractions.

The minister's remarks came at a time when the government is working to reach its target of receiving five million international tourists by 2025.

Kairuki lauded NCT for providing high-quality training, thanks to a team of experienced tutors and the support it gets from the government for capacity building and teaching facilities.

Dr Florian Mtey, NCT Principal called on Tanzanians to take advantage of the tourism training opportu-



nities offered by the college to equip themselves with skills needed in the tourism sector.

He also urged Tanzanians to use the hotel services offered by the college such as food, accommodation and laundry.

Mary Maduhu, college training manager said: "There is a strong relationship between hospitality services and the increase of tourists because that means they are well served."

Twitter finally pays workers it sacked in Africa

ACCRA

SOCIAL media company X, formerly known as Twitter, has finally paid off the staff it sacked in its African headquarters more than a year after they were laid off, the agency which represents them has said.

Most had only been in the job, based in Ghana's capital, Accra, for a few months when the social media platform fired them in November 2022.

They had threatened to take X to

court for failing to pay the redundancy money they said they were promised. The company has not commented.

X has previously said that it had paid ex-employees in full.

Elon Musk, who took over the company in 2022, embarked on a massive global cull of employees, sacking more than 6,000 people. He had said he was losing more than \$4m (£3.5m) a day.

The African contingent whose number was fewer than 20, had only just moved into X's new office in Accra,

following about eight months of working from home during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Agency Seven Seven, the company providing legal representation to the staff, said it had been successful in its quest to get a redundancy settlement and repatriation expenses for foreign staff, although it did not specify the amount of the pay-out.

"They are very pleased to finally be able to get their due, put this behind them and look to the future," Carla Olympio from the agency told the

BBC. BBC their treatment by X had harmed their mental health and their finances.

"It's difficult when it's the world's richest man owing you money and closure," one said.

They said they were initially told that although their contracts were being terminated, they would be paid to work for one more month. But they were immediately locked out of their emails and no further salary payments were made.

Since then, the staff said they had

been involved in a frustrating battle for compensation.

Some of them had moved from neighbouring countries, such as Nigeria. Their contract termination meant they were left stranded in Ghana, along with their families.

In a rare interview last April, Musk told the BBC that the social media giant had 1,500 employees, down from the just under 8,000 who were employed at the time he bought the company.

When the news of Musk's radical

staff cull became public, he tweeted that laid-off employees were given three months' severance pay.

But the staff based in the Africa office said they did not receive this.

According to Seven Seven, X only began negotiations with the sacked Africa staff after the BBC covered the story.

Last year, X was hit by a lawsuit, filed by ex-employees in a California court, for allegedly refusing to pay at least \$500m in promised severance packages.

Election violence, humanitarian crises deliberated on at AU meet

ADDIS ABABA

VIOLENCE before and after election as well as humanitarian crises and health advancements are some key issues on the agenda at the African Union 37th ordinary session.

The assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union met since Saturday in Addis Ababa.

The EU's former commission president who now chairs the Board of the Gavi Vaccine Alliance was in Ethiopia.

"We should continue to give a priority to the so-called social sector, health and education," Jose Manuel Barroso said.

"The African Union has defined a very clear path, strategy for this and I believe it's widely shared among the leaders of Africa. They need to give priority to these sectors."

The first mRNA vaccine factory in Rwanda is under construction. The project exemplifies Africa's efforts to avoid a repeat of the failures of the Covid-19 vaccines global distribution.

"We have seen that there is still a lot of injustice in terms of distributional resources for vaccination around the world. Ten years from now there will be more capabilities of manufacturing vaccines in Africa than we had before," Barroso estimated. The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said last October that if all plans are realized on the continent, capacity to formulate and finish vaccines would more than double the African projected vaccine demand in 2030.

The Africa CDC, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and PATH had released a new briefing paper, 'Current and planned vaccine manufacturing in Africa' following an assessment of vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa.



Malumbo Ngata, Mbeya Region's Fire and Rescue Force Commander, pictured at the weekend taking teachers and students from various schools through ways to handle fires and other accidents. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

WHO: Gaza hospital not functional after Israel raid

GAZA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has said Gaza's Nasser hospital has ceased to function following an Israeli raid.

Israel Defense Force (IDF) troops entered the complex on Thursday, saying intelligence indicated hostages taken by Hamas were being held there.

The WHO said it had not been allowed to enter the site

to assess the situation.

Israel has been focusing its campaign against Hamas in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis and has indicated it may continue south to Rafah.

"Nasser hospital in Gaza is not functional anymore, after a week-long siege followed by the ongoing raid," head of the WHO Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"Both yesterday and the day

before, the WHO team was not permitted to enter the hospital to assess the conditions of the patients and critical medical needs, despite reaching the hospital compound to deliver fuel alongside partners," he said.

"There are still about 200 patients in the hospital. At least 20 need to be urgently referred to other hospitals to receive health care; medical referral is every patient's right."

The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says only four medical staff were left in the hospital trying to care for the remaining patients.

One source inside the hospital, who did not want to be named, told BBC News that 11 patients had died due to interruptions in the supply of electricity and oxygen, and that several doctors had been arrested.

Yesterday, the Israeli military said its troops had been

told to keep the hospital running and that food and water had been delivered. Asked about the state of the hospital this morning, an army spokesman said only that they were checking.

Fighting has raged around the Nasser site for weeks. Israel has repeatedly claimed Hamas is using hospitals, along with schools, as operational bases.

The Israeli military says it has killed about 20 Hamas

fighters and seized numerous weapons in the area of the hospital.

"Over the past day, dozens of terrorists were eliminated and large quantities of weapons were seized," the IDF said. At least 1,200 people were killed during attacks in Israel by Hamas-led gunmen on 7 October last year.

In response, Israel launched a military campaign in the Gaza Strip. More than 28,400 Palestinians, mostly women and chil-

dren, have been killed and more than 68,000 wounded since the war began, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. It added that at least 127 Palestinians have been killed and 205 others injured in the past 24 hours.

Despite the continued fighting in Gaza, efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas have been taking place in Cairo in recent days - although Qatari mediators said recent progress was "not very promising".



Sabinus Mathew (R), Dodoma regional manager with land surveying firm Jumaco Property Ltd, has a word at the weekend with orphans cared for at St Ursula Home of Hope Centre in Miyuji ward in Dodoma Urban District. He had just gifted the orphanage various items. Photo: Correspondent Peter

SA's main opposition party lays out plans to unseat ANC

PRETORIA

THOUSANDS of South Africans gathered in the capital at the weekend to show support for the country's biggest opposition party as it prepares for a much-anticipated national election in which it hopes to wrest control of the government from the ruling African National Congress.

Many of the Democratic Alliance backers assembled at the Union Buildings, the official seat of South Africa's government in Pretoria, expressed faith the party would deliver better basic services and address some of the country's daunting challenges.

These include a worsening electricity crisis that has caused rolling power blackouts for households and businesses on a daily basis. Participants at the Democratic Alliance conference also highlighted South Africa's unemployment rate of over 32 percent, with the party promising to create at least two million new jobs if it prevails in this year's general election.

The date for the National Assembly and provincial elections has not been set, but it is expected to be sometime between May and August.

Democratic Alliance supporters marched through the streets of the capital before listening to a spirited speech by party leader John Steenhuisen, who vowed to unseat the African National Congress and accused President Cyril Ramaphosa of enabling corruption by ANC members and leaders.

South Africa's upcoming elections have been touted as one of the toughest yet for the ruling party, with recent polls suggesting the ANC may receive less than 50 percent of the national vote for the first time since the country's white minority rule ended in 1994.

During the 2019 elections, the Democratic Alliance received just over 20 percent of the national vote to remain the second-biggest party in the country after the ANC. The party is now exploring the possibility of forming a governing coalition with several other oppo-

Use your skills to ease NCDs burden, graduates told

By Getrude Mbago

GRADUATES in health and allied sciences have been challenged to use their skills to help reduce the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Reports show that NCDs claim more than 30 percent of all deaths in Tanzania, something which needs serious measures to address.

Omari Issa, Chancellor of the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the 19th graduation ceremony of the Aga Khan University (AKU).

He urged the graduates to celebrate the day but remember how

they can use the knowledge and skills gained in higher education to contribute to Tanzania and Africa's future prosperity.

According to him, NCDs have become a bigger threat than the traditional infectious diseases, a situation which calls for experts to strengthen efforts and practise at the highest levels of the profession.

He underscored the need for colleges to invest in strategic research, innovations and technology which can help bring solutions and boost economic development.

"Despite achievements recorded in the health sector, we still face a heavy burden of disease. To address the situation, we must increase the supply of skilled health work-

ers, build our capacity for research and home-grown innovation, focus on public health and primary care while ensuring that advanced care is available," he said.

"Tanzania's future prosperity depends to a large extent on improving health and education of its people; we need to double our efforts to help address challenges in the sectors."

He hailed AKU's significant impact in Tanzania over the years, saying that through this commitment, Tanzania enjoys tremendous improvement in public education system.

"I am well aware of how much His Highness the Aga Khan has invested in Tanzania. The results of his commitment are thousands of good jobs, increased access to high quality

healthcare and education for thousands of people," he said.

The event, which comprised both in-person and virtual, saw more than 700 graduands graduate from various Aga Khan universities globally, capping a historic 40th anniversary for the institution.

In her address, Princess Zahra Aga Khan who presided over the graduation of 159 graduands at Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya said: "2023 was an exceptional year in which AKU's growth was evident through multiple initiatives. We launched undergraduate medical education in Nairobi and undergraduate nursing education in both Nairobi and Dar es Salaam

to educate healthcare leaders who are needed throughout East Africa."

The graduates, more than 60 percent of whom are women, were awarded degrees in nursing, medicine, education and journalism.

"On graduating, you return to a world that is full of daunting challenges but also of endless possibilities," said Princess Zahra. "Continue to strive with courage and optimism to grasp opportunities to serve your communities and contribute to a more pluralistic and peaceful world," she added.

AKU President Sulaiman Shahabuddin termed the day a "crowning moment" for the graduates, noting that the institution has awarded nearly 20,000 diplomas,

degrees and postgraduate certificates since its inception.

He outlined the university's plans for the future in its new five-year strategic plan, which includes launching close to a dozen new degree programmes in fields ranging from data science to teacher education.

AKU also plans to enhance research capacity in mental health, climate change and other disciplines; expand the AKU health system; deepen the university's partnerships with public and private institutions at home and abroad; and continue to earn new forms of academic and healthcare accreditation from leading international organisations."

NGOs partner for improved sanitation for female pupils

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

IN a joint effort to empower young girls and enhance their access to education and health rights, two organisations have donated 2500 sanitary pads along with modern 12-room toilet facilities worth of 42m/-.

The donation has been given by Smile for Community and the Legal Services Facility (LSF) to Nanyamba and Chawi secondary schools in the Nanyamba Town Council, Mtwara Region.

Flora Njelekela, Director of Smile for Community said this at the weekend when briefing stakeholders on the next Run for Binti marathon which is scheduled to take place on May 25th this year in Dar es Salaam to raise funds for further infrastructure improvements, provision of sanitary pads, construction of water wells, tree planting, environmental conservation and delivery of health rights education to schools in underserved regions.

The Run for Binti Marathon is held annually and is now entering its third year. The previous year's event, which took place in July, was organized with the aim of mobilizing resources to ensure girls can experience safe menstruation and to enhance school infrastructure.

This includes the availability of safe toilets and water, essential for protecting girls' health and improving school envi-

ronment for pupils.

According to Njelekela, the toilets have been upgraded with the installation of pipes, handwashing sinks, and the addition of special changing rooms for girls.

"In line with the project's inclusive approach, the boys' toilets have also received significant upgrades," she said.

Jane Matinde, manager of partnerships and communications at LSF said: "For over a decade, LSF has been dedicated to facilitating access to fundamental rights, including education and health and this commitment led us to partner with Smile for Community in organizing and coordinating these marathons on an annual basis.

"We invite a broad spectrum of stakeholders to join hands in this endeavor as the upcoming marathon, scheduled for May 25, is a call to action for stakeholders and individuals alike to come together and extend their support to impact more schools and pupils positively."

Sefu Nayembe, speaking on behalf of Mtwara District Commissioner expressed gratitude towards LSF and Smile for Community for their dedication and hard work.

"The distribution of sanitary pads and the improvement of sanitation facilities, including the installation of a changing room for girls, are monumental steps towards ensuring our pupils study comfortably and excel academically," he said.



What appears to be "water" covering a section of a road has completely nothing to do with rain but is, in fact, stinking sewage from a drainage chamber near the Kamata section of Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road - as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

New initiative to ease payment of wildlife conservation

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

A NEW project has been initiated to protect wildlife at Kitendeni Corridor which is the only remaining connection between Kilimanjaro and other ecosystems through a scalable conservation performance payment model.

Prof Noah Sitati, supervisor of Southern Kenya-Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) integrated trans-boundary wildlife cor-

ridor the new initiative is called Wildlife Credits and is meant to provide new avenue for global stakeholders of wildlife conservation to share the costs of protecting and living alongside wildlife with the communities at the forefront of conservation.

A locally suitable model will be co-designed by communities and stakeholders, with an artificial intelligence dashboard to measure key performance indicators.

Prof Sitati said currently, Enduimet Wildlife Management Area and Longido District Council struggle to get natural resources data and the available ones are not properly collected in Lake Natron and West Kili sub landscapes.

To effectively measure the conservation impacts of the Kitendeni Corridor, the Wildlife Credits project has developed five key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs will serve as the foundation for

wildlife credit payment calculations.

"Wildlife Credit collaborates with Deloitte which is responsible for managing the dashboard used for the calculations. It is crucial to ensure accurate and reliable data collection," he said.

Transparency is paramount in the wildlife credit payment process, he said, adding that by collecting and capturing data accurately, potential grievances can be minimized by ensuring transparency and

fairness in the calculation of wildlife credit payments.

"However, data management remains challenging. To address this challenge, Wildlife Credits project is conduct capacity building training for various stakeholders including Longido District game officers, TAWA, Enduimet WMA and village game scouts to enhance their understanding and skills in data management.

Africa's economic growth fell to 3.2pc in 2023, says AfDB

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S economic growth fell to 3.2 percent last year from 4.1 percent in 2022, the African Development Bank said on Friday, but projected higher growth this year for all regions except central Africa.

The AfDB said political instability and China's economic slowdown were compounding the shocks of COVID-19 and Russia's war in Ukraine.

The final figure for 2023 was below the 3.4 percent growth the AfDB had forecast in November. It also cut its regional growth estimates for central and north Africa, amid a recession in oil producer Equatorial Guinea and the aftermath of devastating flooding in Libya.

"The shocks buffeting African economies since 2020 have damaged growth, with long-term implications," the bank said in a report.

Despite the shocks buffeting the region, 15 African countries posted economic growth of more than 5 percent last year, the AfDB said, including Ethiopia, which is restructuring its external debt, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius and Rwanda.

The bank forecast faster growth in all regions except for central Africa in 2024, with southern Africa seen as remaining the laggard at 2.2 percent compared with 5.7 percent in east Africa.

Southern Africa's "sluggish performance reflects the continued economic stagnation in South Africa," the bank said, with the region's largest economy, which holds national elections this year, predicted to grow 1.1 percent in 2024, up from 0.8 percent last year.

"This underwhelming economic situation has aggravated the country's persistently high unemployment, poverty, and inequality and prevented it from reaping democratic dividends in the 30 years since the end of White minority rule," AfDB said.

Nigeria, West Africa's largest economy, is set to grow 2.9 percent in 2024, up 0.4 percentage points from last year as a sharply devalued currency pushes up inflation, exacerbating a cost of living crisis.

In Egypt, high inflation and foreign exchange shortages are forecast to drag growth down to 3.7 percent this year, versus 4 percent in 2023.



Zanzibar's First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman, speaks at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of preparations for an upcoming Africa-wide Quran recital competition. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Cameroonian students shine at Chinese song competition

By Arison Tamfu, Yaounde

OOZING with confidence and pride, Rodrigue Tene Taling watched attentively as Cameroonian students performed Chinese songs during a competition on Friday organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of Yaounde II.

About 13 years ago, he was a spectator and contestant in the show, but this time he was one of the judges tasked with selecting winners of the annual competition, which is open to all Cameroonian students interested in singing Chinese songs.

Now in its 10th edition, the competition dubbed 'Voice of Cameroon' is an important opportunity for Chinese people in Cameroon to come together with the local

community, said Xue Xiaobin, the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute.

"Music knows no borders," Xue said. "Now is the Chinese New Year, so it is a very important time for Chinese people to celebrate with our families, and here at the Confucius Institute, our partners, our colleagues, our students are just like our family members. So, we are very happy that we can celebrate this very important festival together with this music competition."

But for Taling, it was more than just a competition and a coming-together event.

"I owe my success to the Confucius Institute," said the 38-year-old father of two. In 2010, he enrolled in the institute to learn Chinese language and culture. Years later, Taling graduated as one of the best

students.

Thanks to a scholarship offered by the Chinese government, he travelled to China where he studied and obtained a master's degree and then a PhD in Chinese language at the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.

"China has one of the most important things, that is, its language and culture. I usually compare it to the key to opening China's door. If you do not master them, you cannot really integrate into that society," said Taling, who is the director of the Center for African Films and TV Studies at Zhejiang Normal University.

"Having studied the Chinese language for over two years here in this institute (in Cameroon) before leaving for China, I will acknowledge today that the key to my success there has been the Chinese language and

culture I have been learning here," he added.

When Taling enrolled at the Confucius Institute, he met his friend, who asked to be identified simply as Sema, who was also actively involved in the organization of Friday's song competition.

Sema was studying physics at a Cameroonian university, but his love for the Chinese language and culture brought him to the institute where he learned the basics of the language. He later travelled to China where he obtained a master's degree in Chinese language.

The 41-year-old said that the institute has laid the bridge between China and Cameroon, hence making it necessary and possible for Cameroonians to learn the Chinese language.

"I personally think the cooperation between Cameroon and China

is benefiting Cameroonian people. So we should just work hand in hand with Chinese people to do more. I have greatly benefited from this cooperation, and I am still benefiting because now I am recruited by the Confucius Institute, teaching at the University of Buea (in Cameroon)," said Sema, who is currently carrying out a study on how to use Chinese characters to write Cameroonian languages.

"They have provided me with every tool, material and financial support that I needed to achieve that project. So with the Confucius Institute, everything is okay. It's just what it should be," he added.

The institute in Cameroon has made a great contribution to mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries, said Xue. Apart from the song competi-

tion, it also organizes the Chinese proficiency test. In each Chinese traditional festival, the institute holds different kinds of activities to introduce traditional culture to students and the local communities.

"At the moment at the Confucius Institute, half of our teachers are Chinese people, and the other half are Cameroonians. All of them were once our students, and many of our teachers have become local Chinese teachers at primary and secondary schools in Cameroon, and many of them work in Chinese enterprises," Xue said.

At the end of the competition, 20-year-old Francine Sephorah Dimaha and 22-year-old Grace Bile Akomo, both students of the Confucius Institute, were declared the overall winners.



David Kilua (2nd-R, gesturing), councillor for Magila ward in Muheza District, Tanga Region, pictured on Friday briefing members of the district's financial, leadership and planning committee, on progress in the construction of classrooms and a teachers' office at Magila Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

'Review disability policy to ease life for people with albinism'

By Enock Charles

THE Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) has asked the government to make changes in the National Policy on Disability to provide for economic empowerment of people living with albinism among other benefits.

Addressing a gathering of people living with albinism at an event to accept donations extended by the Dar es Salaam Rotary Club at the weekend, TAS president Godson Mollel said that economic empowerment of people with albinism is crucial especially in the present time when technology offers equal opportunities for everyone.

"The environment we were living in yesterday is not the same as today's. This calls for policy review especially on matters that directly touch on people with special needs including people with albinism," he said.

"For instance, these people deserve a mobile clinic, they don't need to go to

Ocean Road Cancer Institute, KCMC or Bugando Medical Center when there is a mobile clinic service which means that the people will be followed where they are," said Mollel.

Nazeer Tajudeen, president of the Dar es Salaam Rotary Club, said the club has extended aid to people with albinism because they felt they were more in need compared to other groups of people with disabilities.

"Currently, we have a plan to prepare text books for people with disabilities to create awareness about the needs of this group and also to reach out to various stakeholders, organizations and institutions to give their contribution," he said.

"Our purpose is to serve the albinism community because they deserve what everybody else deserves" said Tajudeen.

According to him, TAS is out to bring together people with albinism and support them economically through its programmes.

AU unveils roadmap to advance quality education in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has unveiled a roadmap dedicated to advancing quality education in Africa, AU Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Mohammed Belhocine has said.

The roadmap, which was presented at the 44th Ordinary Session of the Execu-

tive Council of the AU, has won the acceptance of member states, Belhocine told reporters in Thursday in Addis Ababa.

The roadmap, comprising ten priority areas, aims to reinvigorate education systems in member states, he said.

"The priority areas, among others, focus on advancing the teaching profes-

sion, foundational literacy, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education," Belhocine said, noting that member states may choose two or three of them to try to reinvigorate their education systems.

According to the commissioner, the roadmap advises African countries to "decolonize the teaching of foreign history and literature" but

focus on teaching African history and literature.

The commissioner said the roadmap stresses the need to create a favorable environment for children to come to school through the provision of meal and health package services at schools.

The roadmap also gives attention to creating African professionals who are fit for purpose and building a resil-

ient education system in Africa, said the AU official.

"The education problem in Africa is deep," said the AU commissioner, stressing that the continental body would also focus on transforming education quality through comprehensive teacher programs.

According to Belhocine, the AU will also focus on promoting digital education and expanding vocational and

technical training across the continent for those children and youth who are out of school.

"Nearly 100 million children and youth aged five to 19 across Africa are out of school," Belhocine noted.

The AU Executive Council meeting, comprising foreign ministers from AU member states, was held on Wednesday and Thursday under the

AU's theme of the year for 2024: 'Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.'

The two-day meeting was followed by the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, which took place at the weekend.

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
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Africa has spheres of influence in UN system - so it is not irrelevant

THE African Union summit is getting under way at the continental body's headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

One theme that is in the limelight is how the continent can raise an assertive voice in world councils, including in the off and on campaign for a permanent seat for Africa in the UN Security Council.

At times top officials of multilateral agencies including the UN Secretariat offer moral support for Africa's quest to wield some kind of influence at the world body.

Yet this is all but a trained diplomatic attitude to keep Africa happy and continue to believe that not featuring as a permanent UNSC seat is an injustice. It ignores the undeniable fact that even the current structure is maintained with difficulties.

The current system is marginally workable because the two sides of the Cold War lines apply even now, that Western countries do not differ profoundly on issues, similar to the eastern bloc, such that one permanent member exercises a veto on behalf of the others.

If this homogeneity wasn't there, the council would not be arriving at any consensus - and since Africa appears to increasingly fit better with the eastern camp, it could possibly be satisfied that its positions are taken care of. It is also to be presumed that the continent can similarly raise its voice when and if it so wishes, the way South Africa went to the International Court of Justice nearly two months ago claiming that Israel was conducting genocide in Gaza.

It is clear that the move has had considerable ripples around the world and is widely considered a remarkable diplomatic feat.

There was a time when Tanzania led a similar 'expedition' affecting global public opinion and achieving results - in the early 1970s.

The country canvassed UN en-

voys from most of Africa, Asia and South America to get the UN General Assembly and then the Security Council to restore the Security Council seat to Mainland China. If a proposal to the Security Council was vital, a non-permanent member could place it.

Africa has used such opportunities and, in large measure, they have stood as a sufficient indicator of the continent's effective presence, and indeed this can be extended to other issues.

South Africa's experience with apartheid was a watershed moment in the growth or evolution of international norms and ethical standards, this despite the fact that the need to be fair and magnanimous to all is always a difficult lesson to make.

Each round of civil wars brings back this point in a different set of circumstances, too, and finally the world will be rid of civil wars when lessons are truly adequate.

There is hidden apartheid, if you will, in how Africa remains dirt poor amid an abundance of natural and other wealth, and in its lamentable failure to design a path of economy that makes it industrialised and modern.

So long as that is the cruel reality, there is an image of Africa most of us would dearly wish to do without but it can't just be easily shaken off.

Put it this way: when Europeans and other peoples will be working to migrate to our countries because things are better organised this part of the world and progress is everywhere, it will perhaps not be the moment for a permanent UN Security Council seat but, really, we won't be missing it.

One reason Africa and portions of the rest of the globe are frantic about all this is that it would "soften up" the rather uncomfortable attribute of dependency.

There are pros, cons in debate over need for presence of men in clinics

DISCUSSION is being drawn again on the issue of maternal clinic staff in various places demanding that expectant women be accompanied by their spouses or partners.

The cry is largely limited to hospital staff but it is being taken up by district council and other officials.

A councillor is on record as having recently repeated the call at the launch of the national measles and Rubella vaccination campaign in some wards in the Singida Region.

The councillor was categorical that health guidelines require expectant women or those who have just given birth to visit clinic with their partners. These are indeed guidelines, all right, but they are subject to the specific reaction of those concerned as to their needs or availability.

Even with more urgent requirements like the Covid-19 vaccination campaign during 2021 there was no compulsion extended on the public, but health staff and at times civic officials take it up to make it mandatory. This sort of impression became so widespread that women started to hire motorcycle drivers to pose as partners or husbands, ostensibly as both parents have to be there when the all-important advice is pronounced.

Definitely the one really in a state of need is the woman, and the man is likely to be a facilitator, a close aide to the woman so that - hopefully - nothing goes wrong.

It appears that health staff and their fellow civic administrators in districts and elsewhere seek out the partners or husbands as a matter of emergency, and definitely not everyone pointedly sees where that sense of urgency is anchored.

Once the woman is clear, the message will be conveyed and observed - as, in the final analysis, domestic arrangements chiefly fall in the province of a woman's decisions. Take the issue of immunisation where council leaders say the husband or partner ought to be there because pregnancy and babies concern both parties.

That is definitely true, but some husbands might wonder what problems the medical staff are trying to solve by insisting that they (husbands) also be physically in attendance at the hospital.

This matter has a rather long history in the numerous attempts to obliterate gender specificity, which has for long led to a short-lived campaign for husbands (or other partners, as in this case) to stand by when their wives or partners are in the labour ward. It was battled hard - and died out. It required considerable exposure to psychological techniques to pursue a not so hidden agenda by coming too close to one's partner.

The point is that the district official appears to have an impression that the husband is lying about in the proximity of the house, possibly playing cards, and has no plausible reason not to accompany the wife or partner to a clinic.

This fits in with the routine view cultivated by gender equality activists that women are the providers in a home, surprisingly expecting such situation to be durable.

That men were given 15,000/- for accompanying their wives was surprising, as it should instead have been offered to women (or men) bringing children to vaccination clinics. All the same, it would still point to some wisdom letting things play out further.

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World social forum activists unravel roots of Israel's occupation of Gaza

By Marty Logan

ROMI Ghimire has a busy life running a non-profit organization dedicated to Nepal's rural people, but she also feels driven to do something about Gaza. "There are a lot of issues happening in the world, but right now the genocide in Gaza is the most urgent one," she said inside the Palestine tent at the World Social Forum (WSF) in Kathmandu on Saturday.

"We're watching it live... we're seeing it on a daily basis: every morning and evening I'm consuming it and I just can't stop thinking about it. I can't pretend that it isn't happening," Ghimire told IPS. "We have to raise awareness about it around the world because we are all the (Palestinians) have. They don't have any arms or ammunition, any military - it's just people like us that they have."

"People like us" include the roughly 30,000 activists expected to attend the WSF, the annual global gathering of social activists, happening this year in Nepal's capital Kathmandu until Monday. This block of the city centre is bustling with activists, rushing to reach a scheduled workshop or bumping shoulders with peers from 90+ countries amid white tents set up as temporary classrooms in a fair-ground.

Israel's ongoing assault on Gaza, in response to an attack on Israel by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, is one of the most discussed issues.

On Friday, Dr Varsen Aghabekian spoke to 30 activists from Nepal, South Asia and beyond. The former Commissioner General for the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, Aghabekian detailed the history that has culminated in Israel's occupation of Palestine, stressing the deep roots of the current assaults.

Demographic strategy

For example, in Mandate Palestine (as it was known in 1947), Palestinians made up 93% of the population and Jewish people were 7%. By 2023 the make-up had changed dramatically, with Palestinians at 51% and the Jewish population equal to 49%, said Aghabekian, labelling the process part of Israel's "erasure".

Historical "annexation" includes takeover of public and private property. In 1947, 90% of such property was owned by Palestinians; by 2023 they had been relegated to 22% of historic Palestine.

Israeli laws and policies "institutionalize the superiority and privilege the status of Jews," added Aghabekian. They reserve the right of self-determination in Israel exclusively for the Jewish people, and declare Hebrew as the



Protesting against Israel's attacks on Gaza, at the opening day march of the World Social Forum in Kathmandu.

official state language, demoting Arabic, which had been the country's official second language.

"We rightfully call (the situation) apartheid but when we do that many western countries frown and say: 'It can't be!'... Israel is trying to project that an occupier state is a victim of our resistance and our violence (but) we have the right to resist as an occupied people who want to be liberated."

Eventually Israel must make peace with the Palestinians, added Aghabekian. "If they are prospering and we are in pain there will not be peace. The Gaza genocide, despite its disasters, is an opportunity...

even the US said seriously 'maybe we should think about the two-state solution'. I think we're moving toward that."

Not only is Israel misrepresenting its occupation and current attack on Gaza, the situation has revealed the hypocrisy of western legal, religious and cultural tradition, argued Mitri Raheb, the first president of Dar-al-Kalima University in Bethlehem, who spoke after Aghabekian.

Israel's response to the Hamas attack has revealed the "warrior God," not the God of peace, said Raheb, citing a personal example. A German bishop he met counselled Palestinians to remain non-violent.

But just weeks later Raheb, who also served as the pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem from 1987 until 2017, saw the bishop on TV calling for western countries to provide Ukraine with tanks to counter Russia's invasion.

Palestinians, he added, used to "believe in and fight for human rights because we thought they were international, they were for everyone. But I'm starting to question that. I think that human rights were meant for white Europeans, so they won't kill each other any more, but it's OK if the rest of the world is killed by the empire."

"Business of colonialism"

Legal expert Wasem Ahmad dissected the economic structure that props up Israel's occupation. "Israel has refined the art of colonization through what I call the best business practice of colonialism, which invites multinational actors and corporations to invest in their colonial project. And that provides an economic incentive to ensure that political positions are supportive of Israel."

A human rights scholar, Ahmad told IPS he recognizes the limitations of the human rights system. "The more you do this work the more cynical you become of the system as it's proposed. (Human rights) look very nice on paper but when you try to put them into practice you realize that there are a lot of political obstacles to that realization and it has to do with the broader imperial interests at play."

"Our role," he continued, "is to push that system and engage it, and force the wheels of justice to turn. Either it works in our benefit or we expose it and over time that system will change, even if it requires a breakdown to rebuild."

But opposing Israel's colonization through the legal system is only one approach, added Ahmad. "The idea that I'm only going to rely on the legal mechanisms, ignoring that the law is a social construct connected to economic, political and cultural interests and beliefs in society ignores that reality."

Despite his critique of the West's legal and cultural traditions, Raheb said he was invigorated by the throngs of people worldwide, and at the WSF, protesting Israel's attacks.

"Gaza was the wake-up call for all of us. And I think in the future this will just get stronger and stronger... Gaza galvanized the global South because it was the magnifying glass: suddenly we could see clearly. That was the turning point."

NIDA unveils grand distribution of national identification cards in Shinyanga, paving way for inclusive development

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a momentous stride towards empowering national identity, the National Identification Authority (NIDA) has ushered in a new era with the official commencement of the distribution of national identification cards to citizens in the vibrant Shinyanga Region.

The historic launch, held with grandeur on February 15, 2024, at the prestigious Shinyanga Regional Commissioner's meeting hall, stood as a beacon of progress and was gracefully inaugurated by the esteemed Regional Commissioner, Christina Mndeme.

Top of Form

Nathanael Njau, the NIDA Registrar in Shinyanga Region, announced the implementation of a comprehensive distribution plan during the launch. With a strong emphasis on collaboration with the Regional Commissioner and her team, Njau highlighted the importance of effective awareness and promotion strategies to streamline the distribution process.

During the event, Njau reported that 86 percent of the intended 833,279 citizens in the Shinyanga Region, totaling 718,243 individuals, have already been successfully registered. He commended the support of President Samia's sixth phase government in facilitating NIDA's responsibilities.

Mndeme handed over the first batch of identification cards to District Commissioners, symbolizing the commencement of the distribution process. She issued instructions for the District Commissioners to oversee the seamless delivery of the identification cards to the intended recipients.

The Regional boss urged citizens who haven't registered yet to take advantage of the opportunity, emphasizing that national identification cards are the right of every Tanzanian. She expressed the government's commitment to ensuring that every citizen possesses a national identification card for convenient access to essential services.

Addressing potential concerns, Mndeme encouraged individuals who have lost their identification cards to visit NIDA offices for replacements. The government aims to efficiently distribute the cards, aligning with the earlier pledge to address the issuance of national identification cards.

This initiative follows a public notice by NIDA, urging residents to prepare for the receipt of their identification cards, with a 14-day deadline for collection from local government offices. Failure to collect within the



Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme speaks at the launch of the national identification card distribution drive. Photo: Adonis Byemelwa

stipulated time will necessitate a visit to the NIDA district office.

This development comes approximately three months after the government committed to resolving identification card issuance issues, with a target to ensure that all registered individuals receive their identification cards by March of the following year. Minister of Home Affairs, Hamad Masuni, assured that the required funds had been allocated for the production of 11 million cards.

Despite some challenges reported by local leaders regarding delays in distribution, NIDA remains committed to addressing concerns and ensuring a smooth process. The distribution plan began in five regions on October 12, 2023, followed by subsequent phases covering additional regions.

Every September 16, the world marks the International Day of Identity, a day aimed at emphasizing the importance of official identification for every individual. While not as widely celebrated, it aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16.9), envisioning universal access to official identification, including birth certificates, by 2030.

In Tanzania, the significance of this day is amplified by the historical absence of formal identification. Unlike some East African countries, such as Kenya, which maintained identification even post-colonialism, Tanzania lacked a robust system.

The establishment of the non-governmental organization ID4Africa in 2014 sought to address these challenges, with Tanzania hosting its inaugural meeting in 2015 under the National Identification Authority (NIDA).

Edson Guyai, the Director of ID Production at NIDA and Ambassador of ID4Africa emphasizes that identity's evolution transcends mere security goals; it has become a catalyst for economic, social, and political development. On the International Day of Identity, he distinguishes identity from identification cards, highlighting the power of a unique number for recognition without the need for a physical card.

Participating for the first time in commemorating this significant day, NIDA aims to educate Tanzanians about the importance of registering for legal identification. Their efforts align with modern technology requirements, emphasizing the protection of individuals' information and aiding service providers in verifying legitimacy and accuracy, thereby preventing fraud or crime.

The day also underscores the need for a unified identity system that can streamline processes across various sectors in the country. The National ID card is envisioned to serve multiple purposes, such as passport applications, opening bank accounts, obtaining visas, applying for driver's licenses, and more, without necessitating multiple identification cards.

Guyai explains that a single identity system will not only save costs for the government but also enhance operational efficiency, especially as Tanzania moves towards universal health coverage. NIDA, legally mandated to register, issue identification cards, and maintain personal information databases, faced challenges initially due to incomplete registrations and

verification processes.

Despite district offices being overwhelmed by a surge in registration towards the final days, Guyai attributes this to a lack of awareness about the importance of having identification. As of now, NIDA has registered around 24.1 million people, with approximately 67.5 percent having received identification cards. Notably, the absence of a physical card doesn't hinder individuals from accessing services.

Tanzania's leadership in technology-driven people registration has inspired neighboring countries. President Samia Suluhu Hassan's directive for inclusive registration from birth is applauded, and Guyai suggests amending the law to lower the registration age below 18.

Looking ahead, Tanzania is poised for digital identification without physical cards, integrating systems for seamless verification. NIDA explores advancements in registration technology, including facial and iris recognition, offering alternatives for those with damaged fingerprints.

Brenda Kileo, the ID Production Manager at NIDA, urges prompt registration, highlighting the multifaceted significance of NIDA identification cards. From SIM card registration to business/company registration, e-passport applications, healthcare access, and financial transactions, NIDA cards are pivotal in unlocking opportunities for Tanzanians.

Therefore, Tanzania's NIDA is not just distributing identification cards; it is forging a path to inclusive development, providing citizens with a universally recognized identity that opens doors to various services and opportunities. As the International Day of Identity gains significance, NIDA stands at the forefront, empowering Tanzanians for a brighter future.

100 years of radio in Africa: From propaganda to people's power

By A Special Correspondent

RADIO is thriving across Africa. Exact figures are difficult to come by because audience research differs across countries. But studies estimate radio listenership to be between 60 percent and 80 percent of the continent's 1.4 billion population.

In contrast to many western countries, where there has been a shift towards streaming and podcasts, traditional radio continues to be widely embraced in Africa. Because of poor literacy levels and uneven access to the internet and technological infrastructure, old-fashioned radio remains a reliable and inclusive medium.

This year's celebration of the 100-plus years of radio offers us an opportunity, as African media scholars, to reflect on the historical significance, cultural relevance, political power and social impact of the medium on the continent. We home in on examples from the regions we've studied to demonstrate this rich history.

Early years

The story of radio in Africa starts with its introduction to serve colonial interests. Cameroonian scholar Francis Nyamnjoh argues that as soon as it had established itself as a mass medium in the 1920s,

European states were quick to realise the part radio could play in realising their desire to swallow up weaker cultures around the globe.

Historians note that it also allowed Europeans in the colonies to connect to home, their culture and their languages.

In the early 1920s amateur radio enthusiasts had already begun tinkering with the technology. The first official broadcast seems to have been on 18 December 1923 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In east Africa, radio was first introduced in Kenya in 1927 and in west Africa to Sierra Leone in 1934.

UK media scholar Graham Mytton writes that the arrival of radio in west Africa's British colonies - The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast (now Ghana) and Nigeria - marked a turning point.

Until then radio had been broadcast by wireless transmission. When it was introduced in Sierra Leone, Ghana (1935) and Nigeria (1936), it was "via wired services - subscribers had loudspeakers (linked by wire to the radio station) installed in their homes to receive the service ... these were created with native African listeners in mind".

Then, in 1936, the British colonial administration decided to develop radio broadcasting throughout its African colonies.

Propaganda

Colonial powers such as the UK and France upped their radio transmission efforts after the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. The 1940s were marked by the introduction of indigenous language broadcasts by colonial powers wanting to influence public opinion and garner support for their war effort. While the British broadcast to Africa in some African languages, France broadcast only in French.



Mpho Molutsi from the Children's Radio Foundation during a live community broadcast in Johannesburg. Photo: AFP

This laid the groundwork for future developments. After the war, the British officially adopted a policy of extending broadcasting services across most of its African colonies.

In Kenya, for example, the first broadcast service for Africans began in 1953, transmitting in local languages during the state of emergency declared in 1952 to suppress the Mau Mau uprising.

Academics have argued that despite being designed mainly for propaganda, radio in Africa was always far more multifaceted and slippery than was intended by colonial powers.

It also offered the "ability to create new and sometimes unruly publics".

Resistance radio

The 1950s saw the expansion and transformation of radio in Africa. Radio stations across British, French and Belgian colonies rapidly increased as people under colonial rule increased their efforts to achieve independence.

In the mid-1950s the oldest liberation station in Africa, Radio Freedom, was established as an underground station in Zambia by South Africa's

resistance movement. It would air its first formal broadcast in 1963.

In Angola, radio expanded with the outbreak of war in 1961 between liberation movements and the Portuguese colonial state.

Liberation movements in neighbouring countries used radio for war reporting amid colonial censorship. For their part, colonial state radio fostered the emergence of local artists' music as part of their colonial propaganda.

Independence and state control

From the late 1940s to the early 1960s the number of radio-receiving sets increased fivefold, from 90 sets per thousand people in Africa to 450.

In some respects the 1960s was a golden era for African radio. A wave of independence movements birthed new nations as radio technology was becoming more affordable.

Many newly independent countries established national broadcasting services, like The Gambia in 1965. This expanded the reach of radio and the opportunity to embrace local languages, music and cultural program-

ming. In Nigeria, the Broadcasting Corporation expanded to cover the whole country.

But some newly independent countries that had inherited state-controlled broadcasting systems also censored content deemed critical or threatening, restricting freedom of expression.

With independence in Angola in 1975, for example, the new leaders saw radio as a tool for nation building, but tightened their grip after a coup attempt in 1977.

In many African countries, Angola included, post-colonial state control of radio continues. Zimbabwe's radio sector, for example, is thriving. But state control remains strong, with biased licensing for national radio and restrictive laws for community radio stations.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation was established in 1964 and still operates as a state broadcaster. Despite funding through public licence fees and advertising, it's perceived to promote government agendas.

Radio has also been used to promote nefarious political ends. The

1994 genocide in Rwanda stands as a painful example. The infamous Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines disseminated hate speech and incited violence against the Tutsi minority.

Private commercial stations

Over the last 40 years many African countries have liberalised their economies and their media regulations, issuing commercial and community radio licences.

In Ghana, for example, radio primarily served elite interests until the 1990s, when private ownership diversified the industry. By 2022, Ghana boasted 513 radio stations, ranging across public, commercial, community, campus and foreign broadcasts.

An essential development has been the emergence of indigenous language radio. This has produced culturally resonant content and prioritised community issues. But challenges persist. Some stations are affiliated with political or business interests and increased attacks on journalists pose risks to media freedom and diversity.

In recent decades, Kenya's radio landscape has transformed to over 200 stations. Private commercial stations now dominate, broadcasting in local languages.

In Mauritius, airwaves were liberalised in 2002, introducing private stations. Talk shows, especially in the Mauritian Creole language, have revolutionised radio. Private radio has expanded to digital platforms, engaging audiences through live streams and social media, creating both competition and sensationalist coverage.

Radio now

Digital convergence is reshaping radio consumption, blurring audience patterns.

This isn't happening uniformly across the continent. Digital platforms face challenges, such as the digital divide and economic inequality.

Radio's influence is likely to endure, with podcasts complementing rather than replacing traditional broadcasts. A 2022 survey across 34 African countries found radio was "overwhelmingly the most common source for news". This is a testament to its enduring influence and unique ability to connect with diverse audiences - even a century after its introduction.

West Bank Palestinians paying the price for Gaza war

By Alaa Daraghme and Eman Eriqat

KAMAL Karaja used to earn \$3,500 (£2,780; €3,250) a month working on construction sites in Israel - a good living for a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank.

But after the Hamas assault on Israel on 7 October, and the retaliatory Israeli air strikes and ground invasion of the Gaza Strip, his permit was cancelled. Israel cited "security concerns".

"I waited for the war to end but it's still on-going," says the 32-year-old, from the town of Deir Bzi, just outside Ramallah.

"I had to sell my car after a month due to money problems."

The Palestinian Authority (PA) says 200,000 workers are affected, mostly in the West Bank.

Kamal says his three-year-old daughter Zeina "notices that I'm not buying as much food and vegetables for the house as before".

"She asks me why I no longer buy her chocolate and crisps."

Hundreds of men in Kamal's town are sitting at home for the same reason - and the economy has ground to a halt.

After months of job-seeking, Kamal got two weeks' work on a construction site in the West Bank.

But his employer had to lay him off due to the worsening financial situation.

He has now started cutting down trees and selling firewood to local residents.

"Selling firewood is worth 2% of the salary I used to get from working in Israel," says Kamal.

Israeli checkpoints used to be crammed with Palestinian workers waiting to cross into Israel.

He did not receive any compensation from the authorities or his employer when his permit was cancelled.

Like many other Palestinian workers, he was employed without a contract.

Foreign worker campaign

Palestinians working in Israel and those working in Israeli settlements in the West Bank accounted for nearly one in five of all Palestinian workers before 7 October, according to official Palestinian figures.

Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank are considered illegal under international law, though



Kamal Karaja was working on a construction site in Israel before the war.

Israel disputes this.

The workers contributed \$3.2bn annually to the Palestinian economy, with most employed in construction.

While some Israeli business groups lobbied for Palestinian workers to be allowed back, the government has come up with a different plan.

It wants to replace Palestinian workers and plans to admit more than 60,000 workers from India, China, Moldova, Sri Lanka and Thailand this year.

The head of the Palestinian

General Federation of Trade Unions, Shaher Saad, has criticised Israel's decision.

"There were about 105,000 Palestinians working in construction in Israel," Saad told BBC Arabic, adding that they were all unemployed now.

"The agreements between Palestinian and Israeli unions force employers to pay compensation to workers due to the cessation of work.

"But the Israeli employers evade paying their dues and there is no law in Israel that forces them to do so."

Saad added that it would

be "unrealistic and difficult" to replace the expertise of Palestinian workers in the construction, agriculture, tourism and service sectors.

Electricity and water cuts Bassam Karaja (no relation), a Palestinian father-of-four from Ramallah, has also found himself forced into poverty after his work permit was cancelled.

He can no longer afford to pay his bills, so his electricity and water have been cut off.

"I was never late in paying the electricity and water company while I was work-

ing in Israel these past 10 years," says Bassam.

"But when I stopped working, they stopped their service."

He says the past four months have been the worst since the Covid pandemic, where he was at least able to work part-time.

Bassam accuses the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas, of neglecting workers, and says they could have provided financial aid or at least stopped the utility firms withdrawing their services.

Since the start of the war, the unemployment rate in the Palestinian territories has jumped from 23 percent to 47 percent.

The Palestinian economy has also contracted by 35%, according to Labour Minister Nasri Abu Jeish.

Jeish said the PA had asked donor countries and the International Labour Organisation for help but "they haven't heard back yet".

The Palestinian Authority was already suffering financially before the war, but now it is even worse. Israel collects tax revenues on behalf of the PA, worth about \$188m per month.

This money is used by the PA to pay civil servant salaries and fund public services in both Gaza and the West Bank.

As a sign of the growing crisis, the PA only paid staff their December salary a few days ago, at a reduced rate of 60 percent.

It's estimated that the PA spends about 30% of its budget in Gaza, even though Hamas has run the territory since 2007.

Israel said in November that it would not allow any money to go to Hamas in Gaza, stripping this funding out.

The PA refused to receive the reduced tax revenues from Israel, forcing it to cut salaries.

There seems to be no end in sight. "We thank God that we are still able to provide food and water to our families," says Kamal.

"The butcher understands my situation because he's a relative - but I can only last another month."

BBC

Online education is bridging job disparity in Bangladesh

By Abir Hossain

BANGLADESH'S tech start-up ecosystem is navigating through an era of unparalleled growth and innovation, underpinned by robust economic fundamentals, a tech-savvy youthful population, and proactive government policies.

The year 2023 has marked a significant stride in this journey, showcasing the resilience and dynamism of Bangladeshi start-ups amidst global economic uncertainties.

Economic milestones and the digital revolution

Bangladesh's GDP soaring with a commendable growth rate of 7.1 percent has not only underscored its economic vigour but also spotlighted the fertile ground for start-ups. A notable facet of this growth narrative is the digital revolution, driven by an expansive internet penetration rate of 75 percent among its 126 million internet users, laying the foundation for a burgeoning digital market place.

Reducing the job disparity is merely the first step that online education is taking. If it is allowed to fully take flight, then the potential of Bangladesh's workforce can be fully utilised.

Looking at inspirations

If we look at Silicon Valley in the United States of America or even at Bangalore in neighbouring India, we can see how tech start-ups can have a transformative impact on a nation's economy. The rise of tech start-ups in Silicon Valley and Bangalore has not just reshaped their local landscapes, but sent shockwaves through national and global economies.

At least in Bangalore, today, the tech industry reign supreme, creating jobs, attracting talent, and driving economic growth. Start-ups like Paytm and PhonePe have revolutionised financial inclusion, empowering millions and creating new markets for businesses, boosting the overall economy.

And Bangalore's impact extends beyond India. This thriving tech ecosystem has garnered international recognition, positioning India as a major player in the global tech landscape. This attracts foreign investment, fosters collaborations, and opens doors for Indian start-ups to enter the global market, further strengthening the Indian economy.

Youth demographics: A catalyst for innovation

The demographic dividend in Bangladesh, characterised by a me-



Despite the challenges that remain, online education has had a positive impact.

dian age of 28 and over 62 percent of the population under 35, epitomises the youthful energy fuelling the start-up ecosystem. This demographic configuration presents an immense market potential and a reservoir of innovative talent, ready to disrupt traditional business paradigms.

How the start-up ecosystem took shape

While the current boom seems sudden, the seeds of entrepreneurial spirit were sown long ago, with Bkash, the mobile financial service pioneer, emerging in 2010 and becoming Bangladesh's first "unicorn" by 2021. This early success story paved the way for others, gradually fostering a supportive community and sparking international interest.

The mid-2010s marked a turning point. Government initiatives like Start-up Bangladesh and the iDEA Project provided crucial support, offering funding, mentorship, and infrastructure. Local angel investors and accelerators sprung up, nurturing young ventures. Soon, Bangladeshi entrepreneurs were making their mark on diverse sectors, from e-commerce platforms like Chaldal to ride-hailing services like Pathao.

What was once a nascent ecosystem began attracting not just local funds but also the attention of international VCs. Impressed by the talent, market potential, and government support, they started pouring in investments. 2021 witnessed a tenfold increase from 2020, with a record \$415 million flow-

ing into ventures like Sheba.xyz (on-demand services), Mukto Apps (gaming), and ShopUp (e-commerce enablement).

This investment surge is driven by several factors. Bangladesh boasts a stable economy with impressive GDP growth, making it an attractive destination for investors. Its large, tech-savvy population presents a vast market for innovative solutions.

The government's commitment is evident in initiatives like Start-up Bangladesh and the Fund of Funds, fostering a conducive environment for entrepreneurs. Emerging success stories like Bkash and Chaldal have further bolstered investor confidence, showcasing the potential of the ecosystem. Additionally, the government is actively streamlining regulations, making it easier for start-ups to operate and attract investment.

Government initiatives: Fostering a start-up culture

The Bangladeshi government's instrumental role in nurturing the start-up ecosystem, through initiatives like the iDEA project and the establishment of a Fund of Funds, signifies a strategic move towards catalysing innovation and entrepreneurship. These initiatives are designed to provide a robust support system for start-ups, facilitating access to capital, mentorship, and a regulatory environment conducive to growth and scalability.

Infrastructure development: Enabling economic connectivity

The commitment to infrastructural development, as evidenced by mega projects like the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit system, is set to revolutionise the country's logistical and operational framework. These infrastructural undertakings not only enhance economic connectivity but also open new avenues for start-ups to innovate and expand.

Start-ups at the forefront of innovation

The start-up landscape in Bangladesh is rich with examples of innovation and entrepreneurial success. From Chaldal's revolution in online grocery shopping to Pathao's disruption in ride-sharing and logistics, these start-ups are testament to the ecosystem's capacity to nurture businesses that address local needs while achieving global standards.

Praava Health's innovative approach to healthcare delivery further exemplifies the sectoral diversity within the start-up ecosystem, underscoring the transformative impact of technology across various domains.

Financial inclusion through fintech

The fintech sector's explosion, exemplified by the success of bKash, has been pivotal in driving financial inclusion and digitising the economy. With over USD 615 million in funding since 2010, fintech start-ups are redefining banking and financial services for the unbanked population, leveraging mobile technology to broaden access to financial resources.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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Death toll rises to 7 in Malawi elephant relocation project

LILONGWE

FOUR more people have died after an elephant translocation overseen by two wildlife organisations, including one that was headed by Prince Harry, in a protected area in Malawi. The recent deaths bring the total fatalities connected to the relocated elephants to seven.

In July 2022, more than 250 elephants were moved from Liwonde national park in southern Malawi to the country's second-largest protected area, Kasungu, in a three-way operation between Malawi's national park service and two NGOs: the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw), and African Parks. Prince Harry was president of African Parks for six years, before being elevated to the board of directors from 2023.

The movement of elephants was among the largest of its kind ever attempted, the conservation groups said at the time. The groups used images of the 263 elephants being transported for fundraising, and videos of the huge animals being lifted by crane were described as "scenes reminiscent of the Disney classic Dumbo".

In the days after the translocation, however, two people were killed by elephants in the area the animals were moved to, and a third person was killed in September that year. Communities warned of growing problems with human-wildlife conflict with the African mammals, which frequently raid crops.

After the move, a community leader accused the wildlife NGOs of caring more about animals than people. An electric fence to protect people on the edge of the park had not been completed, he said, highlighting that the elephants had been moved from a protected area that already had a fence. Ifaw and the Malawian national park

service contest that this was a condition of the translocation. African Parks disputed that the movement of the elephants had been rushed.

Now, a further four people have been killed by elephants in Kasungu, bringing the total fatalities to seven, with areas of the fence still incomplete. The deaths have left several children orphaned and some families struggling to get by, the Guardian understands. Ifaw continued to raise funds using news of the translocation in 2023. The NGO said its Room to Roam initiative to protect elephants offered a solution to biodiversity loss and the climate crisis.

On the Malawian side of the park in June 2023, 31-year-old Masiye Phiri was killed and her two-year-old child was injured when they were charged by a bull elephant in a garden after a group had left the park boundaries. In August 2023, Jackson Banda was killed by an elephant, again after several elephants got out of the park. The next month, Boniface Nkhoma was attacked by elephants at night while walking on a road when the mammals had again gone beyond the park boundaries.

On the Zambian side, Andrew Phiri, 65, was killed by a bull elephant in September 2023. The Guardian was told by local sources of a fifth death but could not confirm details. Ifaw said it was aware of seven deaths since the elephants were translocated.

Malidadi Langa, chair of an association of villages near Kasungu national park on the Malawian side, who welcomed the elephant translocation as a boost to tourism, called for the creation of an insurance scheme to compensate affected families. He said elephant-human conflict was affecting some of the poorest and most marginalised families.

"Although, with hindsight, we wish things



An elephant is loaded into a truck at Liwonde national park ready to be translocated to Kasungu national park, Malawi

could have been done better to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of the translocation in elephant-human conflict, we now want to focus more on finding solutions," Langa said.

"Although good progress is being made on construction of the electric fence around Kasungu national park, such fencing needs to be embedded in policy and legal frameworks as a requirement, given that Malawi's protected areas are bounded by dense human settlements.

"We want the introduction of some form of a human-wildlife conflict insurance scheme to offset losses suffered by victims. This is against the background of our experience with the translocation to date and the reality that human-wildlife conflict is exacerbating inequality since it affects already poor and marginalised communities living in hard-to-reach areas on the edge of the park," he said.

Rangers help manoeuvre an elephant on to a truck using a crane at Liwonde national park, Malawi

In a statement, Ifaw said it was deeply saddened by each death or injury caused by elephants that have strayed from Kasungu. It said it works closely with the Malawian and Zambian governments to coordinate on human-wildlife conflict, and had been providing community support. It said 57 miles

of fencing near the park had been completed and an additional 25 miles would be finished in 2024.

"Ifaw operates within the policy and legal framework of the governments of Malawi and Zambia. It is the government's responsibility to deal with compensation in such matters, although there exists no such legal provision within the law of the two governments. Ifaw is bound to follow protocol in the management of these areas. However, Ifaw works with the governments to support the families tragically affected by human-elephant conflict by providing logistical and financial support - such as food, transport and coffins for the funerals of the deceased," it said.

Malawi's national park service said there had been a substantial reduction in human-wildlife conflict in areas where the fence had been built. It said more staff had been hired to safeguard the community from raiding elephants, and disputed that the initial translocation was not done safely or without respect for local communities.

African Parks, whose involvement with the translocation ended last year, did not publicly comment. It had previously published a lengthy response to media coverage in 2022. The prince was not involved in this translocation with African Parks.

Local knowledge and women's leadership are key to food justice - activists

By Tanka Dhakal, Kathmandu

MANJULA Dungdung is explaining why she is fighting for land and agricultural rights for herself and other members of the Kharia tribe, who grow the food they eat. "Women's right to land is especially important because it is an issue of our dignity, and since we are the ones who do most of the agricultural work, it is to maintain food security."

The Kharia tribe is a major Indigenous group in Odisha and a number of other states in India. For years they have been demanding land rights with the slogan, "our land is our Identity, our life."

Dungdung says she traveled from India to Kathmandu for this week's World Social Forum (WSF) because "we want a world where we get land rights and the right to grow food without any fear of losing it. People like us are the reason the world is able to eat every day."

Dungdung's words were echoed by Roma Malik, who is advocating for land and forest rights for Indigenous and Dalit communities in India. Ensuring women's land rights mean guaranteeing food rights for the whole family, she said during a session called Land, Water, Agriculture, Food Sovereignty, and Natural Resources. "Land rights for women and food security are directly connected. It can't happen if the land is not under women's control."

"She (woman) eats last," added Malik. "If there is no food, she makes do with an empty stomach. If she is producing her own food, she will ensure that everybody in the family eats."

Production up, nutrition down

Food security means not only having enough food but also having access to nutritious food. However, ignoring historical knowledge about agriculture and food to focus on the amount produced using commercial technology has resulted in grains that lack sufficient nutrition.

According to recent research published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the 40-plus years of the 'green revolution', which succeeded in increasing food grain production, also saw a decline in nutrition, along with a rise in harmful substances.

"What we eat is leading us to the hospital," Indian environmentalist Ashish Kothari told the session, Food Justice: Quest for Addressing Planetary Health and the Global Food Crisis.

Kothari is a founding member of Kalpavriksh, a non-profit organization in India dealing with environmental and development issues and their intersections. He emphasized that the multiple crises facing the world, including the climate crisis and ecological collapse, along with food insecurity, are all interconnected.

"Those facing the climate crisis are also experiencing food insecurity, and those in increasingly fascist countries are also grappling with malnutrition," he added. "We are not only witnessing the symptoms of the crisis but also its roots, and for a large part it is capitalism that has eroded societal values crucial for maintaining a sustainable food system."

In the same session, Frances Davies shared Africa's struggles with the privatization of seeds and other aspects of agriculture, which threatens food sovereignty. "We are trying to reclaim and revive indigenous knowledge systems



Sheelu, president of the Women's Collective, with member women farmers who are striving for food security through nature-based farming and crop diversification in Tamil Nadu.

about seeds, land and agriculture," said Davies, who works on food sovereignty in Africa through the Zambia Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity.

"If we want to achieve food sovereignty, we need to bring back diversity through people's knowledge."

Women are showing the way

The Women's Collective in Tamil Nadu state in southern India has been successful in creating a movement around reclaiming traditional seeds and food systems, in part by organizing rural women to promote collective farming through natural methods. "We started in 1994 with a focus on violence against women in rural areas," said Sheelu, presi-

dent of the collective.

"Soon, we realized that the majority of our members were agricultural labourers, and the cause of the violence was connected with food in one way or another."

The group then shifted its focus to farmers, especially women growers. "We have been able to reach more than 35,000 women farmers, out

of whom only 10 percent have land ownership," Sheelu said. "Over the years, we have educated them about natural farming and crop diversification, enabling us to revive traditional seeds, traditional agricultural systems and sustainable food practices."

Using the Women's Collective as an example, environmentalist Kothari outlines

potential solutions for food security by connecting culture, seeds, political systems and economics. "Education systems also play important roles to connect these aspects of food systems through introducing historical knowledge to the new generation," he added.

BoT economist reveals main determinants of policy rate

By Mnaku Mbani

The rate of inflation carries the large weigh in determining the Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) policy rate, which started to be applied since January 1, 2024, following the shift from money supply-based monetary policy (monetary targeting).

John Mero, Assistant manager, monetary policy analysis, BoT, revealed this recently during the financial and economic journalists' seminar held in Zanzibar.

According to Mero, inflation rate has 60 percent weigh in determining the central bank rate, which was set at 5.5 percent for Q1, with 2 percent up or down, followed by economic growth, with 30 percent weigh.

The remaining 10 percent will be depending on foreign exchange factor; although there will be no targets for forex.

The monetary targeting policy framework existed for almost three decades and succeeded in maintaining inflation below 5 percent and contributing to strong economic growth.

"The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be publishing the Central Bank Rate (CBR) which will mostly depend on the rate of inflation and economic growth projections," he accentuated.

Mero said the central bank came up with 5.5 percent of the policy rate depending on the current economic model, forecasts of both local and international economic



John Mero, assistant manager, monetary policy analysis, BoT

growth, inflation and 7 days interbank cash market rates.

On interbank cash market factor, the economist said the central bank uses a variety of monetary policy instruments to align the 7 days interbank rate with the CBR, while maintaining sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

"We used 7 days rate because it accounts for the largest share of interbank money market; it is close related to the central bank rate and is more stable than other durations in interbank cash market," he explained.

According to the BoT's Monthly Economic Review for January, transactions of 2-7 days continued to constitute the largest share of interbank money market,

accounting for 73.1 percent of total market turnover.

The review shows, the 2-7 day interest rate stood at 6.89 percent at the end of December last year, from 6.36 percent registered in the preceding month.

When asked on his opinion on the forecast of the next policy rate, which will be published during the start of the second quarter in April this year, the economist hopes on further stability, based on stable inflation and economic growth.

In its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement for January, the central bank said it expects gross domestic product to grow by 5.2 percent during the first quarter of this year.

The BoT also projects the 5.5

percent GDP growth in 2024, after an expansion of about 5.3 percent during the first three quarters of 2023.

"Growth is expected to be driven by public and private investment, reforms to improve business conditions, favorable weather, and a rebound in tourism," the BoT projected.

African Development Bank (AfDB) outlook shows the country's real GDP growth is projected to rise to 5.3 percent in 2023 and 6.3 percent in 2024, driven by the sustained recovery in tourism and gradual stability in supply and value chains.

According to the regional bank, Tanzania's inflation is projected to moderate to 4.0 percent in 2024 due to better agricultural performance.

The BoT review also shows, banks' lending rate sustained a downward path, partly explained by the decrease in credit risk in the banking sector.

The overall lending rates decreased to 15.34 percent from 15.38 percent in November 2023 and 16.06 percent in the corresponding period in 2022.

The negotiated lending rates remained almost unchanged at around 13 percent.

Earlier during the seminar, the assistant director, economic research and policy Dr Lusajo Mwanemwa noted that the stability of prices will depend on the correlation between monetary policy and fiscal policy.



Herman Kasekende, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania CEO & MD

StanChart calls on banks to consider climate financing

By Francis Kajubi

STANDARD Chartered Bank Tanzania has called upon players in the banking sector to make climate financing as top agenda in their operational strategies.

This was said during the sustainable climate finance forum held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, gathering players of the sector to have in-depth discussions on sustainable finance as well as identifying investment channels.

Addressing invited colleagues from the banking sector, Herman Kasekende, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania said the bank's purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through its unique diversity.

He said as for StanChart, climate finance can lead to generating inclusive communities.

The bank engages expertise in managing environmental, social and governance risks with ability to spot opportunities and structure solutions to maximise the positive impact potential of the financing.

"We have a distinctive approach to sustainability client engagement, with a cyclical model of climate risk assessment, environmental social and governance (ESG) advisory and the provision of appropriate sustainable finance and transition finance products," said Kasekende.

At the bank, he said, sustainability is a core component of its strategy, and one of four group strategic priorities.

This reflects the bank's commitment to supporting sustainable social and economic development through its business, operations and community.

He defended the United Nations as keen to see the world reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 to limit the worst effects of climate change.

This will require efforts from across stakeholder groups to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, nature positive and climate resilient economy.

"The bank is catalysing sustainable

finance and partnerships, aiming to provide USD300 billion in sustainable finance by 2030," said Kasekende.

Rished Bade, Commissioner of External Finance at the Ministry of Finance who graced the event as guest of honor said that climate change is a global challenge that is affecting socio-economic development of many countries including Tanzania.

"Climate change is causing higher temperatures, increased rainfall, frequent droughts, and floods that are impacting economic and social development."

This impact is affecting growth of various sectors like agriculture, tourism, energy, health, water sources, marine and coastal, forestry and livestock," said Bade.

According to him, the government has set guidelines instrumental in integrating climate change adaptation issues in respective sectoral policies, plans and programmes.

He underlined that fighting against climate change requires collaborative efforts from both private and public sectors. He commended Standard Chartered for leading the way in offering sustainable finance to support entities to run sustainable operations.

"I call upon other financial institutions to play their roles in fighting climate change," he said.

Standard Chartered aims to be a leader in sustainable finance across some of the world's most dynamic markets.

The bank has financial expertise, governance frameworks, innovative thanks to technology, and geographical reach to connect markets and activities to capital, where this is most needed.

The bank is, however, committed to accelerating the net zero transition by reducing emissions, with targets for carbon-intensive sectors.

The bank aims to reach net zero carbon emission in its own operations by 2025, and in its financing activity by 2050.

CRDB Bank Foundation partners others in boosting crops trading

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to support farmers and agricultural crop traders in Tanzania, CRDB Bank Foundation has signed a joint cooperation agreement with Tanzania Commission for Development of Co-operatives (TCDC), Tanzania Commodities Exchange (TMX) and the Warehouse Receipts Regulatory Board (WRRB).

Speaking at yesterday's signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, CRDB Bank Foundation managing director Tully Ester Mwambapa said the agriculture contribution to the economy is huge, as it employs large number of women and youths through crops farming, the segment of social group that is also given a priority by the foundation.

"Our intention is to promote financial inclusion, improve the lives of people, to support social welfare. In order to reach these objectives, CRDB Bank Foundation has been creating the implementation of different empowerment programmes including iMbeju, which has reached 125,000 women through giving seed capital amounting to 5bn/-," she said.

Mwambapa said the foundation will collaborate with any stakeholders targeting to economically emancipate youths and women by giving necessary support to build the national economy.

"This collaboration is targeting



CRDB Bank Foundation managing Director Tully Mwambapa (L), Cooperatives Registrar and Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) chief executive, Dr Benson Ndiege (2nd L), Warehouse Receipts Regulatory Board (WRRB) CEO Asangye Bangu (2nd R) and Tanzania Mercantile Exchange CEO Godfrey Malekano sign a cooperation agreement to support farmers and small entrepreneurs in agricultural sector in an event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

on agriculture sector, which employs 75 percent of Tanzanians and contribute nearly a third to the GDP, which ensure food security by more than 95 percent. At districts levels, we are expecting to reach 10 agricultural marketing associations by giving them finances of up to 30mn/- or more depending on their needs to enable them to grow their farming and entrepreneurship businesses," she said.

While CRDB Bank Foundation will also be involved with enhancing financial literacy to entrepreneurs, TCDC will coordinate the recruitment of cooperative unions, while WRRB and TMX will be involved with the storage of harvested crops and coordinate

crop trade respectively.

The TMX chief executive officer Godfrey Malekano said their main task will be ensuring farmers are getting good prices for their crops.

Since 2018 when TMX was established, various crops including sesame, pigeon peas, cashewnuts and livestock have been registered for trade and will soon incorporate minerals.

"The market is operating by using technology. Not necessarily the buyer and seller need to meet each other as the technology will do it all. For farmers from everywhere, they can sell their crops wherever they are. The competition is conducted transparently and farmers are getting good prices for their produces," Malekano

said.

He said TMX has reduced costs among farmers to transport their crops to the markets as they are now storing them to warehouses, where buyers are obtained.

On his side, the TCDC chief executive Dr Benson Ndiege said a total of 7,000 cooperative unions in Tanzania will benefit from the implementation of the signed partnership. The WRRB chief executive Asangye Bangu said this is the continuation of efforts to support farmers in the country.

"The power of each partner in this collaboration is huge and I am expecting that we are going to implement what we are agreed to ensure that Tanzanian farmers are benefiting," he said.

China central bank leaves key policy rate unchanged under shadow of Fed Reserve

SHANGHAI/SINGAPORE

China's central bank left a key policy rate unchanged as expected on Sunday when rolling over maturing medium-term loans, with uncertainties around the timing of an easing by the Federal Reserve limiting Beijing's room to manoeuvre on monetary policy.

Beijing is striking a delicate balancing act to support the economy at a time when signs of persistent deflationary pressure call for more stimulus measures. But any aggressive monetary movement risks reviving depreciation pressure on the Chinese currency and capital outflows.

With investors now pushing back the start of the Fed monetary easing to at least the middle of the year from March, following the latest US data, traders and analysts expect China could hold back rolling out imminent stimulus.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said it was keeping the rate on 500 billion yuan (\$69.51 billion) worth of one-year medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans to some financial institutions unchanged at 2.50 percent from the previous operation.

Sunday's operation was meant to "maintain banking system liquidity reasonably ample," the central bank said in an online statement. In a Reuters poll of 31 market watchers, 22,

or 71 percent, of all respondents expected the central bank to keep the borrowing cost of the one-year MLF loans unchanged on Feb. 18. With 499 billion yuan worth of MLF loans set to expire this month, the operation resulted a net 1 billion yuan fresh fund injection into the banking system.

Chang Wei Liang, FX & credit strategist at DBS, said the steady MLF rate comes as "policymakers' preference to anchor the yuan and limit negative rate differentials with the US dollar."

Still, some investors and market watchers have ramped up their bets of more monetary easing measures in coming months to support the world's second largest economy

after the central bank delivered a deep cut to bank reserves earlier this month.

The PBOC said in its latest monetary policy implementation report that it would keep policy flexible to boost domestic demand, while maintaining price stability.

"We continue to expect two rounds of rate cuts in Q1 and Q2, with 15 basis points each to both the open market operations (OMO) and MLF rates," Ting Lu, chief China economist at Nomura, said in a note ahead of the loan operation.

He added that the latest round of easing measures, including an earlier-than-expected reserve requirement ratio (RRR) cut, "failed to stabilise market sentiment".

The central bank-backed Financial News, reported on Sunday citing market watchers that the benchmark loan prime rate (LPR) could fall in coming days, with five-year tenor more likely to be reduced.

"Lowering five-year LPR will help stabilise confidence, promote investment and consumption, and also help support the stable and healthy developments of the real estate market," the newspaper said on its official WeChat account soon after the MLF rate decision.

Most new and outstanding loans in China are based on the one-year LPR, while the five-year rate influences the pricing of mortgages.

Food reserve agency attains record-breaking stocks level

By Guardian Reporter

The National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) attained the record breaking food stocks with 248,282 tonnes at the end of December last year, which has never been attained since its establishment.

Data by the agency shows the stock was an increase of more than 4,000 tonnes when compared to the stocks recorded in November 2023, and nearly double of the stock recorded during the start of the year, as well as about 16 percent higher than the stocks recorded in December 2021.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) monthly economic review for January 2023 indicates that the increase of NFRA food stocks on monthly basis was recorded after the acquisition of 4,059 tonnes of food stock during the month.

"This is the highest stock level over the



past five years, signifying the Government's commitment through NFRA to maintain food security in the country," the central bank said in its review.

During the reported period, the prices of selected food crops exhibited a var-

ied pattern, with decreases observed in maize, rice, round potatoes, and sorghum; and increases noted in the prices of beans, finger millet, and wheat.

Notwithstanding, the central bank says, a year-on-year analysis depicts an over-

all decline in prices of the selected food crops.

Data by the ministry of industry and trade show on annual basis, the wholesale price of maize, the main staple for both urban and rural slowed to 84,440.1/- per 100 kilogramme in December last year, compared to 112,598/- recorded in December 2022, while the wholesale price of rice was down to 262,780/- compared to 280,416/- respectively.

The report shows the wholesale price of beans also declined during the period of 12 months to 271,071/- at the end of last year, compared to 292,247/- recorded in December last year.

The price of sorghum 127,197/- at the end of December last year, compared to 135,081/- recorded a year before while the wholesale price of round potatoes closed at 84,618/- at the end of last year, compared to 93,981/- in December 2022.

Gold miner absorbs 40 fresh graduates for internship

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has launched an internship programme for 40 graduates from various colleges and universities in Tanzania, in demonstrating its commitment to the development of future employees.

The training, which will last for one year (2024/2025), covers various areas within the mine and disciplines, including apprenticeships, trades, mining experts and other areas established to develop the skills.

Speaking at the launch of the programme here over the weekend, GGML's Senior Vice President - Africa Business Unit, Terry Strong, said the training programme will give the interns an opportunity to gain work experience.

He said since 2009, a total of 258 graduates (including the current batch) from various higher education institutions have benefited.

"The target group consists of 41 percent female and 59



The 40 graduates from different universities and other higher learning institutions enrolled for the Geita Gold Mining Limited internship programme for 2024/2025 during the welcoming event at GGML. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

percent male graduates. Of the 258 graduates enrolled, 34 percent (87) were employed by GGML on permanent contracts in various positions within the company, while the remaining interns were employed on temporary contracts.

"GGML is committed to continuing the on-the-job training programme as an important recruit-

ment tool," he said.

The new interns are now taking the next step in their careers at GGML, having been promoted to an advanced graduate programme known as the ABU Graduate Programme, one of AGA's initiatives to accelerate graduates' career growth within the company.

Speaking during the event, the Geita Regional

Commissioner, Martine Shigella congratulated the group of graduates who are fortunate enough to be trained at GGML for 2024/2025.

"The act of getting this opportunity within GGML is not only a way to gain experience, but it is a springboard to fully realise your potential. Take on challenges, use your knowledge and let

your passion lead you to excellence," he said.

The Head of training and skills department, Albert Rukeisa, who spoke at the launch on behalf of the Director of the Tanzania Employers' Association (ATE), Suzanne Ndomba - Doran, congratulated GGML for said the learning opportunities for young people will be helping to increase

the number of mining professionals.

"At the same time I would like to give an opinion to these young people, the Swahili say "If you are caught, stick to it" Go and put in hard work, honesty, if you consider the safety and procedures of the mine and you will see the good of obedience and hard work in learning work," he said.

Diana Laswai, one of the students who graduated last year before being employed at GGML, urged the government to continue encouraging the private sector to provide on-the-job training.

Laswai urged those starting this year's training to work hard, maintain discipline and adhere to GGML's values of safety.

And Grace Msafiri, the new intern thanked GGML for giving them the opportunity and providing them with a friendly working environment.

She also promised to make use of the training by working hard so that she can go far and get job opportunities in different fields after the completion of the internship.



The main threat to dollar dominance is the US economy, economists warn

NEW YORK

Dollar dominance is here to stay - and the most dire threat to its status as the world's top reserve currency is actually the US economy itself, according to two economists.

Steven Kamin, a former director of the Fed's Division of International Finance, and Mark Sobel, a former Treasury Department economist, pointed to the dollar's long-running incumbency as the world's dominant currency in a new paper.

The dollar is the most widely used currency in the world in both trade and central bank reserves - and it will likely stay that way, Kamin and Sobel said, since the use of the greenback outpaces other currencies by such a wide margin.

The dollar accounted for one side of 88 percent of all daily global trade, according to the latest survey from the Bank of International Settlements. Meanwhile, it accounted for around 55 percent of all central bank reserves in the third quarter of 2023, far more than any other foreign currency, International Monetary Fund data shows.

Some commentators have warned a rival currency could soon displace the dollar. BRICS nations are already making efforts to phase the dollar out of trade, while countries like Russia and China have proposed creating a new currency to challenge the greenback.

But those threats are in fact pretty tame compared to the threat to the dollar stemming from the US itself, Kamin and Sobel warned, citing the risk of "severe deterioration" in the US's financial and economic situation.

"Given the political polarization of the country, the dysfunction of the US Congress, and the disinterest of politicians of all stripes in curbing the widening US budget deficit, this is hardly unthinkable," Kamin and Sobel said of the dollar's potential dethroning.

"And should the result be a sustained rise in inflation, crowding out of private investment, heightened financial volatility, and reduction in the dynamism of the US economy, then the loss of dollar dominance would be the least of our worries. And those of the rest of the world," the paper added.

Another risk stems from the fragmentation of global economies into separate blocs.

"In that case, global trade, productivity, and economic growth would likely be depressed, and implications for the international political and military stability would also be adverse."

Other economists have warned the US's precarious fiscal situation could risk the dollar's top-dog status in global markets. The federal budget deficit is on track to notch \$1.6 billion this year and \$2.6 trillion ten years from now, according to a projection from the Congressional Budget Office.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

Singida region has received 600 tonnes of subsidized sunflower seeds from Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA), which will be distributed to farmers to improve yields.

Speaking to the sunflower growers and stakeholders during the tailor-made forum for the official launching of the seeds distribution exercise over the weekend, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with ASA, Dr Sophia Kashenge 315 tons of the consignment is hybrid seeds.

"These seeds which have high yielding potential will be marketed to the farmers at indicative prices in order to help them heighten production and productivity," Dr Kashenge unveiled.

She urged the seed dealers to make sure they market the seeds at the set prices, and not otherwise, saying the government through the Ministry of agriculture has decided to subsidize the seeds in a crucial mission to help elevate production of crop, being with an eye to curtail shortage in availability of edible oil across the country.

On his side, speaking at the event, Deputy Agriculture Minister, David Silinde expressed that the government was working to ensure at least 5000tons of improved sunflower seeds are produced, informed that so far, a total of 2045 tons have been produced through ASA and other institutions in the private sector.

According to him, the seeds will be marketed to the farmers through subsidized prices in different

Sunflower farmers receive subsidised seeds in Singida



The Deputy Agriculture Minister David Silinde (3rd R) displays a sachet of the subsidized sunflower seeds for Singida farmers. Right is ASA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge and Singida Regional Commissioner Peter Serukamba. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

sunflower growing regions across the country to help increase production of the edible oil raw crop in this season.

"The government is working to overcome the existing shortage of edible oil in the country, that is why it is executing diverse initiatives, including a move to ensure the farmers are equipped with enough improved seeds, and at affordable prices," he

insisted. Peter Serukamba, the Singida regional commissioner (RC), for his side spoke over the need for the farmers to use the seeds effectively so as to heighten their production scope.

He hailed the government for initiating the subsidized seeds scheme, saying the development will result onto major improvements towards performance of the sub sector.

The minister detailed, the region with high potential for the cultivation of sunflowers was expecting to grow the crop at an area of 300,000 acres in this season, the impressive development which is projected to produce a total of 500,000 tons.

With the expected high tonnage production, the RC expressed high optimism over increase in the production of ed-

ible oil in the country.

Statistics show that Tanzania ranks 10th in the world for sunflower production, 2nd in Africa and 1st country in East Africa. In Tanzania, sunflowers are found to grow well in almost all regions, which is a prestigious economic opportunity for the country.

The Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP) indicates that sunflower is the most likely sub-sector to yield investable opportunities in Tanzania.

However, production of the crop which contributes to at least 68.9 percent of all edible oil produced in the country has remained low due to several factors, including challenges in availability of improved seed varieties with high oil content.

The country is currently producing only 290,000MT of edible oil, forcing it to annually import 420,000MT, and it is forecasted that demand would increase to 700,000MT by 2030.

Record US stock rally is under threat from a world in turmoil



NEW YORK

Investors and firms are flagging that the war in the Middle East poses a major risk for earnings as boycotts dampen sales and Red Sea shipping chaos threatens their supply chains.

Those headwinds pose a danger to the record rally in US stocks, according to a Bloomberg analysis of hundreds of earnings calls. By the halfway mark in the first quarter, the number of references to the Red Sea or "geopolitics" has almost matched the total for the previous three months.

Expectations for profits at S&P 500 companies for the next 12 months are at a record high, suggesting analysts are pricing in a blue-sky scenario with the US economy growing more than expected and the Federal Reserve cutting rates. Any major threat to earnings, or signs that inflation is returning, could impact the month-long rally which has sent the US benchmark to re-

cord highs.

Crude prices have already climbed this year in part due to fears the Israel-Hamas war could grow into a wider conflict. At the same time, container ships are being forced to avoid the Red Sea and Suez Canal after attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels as part of a campaign against Israel.

"The geopolitical backdrop is a risk," said Nicole Kornitzer, portfolio manager of the Buffalo International Fund at Kornitzer Capital Management Inc. "If the pressure continues for longer, this could weigh on corporate margins and be inflationary as costs are passed on through price increases. This kind of scenario is not in estimates."

From consumer goods companies, to social media, to freight firms, Bank of America Corp.'s latest fund manager survey also showed that investors see geopolitics as the second biggest risk to share prices after inflation, although the two dangers are connected - participants expect a

further escalation in the Red Sea or Middle East to add new price pressures higher oil and freight rates.

In Europe, alcoholic beverages producer Heineken NV said macro-economic and geopolitical developments will remain a factor of uncertainty that could impact its business. Adidas AG said tension in the Red Sea is leading to higher supply costs in the short term.

Tesla Inc. in January announced production suspensions at its German

plant, citing disruptions in supplies. Medical equipment supplier ResMed Inc. said it's seeing an impact on freight rates and lead times. Computer networking equipment giant Cisco Systems Inc. also said shipping rates have gone up. Chemicals company Albemarle Corp., tobacco firm Philip Morris International Inc. and rail services provider CSX Corp. are among S&P 500 firms also monitoring the situation in the Red Sea. Some firms have benefit-

ed from the situation. The Dutch firm Royal Vopak NV saw a rise in demand for its storage facilities due to the disruption in the Red Sea and uncertainty in the oil market. A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S had rallied in the lead up to its results, but disappointed after saying it expects renewed gloom in the industry later this year when the current boost to freight rates from the Red Sea conflict evaporates.

Meanwhile, many shoppers in the Middle East

as well as Muslim nations like Pakistan are shunning big foreign brands driven by anger against the US and Europe for not doing more to get Israel to end its offensive in Gaza. That's weighed on the earnings of major US businesses.

McDonald's Corp.'s sales missed investor expectations, hurt in part by the boycotts. It expects no meaningful improvement for the segment that includes the region until there's a resolution to the war, which also hit Starbucks Corp.'s results. Even Snap Inc. sees the conflict as a headwind.

The Israel-Hamas war continues to rage with no end in sight, and the Houthi continue to disrupt shipping in the Red Sea, even as the US and UK are targeting the militant group in Yemen and a multinational naval operation patrols the waters.

"Geopolitics is the tail risk which has the most short-term market impact," said Rajeev De Mello, a global macro portfolio manager at GAMA.

Ghana President appoints Dr Amin Adam to be new finance minister

ACCRA

The Minister of State at the Finance Ministry, Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam (pictured) has been nominated by President Akufo-Addo as the new Finance Minister.

He takes over from Ken Ofori-Atta who served in office for seven years.

The announcement was captured in the latest ministerial reshuffle by President Akufo-Addo.

Dr Amin Adam was in February 2023 appointed as the Minister of State at the Finance Ministry, after President Akufo-Addo asked Charles Adu Boahene to step aside following an investigation by Ace Investigative Journalist, Anas Aremeyaw Anas.

Dr. Mohammed Amin Adam is an Economist, Energy and Petroleum Policy Expert, and Resource Governance Advocate.

He holds a PhD in Energy and Petroleum Economics (2014) from the University of Dundee, Center for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy (CEPMLP), United Kingdom.

He obtained a Master of Philosophy Degree in Economics (2002), and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree in Economics (1998) both from the University of Cape Coast.

He has also studied various topics and received certificates from the Columbia University, Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment, in New York (Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development), EcoMod Modeling School, Washington D.C. (Computable General Equilibrium Modeling with GAMS), University of Texas at Austin, Centre for Energy Economics, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, USA (New Era Oil, Gas and Power Value Creation), Harvard University (Executive Leadership), and the International Academy of Leadership, Gummiesbach, Germany (Human and Civil Rights).

Dr. Adam has gained significant experience in political management and administration spanning over 25 years and held various responsibilities including as Mayor of Tamale, Deputy Northern Regional Minister, Deputy Finance Minister, and Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance.

He is currently the Member of Parliament for Karaga in the Northern Region; and served on the Finance Committee, Defence and Interior Committee and Roads and Transport Committee of Parliament.

He has been playing key roles in the Government of President Nana Akufo-Addo. At the Ministry of Finance, he is Chairman of the Budget Implementation Committee, Chairman of the Arrears Clearance Committee, Co-Chairman of the Economic Policy Coordination Committee; and Member of the Financial Stability Council.

Whilst serving as Deputy Minister for Energy, he was Chairman of the National Energy Transition Committee produced Ghana's Energy Transition Framework; and was Chairman of Gold for Oil Committee.

Dr. Adam was the Founder and Executive Director of the Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP).

Before then, he was the Africa Coordinator of the Africa Against Poverty Programme, IBIS Ghana; National Oil Coordinator at ISODEC, and provided various consulting services to many organizations including the World Bank, International Labour Organization (ILO), Africa Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), OXFAM, NREGI, PIAC and Ghana EITI among others.

He had Short Term Appointments with the World Bank on the Efficiency (Cost-Benefit Analysis) of projects funded with petroleum revenues in Ghana (October 2013 to July 2014), and on energizing Ghana's economic growth (18th October 2012 to 29th March 2013).

He also served as Strategic Advisor to STAR Ghana which managed Pooled funds from DFID, USAID, DANIDA and the EU (January 2014 to December 2014). He also served on the Board of private companies including the Board of ZOIL Oil Waste Services Limited (March 2015 to November 2016), and the Board of Weston Oil and Gas Fund (May 2014 to December 2016).

Dr. Adam is globally recognised for his expertise across varying subjects which earned him membership in global initiatives.

He was appointed as a Member of the Advisory Committee of the International Finance Corporation-World Bank Disclosure to Development Program (April 2018), a Member of the International Advisory Board of Open Contracting Partnership (August 2014), a Member of the International Advisory Board of the Natural Resources and Community Review (August 2014), Member of the International Group of Experts that designed "the Open Contracting Initiative", in Washington DC, facilitated by the World Bank Institute (2012); and Member of the International Group of Experts that designed "the Open Government Partnership" in Washington DC, facilitated by the State Department of the United States Government (2011).

He has provided advisory services to African countries among which are Kenya, Liberia, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

| Time | Program | Time | Program | Time | Program | Time | Program |
|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 11:00 | Art and Lifestyle | 17:00 | Music: The Base | 23:00 | Our Earth |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 11:15 | Habari za saa | 17:15 | Al Jazeera | 23:15 | Decor Rpt |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 11:30 | Mjuzi Zaidi | 17:30 | Al Jazeera | 23:30 | Capital Prime News |
| 7:00 | Habari | 11:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 17:45 | Al Jazeera | 23:45 | In good shape |
| 8:00 | Al Jazeera | 12:00 | Habari za saa | 18:00 | Al Jazeera | 24:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 9:00 | Watoto wetu | 12:15 | Art and Lifestyle | 18:15 | Al Jazeera | 24:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 10:05 | Shika Bamba 5 | 12:30 | Art and Lifestyle | 18:30 | Al Jazeera | 24:30 | DW |
| 10:35 | Mjuzi Zaidi rpt | 12:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 18:45 | Al Jazeera | 24:45 | Jagina rpt |
| 11:15 | Chetu ni chetu rpt | 13:00 | Meza Huru | 19:00 | Al Jazeera | 25:00 | Bundesliga Kick Off rpt |
| 11:50 | Hawavumi lakini wamo | 13:15 | Watoto Wetu | 19:15 | Al Jazeera | 25:15 | In good shape rpt |
| 12:50 | Art and Lifestyle | 13:30 | Music: The Base | 19:30 | Al Jazeera | 25:30 | Rev rpt |
| 13:20 | Shamba lulu | 13:45 | Al Jazeera | 19:45 | Al Jazeera | 25:45 | Tomorrow Today rpt |
| 13:50 | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 14:00 | Jiji Letu | 19:55 | Al Jazeera | 26:00 | Dw News Africa rpt |
| 14:15 | Mjuzi Zaidi | 14:15 | Igizo: Mizengwe | 20:00 | HABARI | 26:15 | Meza Huru rpt |
| 14:45 | Chetu ni chetu rpt | 14:30 | DW: Africaax | 20:10 | HABARI | 26:30 | Capchat live |
| 15:10 | Hawavumi lakini wamo | 14:45 | Art and Lifestyle | 20:20 | Kumekucha | 26:45 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides |
| 15:40 | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 15:00 | Art and Lifestyle | 20:30 | Kumekucha | 26:55 | Of Ana rpt |
| 16:10 | Igizo: Slay Queen | 15:15 | Habari za saa | 20:40 | Kumekucha | 27:10 | Al Jazeera |
| 16:40 | Shamsham za Pwani | 15:30 | Habari za saa | 20:50 | Kumekucha | 27:20 | Monday Agenda Rpt |
| 17:00 | Jiji Letu | 15:45 | Habari za saa | 21:00 | Kumekucha | 27:30 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides |
| 18:00 | Jiji Letu | 16:00 | Meza Huru | 21:10 | Kumekucha | 27:40 | Of Ana |
| 18:15 | ITV Top 10 rpt | 16:15 | Meza Huru | 21:20 | Kumekucha | 27:50 | Capital Prime News |
| 19:00 | Jungu kuu | 16:30 | Meza Huru | 21:30 | Kumekucha | 28:00 | Dw News Africa |
| 19:30 | Shika Bamba | 16:45 | Meza Huru | 21:40 | Kumekucha | 28:15 | Decor |
| 20:00 | Habari | 17:00 | Meza Huru | 21:50 | Kumekucha | 28:30 | Ripoti maalum |
| 21:05 | Igizo: Slay Queen | 17:15 | Meza Huru | 22:00 | Kumekucha | 28:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 21:40 | Art and Lifestyle | 17:30 | Meza Huru | 22:10 | Kumekucha | 29:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 22:10 | ITV Top 10 | 17:45 | Meza Huru | 22:20 | Kumekucha | 29:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 22:50 | Hawavumi lakini wamo | 18:00 | Meza Huru | 22:30 | Kumekucha | 29:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 23:40 | Soap: Uzalo rpt | 18:15 | Meza Huru | 22:40 | Kumekucha | 29:45 | Decor |
| 00:30 | Al Jazeera | 18:30 | Meza Huru | 22:50 | Kumekucha | 30:00 | Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides |
| 5:00 | Soap rpt: Uzalo | 18:45 | Meza Huru | 23:00 | Kumekucha | 30:15 | Of Ana |
| 5:30 | Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 19:00 | Meza Huru | 23:10 | Kumekucha | 30:30 | Capital Prime News |
| 6:00 | HABARI | 19:15 | Meza Huru | 23:20 | Kumekucha | 30:45 | Dw News Africa |
| 6:40 | Kumekucha | 19:30 | Meza Huru | 23:30 | Kumekucha | 31:00 | Decor |
| 7:00 | Habari | 19:45 | Meza Huru | 23:40 | Kumekucha | 31:15 | Ripoti maalum |
| 8:00 | Al Jazeera | 19:55 | Meza Huru | 23:50 | Kumekucha | 31:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 9:00 | Watoto Wetu | 20:00 | Meza Huru | 00:00 | Kumekucha | 31:45 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 10:00 | Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt | 20:15 | Meza Huru | 00:10 | Kumekucha | 32:00 | Tomorrow Today |
| 11:45 | Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt | 20:30 | Meza Huru | 00:20 | Kumekucha | 32:15 | Capchat rpt |
| 12:45 | Mjuzi Zaidi | 20:45 | Meza Huru | 00:30 | Kumekucha | 32:30 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 13:00 | Usafiri wako | 21:00 | Meza Huru | 00:40 | Kumekucha | 32:45 | Tomorrow Today |
| 14:00 | Tamasha la Michezo | 21:15 | Meza Huru | 00:50 | Kumekucha | 33:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 15:00 | Mwanga | 21:30 | Meza Huru | 01:00 | Kumekucha | 33:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 16:00 | ITV Top 10 rpt | 21:45 | Meza Huru | 01:10 | Kumekucha | 33:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 17:00 | The Decor rpt | 22:00 | Meza Huru | 01:20 | Kumekucha | 33:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 17:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 22:15 | Meza Huru | 01:30 | Kumekucha | 34:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 18:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 22:30 | Meza Huru | 01:40 | Kumekucha | 34:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 18:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 22:45 | Meza Huru | 01:50 | Kumekucha | 34:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 19:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 23:00 | Meza Huru | 02:00 | Kumekucha | 34:45 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 19:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 23:15 | Meza Huru | 02:10 | Kumekucha | 35:00 | Tomorrow Today |
| 20:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 23:30 | Meza Huru | 02:20 | Kumekucha | 35:15 | Capchat rpt |
| 20:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 23:45 | Meza Huru | 02:30 | Kumekucha | 35:30 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 21:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 24:00 | Meza Huru | 02:40 | Kumekucha | 35:45 | Tomorrow Today |
| 21:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 24:15 | Meza Huru | 02:50 | Kumekucha | 36:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 22:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 24:30 | Meza Huru | 03:00 | Kumekucha | 36:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 22:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 24:45 | Meza Huru | 03:10 | Kumekucha | 36:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 23:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 25:00 | Meza Huru | 03:20 | Kumekucha | 36:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 23:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 25:15 | Meza Huru | 03:30 | Kumekucha | 37:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 24:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 25:30 | Meza Huru | 03:40 | Kumekucha | 37:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 24:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 25:45 | Meza Huru | 03:50 | Kumekucha | 37:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 25:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 26:00 | Meza Huru | 04:00 | Kumekucha | 37:45 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 25:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 26:15 | Meza Huru | 04:10 | Kumekucha | 38:00 | Tomorrow Today |
| 26:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 26:30 | Meza Huru | 04:20 | Kumekucha | 38:15 | Capchat rpt |
| 26:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 26:45 | Meza Huru | 04:30 | Kumekucha | 38:30 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 27:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 27:00 | Meza Huru | 04:40 | Kumekucha | 38:45 | Tomorrow Today |
| 27:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 27:15 | Meza Huru | 04:50 | Kumekucha | 39:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 28:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 27:30 | Meza Huru | 05:00 | Kumekucha | 39:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 28:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 27:45 | Meza Huru | 05:10 | Kumekucha | 39:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 29:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 28:00 | Meza Huru | 05:20 | Kumekucha | 39:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 29:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 28:15 | Meza Huru | 05:30 | Kumekucha | 40:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 30:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 28:30 | Meza Huru | 05:40 | Kumekucha | 40:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 30:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 28:45 | Meza Huru | 05:50 | Kumekucha | 40:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 31:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 29:00 | Meza Huru | 06:00 | Kumekucha | 40:45 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 31:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 29:15 | Meza Huru | 06:10 | Kumekucha | 41:00 | Tomorrow Today |
| 32:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 29:30 | Meza Huru | 06:20 | Kumekucha | 41:15 | Capchat rpt |
| 32:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 29:45 | Meza Huru | 06:30 | Kumekucha | 41:30 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 33:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 30:00 | Meza Huru | 06:40 | Kumekucha | 41:45 | Tomorrow Today |
| 33:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 30:15 | Meza Huru | 06:50 | Kumekucha | 42:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 34:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 30:30 | Meza Huru | 07:00 | Kumekucha | 42:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 34:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 30:45 | Meza Huru | 07:10 | Kumekucha | 42:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 35:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 31:00 | Meza Huru | 07:20 | Kumekucha | 42:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 35:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 31:15 | Meza Huru | 07:30 | Kumekucha | 43:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 36:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 31:30 | Meza Huru | 07:40 | Kumekucha | 43:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 36:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 31:45 | Meza Huru | 07:50 | Kumekucha | 43:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 37:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 32:00 | Meza Huru | 08:00 | Kumekucha | 43:45 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 37:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 32:15 | Meza Huru | 08:10 | Kumekucha | 44:00 | Tomorrow Today |
| 38:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 32:30 | Meza Huru | 08:20 | Kumekucha | 44:15 | Capchat rpt |
| 38:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 32:45 | Meza Huru | 08:30 | Kumekucha | 44:30 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 39:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 33:00 | Meza Huru | 08:40 | Kumekucha | 44:45 | Tomorrow Today |
| 39:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 33:15 | Meza Huru | 08:50 | Kumekucha | 45:00 | Capchat rpt |
| 40:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 33:30 | Meza Huru | 09:00 | Kumekucha | 45:15 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 40:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 33:45 | Meza Huru | 09:10 | Kumekucha | 45:30 | Tomorrow Today |
| 41:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 34:00 | Meza Huru | 09:20 | Kumekucha | 45:45 | Capchat rpt |
| 41:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 34:15 | Meza Huru | 09:30 | Kumekucha | 46:00 | Sports Gazette rpt |
| 42:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 34:30 | Meza Huru | 09:40 | Kumekucha | 46:15 | Tomorrow Today |
| 42:30 | Meza Huru rpt | 34:45 | Meza Huru | 09:50 | Kumekucha | 46:30 | Capchat rpt |
| 43:00 | Meza Huru rpt | 35:00 | | | | | |

WORLD



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) meets Josep Borrell, high representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on the sidelines of the ongoing Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, on Friday. XINHUA

Wang: China ready to promote equal, multipolar world with EU

MUNICH

CHINA is ready to work with the European Union to promote an equal and orderly multipolar world, so that each country has its own place in the global multipolar system, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at a meeting with Josep Borrell, high representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on the sidelines of the ongoing Munich Security Conference.

Both China and the EU advocate multilateralism, Wang said, adding that China is willing to work with the EU to promote an inclusive economic globalization that delivers benefits for all, and make bigger the pie of cooperation so as to achieve common development and prosperity.

Noting that the international situation is undergoing changes with uncertainties and instability on the rise, Wang said China and the EU, as stabilizing forces in the world, should work together to tackle the challenges. He said the two sides have recently resumed exchanges at all levels and achieved positive results.

The two sides should respect

each other's core concerns, adhere to partnership and win-win cooperation as the keynote of their relations, and make good preparations for the next China-EU Summit, Wang said.

China and the EU should also give full play to the roles of their dialogue mechanisms in diverse fields including strategic, economic and trade, green and digital sectors, step up cooperation on tackling climate change and on artificial intelligence, create highlights in people-to-people exchanges, provide more convenience for personnel exchanges between the two sides, so as to continue pushing forward their comprehensive strategic partnership, he added.

Borrell described China's development as admirable and in line with the logic of history. EU-China relations have enjoyed sound development, and cooperation can and should be strengthened in spite of competition, he said.

Borrell said he supports the development of EU-China relations and their normal economic and trade exchanges, advocates the proper management of differences between the two sides, and opposes "decoupling" from China.

The EU will continue to adhere to the one-China policy, and is willing to strengthen coordination with China on multilateral affairs to jointly address climate change and other global challenges, he added.

The two sides also exchanged views on the Ukraine crisis and the Gaza conflict.

Xinhua

India sends second consignment of humanitarian assistance to Zambia amid cholera outbreak

NEW DELHI

INDIA on Saturday sent the second humanitarian aid to Zambia amid the ongoing cholera outbreak in the country.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the aid, weighing approximately 3.5 tonnes, comprises water purification supplies, chlorine tablets, and other things.

"India sends Humanitarian Assistance to Zambia in wake of the cholera outbreak. The aid weighing approx 3.5 tons comprises water purification supplies, chlorine tablets and ORS sachets. Was handed over today by our High Commissioner to the Government of Zambia," EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X.

India sent the first consignment of humanitarian aid on February 6 via a commercial cargo aircraft

to Zambia following the cholera outbreak in the country, as per the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The aid weighing approximately 3.5 tonnes comprised water purification supplies, chlorine tablets, and hydration in the form of ORS sachets, the MEA said.

Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) has said it will provide Euro one million in support to Zambia in response to the ongoing cholera epidemic, which is putting around 3.5 million people at risk.

The emergency funding will support humanitarian partners UNICEF and the WHO in their efforts to address immediate and critical needs related to health, water, hygiene, and sanitation, as per the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

ANI

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP, MICH./IRMO, SC.

DONALD Trump on Saturday lashed out at the New York judge who ruled he must pay \$354.9 million in penalties for fraudulently overstating his net worth to dupe lenders, telling thousands of supporters at a campaign rally the decision was an "election interference play."

Addressing supporters for the first time since Justice Arthur Engoron on Friday hit him with massive financial penalties, Trump made the

unsubstantiated claim that the judge was part of a "left wing" conspiracy aimed at stopping him from becoming president again. The former Republican president, the frontrunner for his party's White House nomination, told a crowd in Michigan that "these repulsive abuses of power are not just an attack on me, they are an attack on all Americans."

Trump also repeated his lie that his 2020 election defeat to Democratic US President Joe Biden was due to election fraud.

Engoron also banned

Trump slams \$355m fraud fine as election interference

Trump from serving as an officer or director of any New York corporation for three years. The judge said of Trump and his co-defendants: "Their complete lack of contrition and remorse borders on pathological."

New York Attorney General Letitia James had accused Trump and his family businesses of overstating his net worth by as much \$3.6 billion a year over a decade to fool bankers into giving him better loan terms.

Trump spoke shortly after Nikki Haley, his last remaining rival for the Republican presidential nomination, who held an event in South Carolina.

On Saturday morning, Haley wasted no time in going after Trump after Friday's ruling, which handed him another legal setback in a civil case that imperils his real estate empire.

Trump also faces four state and federal criminal trials, including one scheduled to start in New York on March 25,

over alleged hush money payments to a porn star. That means Trump will become the first former US president to stand trial on criminal charges.

Haley frequently says "chaos" follows Trump, and that he can't be an effective president or candidate because of his myriad legal problems.

"He's going to be in court March and April. He's going to be in court May and June. He said himself that he's going to be spending more time in a courtroom than he is on the campaign trail," Haley told Fox News.

Trump is close to clinching the Republican presidential nomination, and the prospect of a likely general election rematch with Biden, after recent nominating contest wins in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

Michigan is a key battleground state that could determine the outcome in November. This year Michigan Republicans are allocating their presidential delegates via both a primary on Feb 27 and a caucus on March 2.

Keen to generate momentum in the state, Trump urged his supporters to participate in the nominating contests. But Trump, who has sought to attack Biden's mental acuity and penchant for gaffes, relayed both correct and incorrect dates to the crowd.

Agencies

Xi sends congratulatory message to 37th AU summit

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a congratulatory message to the 37th African Union (AU) summit.

Xi (pictured) pointed out that the world today is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, and the Global South represented by China and Africa is booming, which has a profound impact on the course of world history.

The AU brings African countries together to seek strength through unity, and promote integration as well as the building of free trade areas, Xi said.

The AU's successful accession to the G20 has further en-



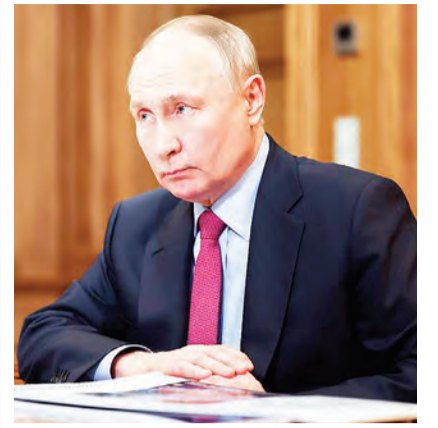
hanced Africa's representation and lifted its voice in global governance, and China extends heartfelt congratulations on that, he added.

The Chinese president stressed that over the past year, China-Africa relations have grown deeper. As the China-Africa Leaders' Dialogue was

successfully held, the two sides decided to support each other in exploring their modernization paths and jointly create a favorable environment for realizing their development visions, Xi added.

The new session of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is going to be held in 2024, Xi noted.

He said that he stands ready to work with leaders of African countries, with a focus on the benefits of people from both sides, to draw up a new blueprint for China-Africa cooperation and promote the joint building of a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future. Xinhua



Russia views Ukrainian issue as matter of life and death, Putin says

MOSCOW

THE situation around Ukraine is a matter of life and death for Russia, while the West doesn't care as much, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in comments on his interview with US journalist Tucker Carlson.

Putin (pictured) made the comments in an interview with All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company journalist Pavel Zarubin. The president said it was important to get across to the Russian and foreign viewers how much significance Russia attaches to "everything that happens in the Ukrainian direction."

"For them (the West - TASS) this is about improving their tactical position, but for us this is about our destiny, a matter of life and death. I wanted people that will listen to this [interview with Carlson] to realize that. It's not up to me to judge whether it hit the mark or not," Putin said.

The interview with Carlson was published overnight into February 9. A significant part of the two-hour conversation was devoted to the Ukrainian conflict and Russia's relations with the US, NATO and the West as a whole. The journalist previously said he had tried to conduct an interview with the Russian leader last year, but was banned from doing so by the US government. Agencies



For them (the West - TASS) this is about improving their tactical position, but for us this is about our destiny, a matter of life and death. I wanted people that will listen to this [interview with Carlson] to realize

37th African Union summit begins in Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA

THE 37th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly of the Heads of State and Government opened on Saturday, with a call to increase efforts to improve the state of education in Africa and fast-track the realization of Africa's development endeavors.

The two-day meeting, comprising African leaders from AU member states, is held under the AU's theme of the year for 2024, "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa" at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. As Africa puts a spotlight on education in 2024, the summit convened on how to enhance education and skills to meet the continental vision and market needs, and further deliberated on the progress, challenges and prospects of Africa's overall development.

Addressing the opening session, Azali Assoumani, president of the Comoros and chairperson of the AU, highlighted the crucial need for increased efforts to promote continental stability and development.



Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat delivers a speech during the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of the Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Saturday. XINHUA

"With particular interest in the promotion and preservation of peace and security on our dear continent, this shared security concern has guided all our activities during our term. The peacefulness of our continent remains the very basis of realizing our vision by 2063 for a united and prosperous Africa," Assoumani said.

Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat echoed the sentiment, as he underscored the need for AU member states to collectively tackle incessant challenges that are jeopardizing Africa's development aspirations.

"Our main challenges have not diminished in importance. Peace, political and institutional instability, climate change, deficits in economic governance, poverty, marginalization of women and youths

in development and leadership processes in our political and social system, remain our main sources of concern," Faki said.

The AU commission chief, however, said despite challenges, the African continent has made progress in various sectors, including continental integration, and boosting the African common position on the global arena, among others.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, on his part, underscored the need to realize strong regional and continental platforms, where national development challenges from geographical, logistics and security perspectives are taken into account.

He further called for advancing Africa's socio-economic and infrastructure integration to fast-track the realization of key development ambitions.

"Increasing infrastructure connectivity between our countries, by building roads, airports, and ports, rail networks, pipelines, and communication networks, will link communities, increase trade, and enable economic integration," Ahmed said.

As part of the two-day summit, African leaders are expected to deliberate on continental issues, ranging from regional peace and security to continental development, the reform of the AU, and Africa's increased presence on the international stage, as well as boosting the continent's socio-economic and infrastructure integration.

US-British coalition conducts fresh strikes in Yemen

SANAA

THE US-British military coalition conducted multiple strikes against Houthi targets in Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah on Saturday, Houthi-run Satellite TV Channel al-Masirah reported.

The strikes hit in and around the port city, including the area of Ras Issa in the district of al-Salif, northwest of the city, said the Houthi television without providing further details about any casualties.

The US-led coalition has made no comment yet on today's alleged strikes, but it issued a brief statement detailing the Houthi attack the day before.

Late on Friday, "four anti-ship



ballistic missiles launched from Iranian-backed Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the Red Sea. It is assessed that at least three missiles were launched toward the commercial vessel MT Pollux, a Panamanian-flagged, Denmark-owned, Panamanian-registered vessel. There were no reported injuries or damage

from MT Pollux or any other ship in the area," the US Central Command (CENTCOM) wrote on X.

The Houthis in their satellite television claimed responsibility for the missile attacks against the MT Pollux on Friday, describing the vessel as an "enemy British oil tanker."

Also on Friday, the US Depart-

ment of State announced the designation of Ansarallah, commonly referred to as the Houthis, as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist group" for their terrorist attacks and hijacking of international civilian commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since last November.

The Houthis said their attacks came in solidarity with Hamas, vowing to launch more attacks unless Israel stops its war in Gaza.

The armed Houthis have said the US-British airstrikes against their mobile missiles have "no impact" on the group's military capabilities and vowing to launch more.

Agencies

What to know about Israel's imminent Rafah assault and global opinion

JERUSALEM

OVER the past few weeks, Israel has signaled its intention to conduct a ground operation in Rafah, Gaza's southernmost town, to "eliminate" Hamas and rescue Israeli hostages.

The impending invasion has deeply concerned the international community. Several countries have spoken out against it, warning of a humanitarian catastrophe in the coastal enclave.

Since the onset of the latest escalation in the conflict between Israel and Hamas, Israel has been urging civilians in the Strip to evacuate to safe areas in southern Gaza, as its military operation began in the northern part of the Strip.

As a result, more than one million people, or more than half of Gaza's total population, poured into Rafah to seek shelter, most living in tents.

But Rafah could soon become a battlefield. Israeli army and special forces jointly raided Rafah on Monday morning and rescued two hostages who were abducted by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, which was seen as a rehearsal for ground invasion.

Israel has vowed to fight against Hamas until "all goals" -- eliminating Hamas, releasing all hostages and ensuring that Gaza doesn't pose a threat to Israel anymore -- are achieved. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced earlier this month that it's



People leave their home after Israeli bombings in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, on Feb. 13, 2024. Xinhua

impossible to achieve these goals "by leaving four Hamas battalions in Rafah," calling on the Israel Defense Forces and security agencies to formulate a plan for ground operations in Gaza's southernmost town.

Israel's Wartime Cabinet Minister Benny Gantz also warned on Friday that the fighting would continue during Ramadan -- the Islamic holy month of fasting, which starts on March 10 this year -- if the hostages are not returned.

Israel will keep in touch with Egypt, which borders Rafah, and other countries and

evacuate residents in Rafah before launching ground operations into the city, according to Gantz.

The international community has widely criticized the Israeli intention to invade Rafah. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned that "indiscriminate bombing of densely populated areas may amount to war crimes" under international humanitarian law. Regional countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, voiced deep concern over the potential invasion on

Monday. Egypt's State Information Service stressed in a statement on Friday that Egypt rejects any forced or voluntary displacement of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to its outside, especially to Egyptian territories.

A military action in Rafah "would worsen an already catastrophic humanitarian situation and prevent the urgently needed provision of basic services and humanitarian assistance," Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, said in a statement on Friday.

During a joint press conference on Friday with Jordanian King Abdullah II, French President Emmanuel Macron warned against a forced and massive displacement of the population, which would be another serious violation of international law and pose a significant risk for regional escalation. An Israeli military offensive in Rafah would be a "turning point" for the conflict in Gaza, said Macron.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who just visited Israel this week to push for a ceasefire in Gaza, said the enclave is on the "brink of collapse" due to the humanitarian situation.

People in Rafah "cannot simply vanish into thin air," she said. U.S. President Joe Biden, who had two phone calls with Netanyahu in the past week, told reporters on Friday that he had urged Netanyahu to protect civilians in the planned operation in Rafah while "hoping that the Israelis will not make any massive land invasion."

Xinhua

Shoigu tells Putin Avdeyevka is under full control – ministry

MOSCOW

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu has informed President Vladimir Putin that the town of Avdeyevka near Donetsk has been taken under full control, the Defense Ministry stated.

"Today in the Kremlin, Russian Defense Minister Army General Shoigu reported to the supreme commander-in-chief of the Russian Armed Forces that the Center grouping of forces under command of Col. Gen. Andrey Mordvichev has taken under full control the town of Avdeyevka of the Donetsk People's Republic, which was a massive fortified stronghold of Ukraine's armed forces," the ministry said.

"In the Kremlin today, Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu reported to the Supreme Commander-in-Chief Vladimir Putin the group of troops Center under the command of Colonel-General Andrey Mordvichev gained full control of the town of Avdeyevka, in the Donetsk People's Republic, which was a major stronghold of the Ukrainian military," the Defense Ministry said.

An area of 31.75 square kilometers has been liberated from Ukrainian nationalists. The enemy's losses in the fighting for Avdeyevka over the past 24 hours alone exceeded 1,500 men.

Under continued Russian fire only scattered groups of Ukrainian militants managed to escape, abandoning weapons and military equipment.

At present, measures are being taken to clear the town of militants and seal off Ukrainian forces that have fled the locality and entrenched themselves at the Avdeyevka coke and chemical plant, the Defense Ministry said.

The Ministry stressed that information about the advance of Russian troops was not made public until the complete defeat of the enemy and the establishment of full control of the locality.

"The liberation of Avdeyevka made it possible to push the frontline away from Donetsk, thus significantly securing it from terrorist strikes by the criminal Kiev regime.

The group of forces Center continues offensive operations to further liberate the Donetsk People's Republic from Ukrainian nationalists," it added.

Agencies



Jaishankar calls for a 'permanent fix' to Israel-Palestine conflict

MUNICH

CALLING Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7 an act of terrorism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that Israel should have been "very mindful" of civilian casualties in its response and emphasised its "obligation to observe international humanitarian law."

He outlined key dimensions of the Israel-Palestine conflict so as to have a long term and a permanent solution to the issue.

Speaking at a panel discussion at the ongoing Munich Security Conference alongside US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and German Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock, Jaishankar said, "Well, I don't have advice for my colleagues, though I particularly, I think all of us follow the enormous efforts which Tony (Antony Blinken) is putting in right now. But look, the way we look at it, there are different dimensions, different elements to this.

"Number one, we must be clear that what happened on October 7th was terrorism. No caveats, no justification, no explanation. It was terrorism. Number two, as Israel responds, it is important

that Israel should be, should have been very mindful of civilian casualties, that it has an obligation to observe international humanitarian law," he added.

He called the return of hostages "imperative" and emphasised the need for a humanitarian corridor to provide relief. Reiterating India's support for a two-state solution, Jaishankar said that many more nations in the world now feel that a two-state solution is necessary and more urgent than before.

Jaishankar said, "Number three, the return of hostages is today imperative. Number four, there is a need for a humanitarian corridor, a sustainable humanitarian corridor to provide relief. And eventually, there has to be a permanent fix, a long-term fix, otherwise, we're going to see a recurrence."

"And I think today, suddenly, India has long believed in a two-state solution; we have maintained that position for many decades. And I think many more countries in the world today feel not just that a two-state solution is necessary, but it is more urgent than it was before," he added.

In his remarks, Jaishankar stated that a large number of nations, particularly those in the Global



Munich [Germany], Feb 18 (ANI): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in an interaction with the Munich Young Leaders for 2024, in Munich on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

South, believe that terrorism shouldn't be justified. He said that these nations believe a two-state solution should not be delayed.

"I think a very large number of countries, especially those in the Global South, believe that terrorism shouldn't be countenanced or justified. But they equally strongly believe that a two-state solution should not be delayed. These are not choices. These are both musts. And unless we are able to address both these issues, we are not going to really solve the prob-

lem," EAM said.

Meanwhile, Blinken said the US is committed to Israel's security and supports the proposition that Israel has to find ways to ensure that whatever happened on October 7 "never happens again."

Speaking about US policy amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, Blinken said, "We're committed to Israel's security. That's been clear from day one. It remains clear. And we understand and support the proposition that Israel has to find ways to make sure that what hap-

pened on October 7th never happens again. But we've also said and not only said, we've acted on the proposition, that, of course, the way Israel does that matters profoundly."

"The way it does it in terms of trying to ensure greater protection for civilians who are caught in a crossfire of Hamas making. That's absolutely essential. Making sure that people in need get the assistance they need. We are working on this every single day.

ANI

UNDP: China's green energy transition inspires countries

DUBAI

CHINA'S green energy transitions will contribute to the global fight against climate change and inspire other countries toward green transition, said Achim Steiner, head of the United Nations Development Programme, in a recent interview with Xinhua.

In the interview during the 11th World Governments Summit recently held in Dubai, the UNDP administrator said China's development has been remarkable in so many respects, including poverty alleviation, and its investments in technology and the green transition.

"It is addressing some of the legacies of its rapid industrialization, the air pollution, and the cleaning up of water systems."

China has made major commitments that it would strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, noted Steiner.

"These transitions will enable China to be both a contributor to a global response to climate change, but also with its technologies and policies will help many other countries including



United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner speaks to reporters during a news conference, March 9, 2023 at UN headquarters. AP

many developing countries to pivot forward into a green transition strategy."

Also in the interview, Steiner highlighted China as the backbone of the international economic recovery. His assessment comes as the International Monetary Fund pro-

jects global growth to stay at 3.1 percent in 2024 and rise to 3.2 percent in 2025 while forecasting the Chinese economy to expand by 4.6 percent this year.

"The outlook on the global economy is in part also premised on China's own economic

development." He noted that although there are many factors influencing China's recovery in terms of GDP growth, the Chinese economy is looking positive at the moment and the UNDP remains optimistic that a recovery path is on its way.

UNDP works in about 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.

As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

"We see great potential for our future collaboration in China with the SDGs, including on the SDG innovation hubs that China is establishing and where we are collaborating."

Asked about his priorities for UNDP in 2024, Steiner said the challenge of climate change remains a centerpiece of UNDP's work.

The 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is planned to take place in Brazil between Nov 10 and 21, 2025. "We are today committed to working with countries across the world towards the Conference of the Parties next year in Brazil, when countries will present their new nationally determined contributions and national climate plans," he said.

Agencies

UN tribunal to close Rwanda office after genocide trials

KIGALI

THE International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) will close its field office in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, on Aug 31 after completing genocide trials, an official has said.

The tribunal's registrar, Abubacarr Tambadou, made this announcement in a statement on Friday following his visit to Rwanda, where he held talks with various senior government officials.

Set up by the UN Security Council in December 2010 to complete the remaining tasks of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the IRMCT has operated a field office in Kigali for about three decades.

Tambadou (pictured) said the office closure follows a decision by the Hague-based court to drop the case against prominent Rwanda genocide suspect Felicien Kabuga, who was deemed unfit to stand trial last year.

The mechanism, which was handling cases of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, no longer has any trials to conduct following the prosecutor's conclusion that two of the remaining men on the IRMCT's wanted list, Protais Mpiranya and Augustin Bizimana, were found to have died, he said.

"The closure of the field office does not mean disengagement with Rwanda as the mechanism will only change its approach to its



work," Tambadou said.

He added that the mechanism will continue its "mandated functions, such as witness protection, mainly from the Arusha branch of the Mechanism," while a small team of staff from the office of the prosecutor will remain in Rwanda to continue assisting national authorities, particularly in tracking fugitives.

Tambadou, who was in Rwanda from Feb 11 to 16, discussed the need for continued collaboration with various Rwandan senior government officials as well as representatives from IBUKA, an umbrella association of genocide survivor organizations in Rwanda. Xinhua

Government embarks on initiatives to increase income through sports tourism

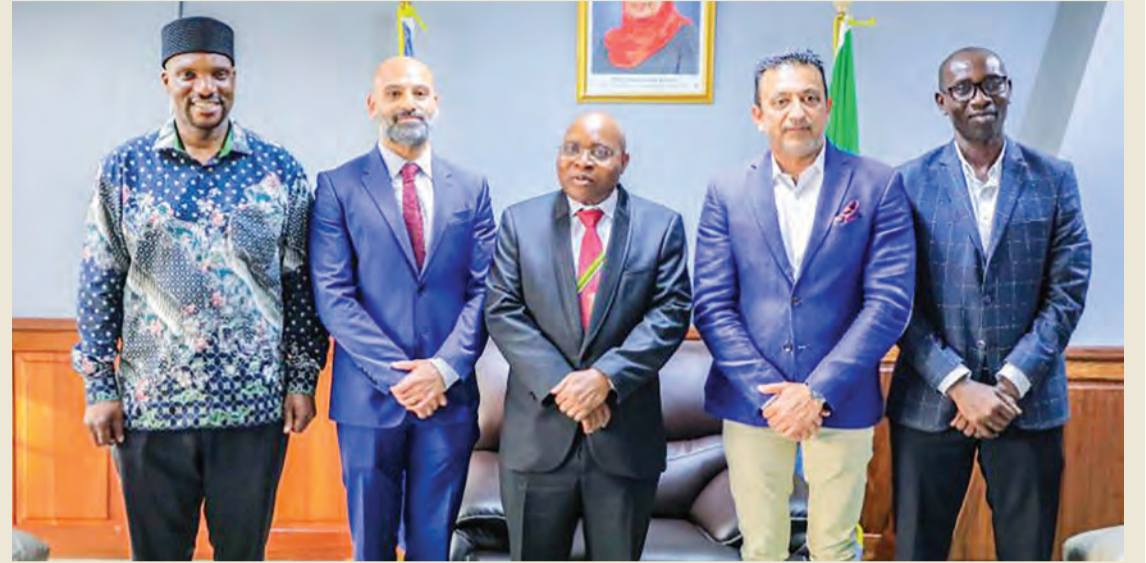
By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TOURISM earnings through sports in Tanzania are expected to increase in the near future, thanks to new initiatives taken by the government and the management of Chelsea Football Club from England.

Recently, two officials of the club, Carly Telford, who is the commercial manager, and Barnes Hempel, the head of global sales, travelled from London to Tanzania and met the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, and the Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, where they discussed the development of soccer and tourism in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the Chelsea coordinator in Tanzania, Mohammed Reza Saboor, said President Mwinyi was impressed with the visit and he was ready to see the development of soccer and tourism in the Isles.

Saboor said that Minister Ndumbaro heard the presentation from the officials and



The Minister for Culture, Arts and Sports Dr Damas Ndumbaro (C) poses in a group photo with an official of Chelsea Football Club Barnes Hempel (2nd L) and the coordinator of Chelsea Football Club in Tanzania, Mohammed Reza Saboor (2nd R). Others are officials from the ministry. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT.

also showed interest in inviting them for further discussion.

The coordinator said a lot of support is needed to develop soccer, particularly for youth, in Tanzania.

"Chelsea officials have shown interest in supporting youth sports talent so that they can play in major football clubs abroad," he said.

According to him, Tanzania has good football players who

can play abroad but they did not have enough exposure.

He said the discussion between the government and Chelsea officials to see more areas for support is still going on.

It is anticipated that the English football club will open academy in Mainland and Zanzibar, he said.

Chelsea is one of the big football clubs in the world with more than 500 million fans, so

the partnership between the two parties would help improve the economy of Tanzania.

Saboor said Tanzania will witness a flow of tourists (including Chelsea fans) hence an increase in foreign exchange earnings.

Apart from foreign exchange, their coming to Tanzania would help to construct more hotels, food hence creation of employment opportunities.



DStv Tanzania Head of Relations Johnson Mshana presents the gold medal to the winner of the national cross-country championship, Boyo Dawi, which was held recently at the Ilboru secondary school grounds in Arusha. Dawi will join his 12 fellow athletes who form the national athletics team for the world cross-country race that will be held on March 30, this year, in Belgrade, Serbia. Dawi clocked 28:36:80 minutes to win the race. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Miquissone closes in on regaining form

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Tanga

SIMBA SC's supporters in Tanga have expressed hope in witnessing the club's Mozambican midfielder Luis Miquissone (pictured), regaining his form and excelling for the outfit.

Some supporters disclosed it is a matter of time before the footballer makes a successful comeback as this season's first phase came to a close.

Miquissone's name is now echoing around the club's fans' ears, buzzing like a busy bee attempting to land on the scented flower.

There is nothing adventurous - as far as his stint at his outfit is concerned - except the brilliant form he once had gradually making its way back.

Some of the Msimbazi Street squad's enthusiasts have begun seeing the footballer as a player who will make them happy while accomplishing his duties on the pitch.

Miquissone rejoined Simba SC during the 2023/24 registration window from Saudi Arabian club, Abha, an outfit he was loaned to by Egyptian club Al Ahly which had signed the player from Simba SC.

Even though Simba was under pressure to bring Miquissone back in the 2023/24 registration period, the midfielder could hardly perform as well as was expected.

His first test came when Simba battled it out in this season's Community Shield mini-tournament held at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

The Msimbazi Street squad took on the top-four sides-long-time rivals,

Young Africans, Azam FC, and Singida Fountain Gate FC.

While the top-flight's previous season's winner, Young Africans, played against Azam FC in the mini tournament's first semi-final, Singida Fountain Gate FC locked horns with Simba in the second tie of the last-four stage.

The Community Shield mini-tournament was moreover a platform for the four teams to allow their respective new signings to showcase their performance.

Miquissone did not manage to show his club's fans what they had expected to see from him and a section of frustrated supporters aired their views, stating they were disappointed by the player.

Others nevertheless commended him, pointing out that he needs more time and he should engage in intensive training so he can improve his fitness and form.

The then head coach - Brazilian Roberto Oliveira - sought to calm disappointed fans by promising to prepare a special training program for the Mozambican midfielder so he could regain fitness.

It seems it is a matter of time, even though the current Simba head coach is mostly using the midfielder as a second-half substitute.

Miquissone has slowly begun showing the form that once made him one of the most respected footballers at the Msimbazi Street side.

The Mozambican midfielder stands to successfully regain his form soon, should he continue working hard on the pitch.



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila (front in black t-shirt) inspects the construction of the Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) stadium at Mwenge in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. PHOTO: JUMANNE JUMA

Simba now fully focused on Asec Mimosas after Mtibwa Sugar match postponement

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) recently announced a significant decision of the postponement of the highly anticipated Premier League clash between Simba and Mtibwa Sugar.

Originally slated to take place yesterday at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro, this fixture was rescheduled to accommodate Simba's pressing commitments in the CAF Champions League.

In a formal statement released by the TPLB, the board cited the need to grant Simba ample time for preparation ahead of their forthcoming encounter against ASEC Mimosas.

The rescheduling of the match underscores the paramount importance of Simba's upcoming CAF Champions League fixture. With ASEC Mimosas presently leading Group B with 10 points and Simba closely trailing with five, the impending clash holds profound implications for both teams.

Simba's position in the group standings places them in a precarious yet promising position, necessitating planning, and preparation to secure a favorable outcome that could pave their path to the quarter-finals.

For Simba, the Champions League campaign represents a golden opportunity to etch their

name in the annals of African footballing history. As one of the Tanzanian Premier League top clubs, Simba aspirations extend far beyond domestic glory, encompassing the lofty ambition of continental success.

The decision to postpone the match against Mtibwa Sugar underscores the unwavering commitment of both the TPLB and Simba to pursue excellence on the continental stage, recognizing the significance of preparation and strategic foresight in achieving their collective objectives.

As the countdown to their pivotal encounter against ASEC Mimosas intensifies, Simba find itself at a crucial juncture in their Champions League journey. With their fate hanging in the balance, every decision, and every maneuver assumes heightened significance, underscoring the need for planning and precise execution.

The rescheduled fixture against Mtibwa Sugar serves as a testament to Simba's unwavering commitment to success, symbolizing their willingness to sacrifice short-term gains for long-term glory on the continental stage.

The stakes are undeniably high for Simba, with their fate in the Champions League hanging in the balance. With ASEC Mimosas

looming large as formidable adversaries, Simba's quest for victory assumes an added layer of urgency and significance.

The rescheduled fixture against Mtibwa Sugar represents a crucial juncture in their journey, serving as a litmus test of their resolve and resilience in the face of adversity.

In addition to the strategic implications of the postponement, Simba's preparations have been further bolstered by the return of key defender Henock Inonga Baka.

Inonga's recent exploits with the DR Congo national team in the Afcon 2023 tournament in Ivory Coast showcased his experience and defensive acumen, underscoring his pivotal role within the Simba squad.

His return to training injects a palpable sense of optimism and confidence into the team, elevating their collective morale and fortifying their defensive resolve ahead of the Champions League showdown.

As Simba navigate the continental competition, their pursuit of Champions League glory remains undeterred. Armed with a squad brimming with talent, tenacity, and determination, the club stands poised to defy the odds and script a memorable chapter in their storied history.

In the crucible of competition, Simba's resolve is tested, their mettle forged anew with each passing challenge. As they brace themselves for the rigors of CAF Champions League football, the club's aspirations burn bright, fueled by a collective desire to etch their name in the annals of African footballing folklore.

Over the past six years, Simba have exhibited commendable performance in both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, consistently advancing to the quarter-finals.

However, amidst these achievements, there's a palpable sense of aspiration within the team, as well as among their supporters, for a deeper penetration into the tournaments.

It's widely acknowledged that the current juncture presents a pivotal opportunity for Simba to elevate their game, aiming not just for another quarter-final finish, but setting their sights on the elusive semi-finals and even the ultimate goal, the finals.

This season presents an opportunity to break through the glass ceiling and reach the semi-finals, or even the coveted final. With talent and determination, Simba have the potential to make history and cement themselves as one of the true giants of African football.



Arteta impressed by Arsenal's hunger in Burnley rout

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta saluted Arsenal's relentless drive as the Premier League title chasers crushed Burnley 5-0 to keep the pressure on leaders Liverpool.

Just hours after Liverpool won 4-1 at Brentford, Arteta's side ran riot at Turf Moor to make it five successive league wins.

The north Londoners are in second place, two points behind Liverpool as they chase a first Premier League crown since 2004.

Arsenal have been in ruthless mood since returning from a winter training camp in Dubai.

They thrashed Crystal Palace 5-0, won 2-1 at Nottingham Forest, beat Liverpool 3-1 and demolished West Ham 6-0 before putting lowly Burnley to the sword.

Martin Odegaard opening the scoring inside four minutes and Bukayo Saka's brace was complemented by Leandro Trossard and Kai Havertz strikes in the latest flexing of Arsenal's muscle in front of goal.

Arteta was delighted by his players' hunger as they refused to be sated by their recent dominance.

"Really happy with the performance, with the result and the individual and collective contribution of each player as well. That was very, very good," he said.

"And the fact that the team looked like it wanted more. It wasn't satisfied.

"They wanted to score more, they didn't want to concede a goal. I'm really pleased to hit that consistency."

Asked if Arsenal's clear superiority over their recent opponents was even more pleasing than their goal spree, Arteta said: "Yeah. We want to dominate games and play in the opponent's half as much as possible.

"I think the threat, the purpose, the activity and the connections of the players are flowing and they really want it. We have momentum now and we have to maintain it."

Arteta acknowledged the rout in Lancashire was the ideal preparation for Arsenal's return to Champions League action in the last 16 first leg at Porto on Wednesday.

"Now we leave the Premier League, we go to Porto which will be a really tough environment, so just prepare to play well again and be ourselves," he said.

Arsenal forward Saka has scored in four successive top-flight games for the first time in his career.

Despite only being 22, Arteta said Saka was already one of the most mature members of his squad.

AFP

Bundesliga stars want end to chocolate coins, marble protests

BERLIN

BUNDESLIGA stars on Saturday called for fans to stop throwing chocolate coins and marbles onto pitches in protest over a controversial investment deal in the German league.

Four of five matches played on Saturday afternoon were interrupted, with several delayed by close to half an hour.

"At some point, it's enough," said Borussia Dortmund captain Emre Can.

Dozens of matches have recently been delayed as spectators have lobbed tennis balls, chocolate coins and even marbles onto the playing surface.

Referees have even threatened to abandon games.

The protests are in response to a plan from the DFL, the association of German clubs which organises the Bundesliga, to sell off an eight percent share of future TV rights in exchange for capital injection to help market and promote the league internationally.

Speaking to reporters after a 1-1 draw at Wolfsburg in another heavily-delayed match, Can said the protests were taking their toll.

"We suffer a lot from it. It's not easy, you lose your rhythm," Can said. "At some point, it's enough. I hope it will end soon."

Dortmund manager Edin Terzic said "it would be too simple" to blame his side's result on the interruptions, but said "it doesn't help."

During the match, fans also threw tennis balls from the terraces.

Dortmund goalkeeper Gregor Kobel said "everyone had the right to stand up for something" but warned of the danger to players.

"I just have to be careful when marbles and rubber balls are thrown in my penalty area," he said. "You have to be careful with the marbles. It's a big disruption for me."

Dortmund striker Niclas Fuellkrug, who scored his side's only goal, told reporters "as a player, it's really difficult because of these constant interruptions."

"A solution needs to be found as soon as possible because it can't continue."

DFL managing director Steffen Merkel said the protests were in danger of going too far.

AFP

Salah scores in Liverpool return as Manchester City held by Chelsea

LONDON

MOHAMED Salah returned with a goal as Premier League leaders Liverpool routed Brentford 4-1 despite a rash of injuries, while Manchester City's title defence was damaged by a 1-1 draw against Chelsea on Saturday.

Arsenal demolished Burnley 5-0 to keep the pressure on Liverpool, who are two points above the second-placed Gunners and four-ahead of third placed City.

Salah came off the bench to replace the injured Diogo Jota in his first Liverpool appearance since their win over Newcastle on New Year's Day.

Having returned from the hamstring injury he sustained on Egypt duty at the Africa Cup of Nations, Salah made up for lost time with his first goal for the Reds since the Newcastle game.

The 31-year-old's 19th goal in all competitions this term put Liverpool on course for a sixth win in their last seven league games.

The much-maligned



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka scores his team's second goal from the penalty spot at Burnley. Agencies

Darwin Nunez had given Jurgen Klopp's side the lead with a sublime chip late in the first half at the Etihad Community Stadium.

Alexis Mac Allister doubled Liverpool's advantage after the interval with just his second goal this season.

Ivan Toney got one back for Brentford, but Cody Gakpo netted in the closing stages.

While the victory was valuable for Klopp, it came with a downside

as first-half injuries to Nunez, Jota and Curtis Jones added to Liverpool's increasingly packed treatment room.

"Mo played the first game for weeks. He could have had a hat-trick. The goal he scored was absolutely outstanding," Klopp said.

"It would be helpful if we had a bit more than one player for each position. But that's the situation and we cannot change it."

Manchester City's at-

tempt to win an unprecedented fourth successive title is under threat after a disappointing result at the Etihad Stadium. Chelsea took the lead in the 41st minute as former City winger Raheem Sterling took Nicolas Jackson's pass and curled his shot into the far corner from 12 yards.

City laid siege to the Chelsea goal and finally drew level in the 83rd minute when Rodri's shot deflected in off Trevoh Chalobah.

Premier League may have a blueprint for taming Man City - thanks to Chelsea

By Kieran Crichard

NONE has found a way yet to halt Manchester City's unbeaten run that stretches back 15 games, although Mauricio Pochettino seems to have developed an idea others may yet follow against the team who have won everything.

Pep Guardiola's players do not give up on any game and had they been granted five extra minutes on this occasion then maybe this would have become their 12th straight victory. By the end Chelsea were exhausted, five at the back, penned into their own final third and clinging by their fingernails to a point. Yet they created enough chances to score many more than the single goal for Raheem Sterling that nearly decided it.

Chelsea are still a brittle, inexperienced team for whom this was the first away performance of any note this season against one of the Premier League's big guns. Yet they may even have surprised themselves just how many chances passed them by - not just Sterling, but his replacement Christopher Nkunku and others that came through on the rapid transitions they managed.

For Pochettino it was a relief - proof this team can respond to his tactical preparation, which on this occasion was to take advantage of Guardiola's customary high-line, high-risk, high-energy approach. Pochettino said that falling back under the momentum of the City attacks is no option at all, even if that is inevitably where his players found

themselves for the final stages of the game.

"We know very well how Manchester City play - [even] more at the Etihad," Pochettino said. "And it is important [for them] to sustain the capacity to dominate. They force you to go deep. If you are not brave enough when you have the ball you [cannot] force them to run back, to make the effort - the second half is going to be a period where you cannot leave your own box or your own half."

That was how it ended, although Pochettino had some fine performances. Malo Gusto was outstanding at right-back against the running of Jeremy Doku, who came at the Chelsea defence over and over again. This was one of Axel Disasi's best days in a Chelsea shirt and Conor Gallagher, playing as a No 10 again, connected back with front in that promising first half. Nobody could stop Rodri slamming in an 82nd minute equaliser as the pressure became too great.

Guardiola may even have underestimated the pace at which Chelsea's attack connected in the first half, especially Cole Palmer, the former City academy boy, and Nicolas Jackson.

They created the goal for Sterling, who sold Kyle Walker a cheap feint to cut in on his right foot and finish with a shot across Ederson. This was Chelsea at their best, and for a while City wobbled.

Pochettino's side face Liverpool in the Carabao Cup final next Sunday with something of a spring in their



Pep Guardiola's side were held by Chelsea after missing several chances - AP

step: two away wins and a draw at the Etihad. They have a week clear to prepare while Jurgen Klopp's players toil at home to Luton Town on Wednesday, and faith has been renewed in Pochettino's tactical ingenuity.

Guardiola saw it a little differently, with his side, in his view, having handed the initiative to Chelsea and then obliged to wrestle it back. "We didn't perform at our level in the first half," he said. "When we play teams

with the composure and prestige of Chelsea you have to perform at your best for 95 minutes. We started to play after conceding the goal. We were not at our best.

"It can happen in transitions when you're not at your best you concede on transition, but after we reacted like we are and created a lot - a lot."

Of course, there were Erling Haaland's missed chances too, in particular a header from Kevin De Bruyne's cross on 78 minutes that

Pep Guardiola's men, who have a game in hand on Liverpool, preserved their long unbeaten home league run, but failing to win for the first time in 12 games in all competitions was a significant setback.

Frustrated by Erling Haaland's miscues, Guardiola said: "I played 11 years and scored 11 goals so I can't give too much advice to Erling. The next one he will score.

"In the first half we didn't perform well and that's what we have to improve."

- Rampant Arsenal -

At Turf Moor, Arsenal made it five consecutive wins with another display of their goal power.

Mikel Arteta's side have beaten Liverpool and won 6-0 at West Ham in their most notable results since a revitalising warm-weather training camp in Dubai.

And they were too hot for second-bottom Burnley to handle from the fourth minute when Martin Odegaard drilled home from Gabriel Martinelli's pass.

Bukayo Saka netted with a 41st-minute penalty awarded for Lorenz Assignon's foul on Lean-

dro Trossard.

Saka struck again two minutes after half-time, rifling into the top corner from Odegaard's pass as the England winger made it six goals in his last four games.

Trossard got the fourth from close range in the 66th minute and Kai Havertz converted Jakub Kiwior's pass with 12 minutes left.

"We are generating competition within the squad. They are a joy to work with. They want more, that's the good thing," Arteta said.

Tottenham's top four bid suffered a blow as Joao Gomes struck twice in Wolves' surprise 2-1 win in north London.

Aston Villa took advantage of Tottenham's stumble to climb back into fourth place with a 2-1 win at Fulham thanks to Ollie Watkins' brace.

Nottingham Forest beat West Ham 2-0 at the City Ground in a major boost to their survival hopes.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe avoided defeat against his former club Bournemouth in a 2-2 draw at St James' Park.

AFP

would ordinarily have been buried. Guardiola made a joke about his own scoring rate as a player - "one a season for 11 seasons, 11 goals" - to deflect it all. Yet even he must have been astonished that not one of these opportunities was taken.

The City playbook is, among other things, to blitz the opposition. Yet those who can stay on their feet, as Chelsea did, will be aware of the space behind their opposition's defence. This was an engrossing game in which Pochettino seemed to anticipate the space City would offer up for a bold attack.

Guardiola nominated Manuel Akanji as his defender to step into midfield while the team were in possession, and it meant the three-man defence left behind were stretched. City kept trying to gain control of the game's rhythm in the first half, but Chelsea never let them settle.

It was a risky strategy. Moises Caicedo was booked for a foul on De Bruyne on 35 minutes having escaped one ear-

lier for kicking Doku. Caicedo's subsequent foul on Rodri almost immediately after the second half started meant he was right on the edge for all the second half, but he got through it.

An absorbing second half was notable for the misses from Haaland and also those that fell to Chelsea's attackers. The game's most consistent attacking player was Doku - so dangerous on the left side and cutting in on his right foot that Pochettino reorganised his team to deal with the threat.

He took off Palmer - never the most determined when it comes to defensive duty - and replaced him with Trevoh Chalobah as the right-sided centre-half of three, which gave Chelsea five at the back. It was Chalobah's misfortune that his leg thrust out in the direction of Rodri's shot took it off at an unsavable angle for goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic. He likely would not have got there anyway. A winner proved just out of City's reach.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Salah scores in Liverpool return as Manchester City held by Chelsea

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Coastal Union's Ley Matampi leads race for clean sheet

By Guardian Correspondent

COASTAL Union's Ley Matampi leads the NBC Premier League's Golden Glove race on eight clean sheets.

The Congolese picked up a fourth consecutive clean sheet on Friday after 'Wagosi wa Kaya' saw out a 1-0 win against visitors Dodoma Jiji.

Matampi took his usual spot between the sticks at Mkwakwani Stadium but had a quiet shift, as Dodoma Jiji failed to register a shot on target throughout the match.

Meanwhile, Coastal Union put in a dominant performance to take all three points and move up to fourth in the league table.

Coastal Union's last three victories have been clinched via a 1-0 scoreline and Matampi is faring well in his bid to win the prize that is given at the end of the season to the goalkeeper with the most clean sheets.

The Coastal Union's No.1 now boasts the most clean sheets of all goalkeepers across the NBC Premier League and is two ahead of Young Africans' Djigui Diarra and Tanzania Prisons' Yona Amosi in second.

The former TP Mazembe and DR Congo national team shot stopper has kept eight clean sheets in 12 appearances for Wagosi wa Kaya.

He took the number one spot from Burundian international Justin Ndikumana, who moved to Mtibwa Sugar during the December-January transfer window.

Malian national team goalkeeper Diarra, who has won the Golden Gloves Award for two seasons in a row has six clean sheets in ten appearances for Young Africans.

On Saturday he picked his latest clean sheet in Young Africans's comprehensive 3-0 victory over KMC at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Wajelajela's Amosi has six clean sheets in 16 appearances this season. He has not picked a clean sheet in his last two games.

A clean sheet in football is a term used when a goalkeeper along with the other outfield players help a team not concede a single goal during the whole duration of a match.

Following the conclusion of the league every year, the goalkeeper with the most clean sheets is awarded the Premier League award.

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The former TP Mazembe and DR Congo national team shot stopper has kept eight clean sheets in 12 appearances for Wagosi wa Kaya

Coach Moallin: Lethal Yanga punished our mistakes



Young Africans midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki controls the ball while followed closely by his teammate Pacome Zouzoua and KMC players during their NBC Premier League match at Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro on Saturday. Young Africans won 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOUNG AFRICANS

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

KMC head coach Abdihamid Moallin analysed his sides' performance against a lethal Young Africans on Saturday.

Young Africans condemned KMC to a 3-0 defeat to extend their lead at the top of the NBC Premier League to seven points.

Moallin admitted that KMC lost the game due to errors at the back. Despite admitting to the mistakes they committed, he refused to give excuses and congratulated Young Africans for the victory while acknowledging how good they are.

"We are disappointed with the loss but Young Africans is a very good team and they punished us for the mistakes

we made. Unfortunately, in the first minute of the game we made some critical mistakes in the build-up.

"The same mistakes that we made in the first game, but I don't like to throw my

players under the bus so I will take the blame and will continue to work on the situation.

"It is difficult to play them. We are KMC, they are Young Africans, CAF Con-

federation Cup runners-up, champions of Tanzania for two seasons. They are in the CAF Champions League. You cannot compare KMC to Young Africans.

"My players are good, we

have a good team but we have a lot to work on. We were playing against a very strong team in Yanga.

"I think in the second half we did much better after the two goals," he said.

Moallin also said that concentration lapses rather than the build-up style cost KMC in the game.

He emphasized it is up to his players to learn from the concentration lapses.

"This is our identity, it is who we are. How many build-up situations did we receive in the game? Many.

"How many mistakes did we make? Maybe one or two but the mistake is not coming from a bad build-up but from a lapse of concentration by one or two players. The players have to learn.

"If I change the way we play because we concede one or two goals then do we have an identity or philosophy?

"This is who we are and we will continue to get better at it. We are in the top half of the table. This is only our fourth loss of the season. We came from relegation last season, we made big strides forward but we have a lot more to make forward," he said.

Simba boosted by the return of AFCON star Henock Inonga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

SIMBA welcomed Henock Inonga from his Africa Cup of Nations adventure with the defender having had long tournaments going until the final weekend.

Inonga was close to bringing a bronze medal back to Msimbazi Street with the defender's DR Congo falling against the South Africa team (Bafana Bafana) in the third-place playoff game.

The 30-year-old had a superb tournament with the DR Congo's Leopards though and can be proud of his input.

Inonga played in five out of seven of DR Congo's African Cup of Nations games and was an important member of Sébastien Serge Louis Desabre's squad - accumulating a total of 370 minutes.

He started four of the five matches that he played. During that time, the Simba man won 73% of his ground duels and 67% aerial duels. He made three tackles to win possession back for his team.

Inonga also read the game excellently, making five interceptions, 19 recoveries and was only dribbled past on two occasions.

He did not pick any caution in the tournament.

In total, Inonga missed seven games for Simba while representing his country in Ivory Coast.

Now after doing his part for DR Congo, Inonga will have to focus once again on the NBC Premier League, Federation Cup and CAF Champions League as Simba look ahead to an exciting run of games. Inonga participated in the af-



Henock Inonga (Agencies)

ternoon training with his teammates as part of the preparation for the crucial CAF Champions League group stage match against ASEC Mimosas to be played on Friday.

The return of Inonga, who forms the center-back partnership with Cameroonian import Che Malone Fondoh, means Simba now has a full squad.

The team resumed training on Saturday after a day off following a

1-0 win against JKT Tanzania on Thursday.

Simba face a mammoth challenge when they travel to West Africa to face group leaders ASEC Mimosas.

The Tanzanian representatives are second in Group B, one point ahead of Jwaneng Galaxy.

They need to avoid defeat in Abidjan and win their last home game against Jwaneng Galaxy to qualify for the quarter-final once again.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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For



TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kali Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michezo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SSPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports

The week's local and international sporting events as well as indepth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

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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

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