



'Work day and night rebuilding Dar bridges'

People took efforts to take out the water and went in to sleep, but things have gone wrong today as we have lost our house

By Guardian Reporters

MANAGERS of the Dar es Salaam zone of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) have been directed to ensure that work to restore communication along damaged roads and bridges is conducted day and night.

Victor Seff, the TARURA chief executive officer, issued this directive yesterday to the agency's manager for the city zone to oversee the work, as he inspected Tanganyika, Mbopo, Msumi and Goba bridges swept away by floods following the heavy rain which pounded the city at the weekend.

Numerous city residents were yesterday appealing for the government to provide urgent support after scores of houses collapsed due to flooding following overnight heavy rains.

Hassan Maulid, a resident at Kiburugwa in Mbagala suburb in Temeke District, was among occupants of well over 10 houses which collapsed leaving scores of people without shelter, having nowhere to go with their children.

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan congratulates Bishop Dr Alex Gehaz Malasusa (62) shortly after a special mass held during his installation at the Azania Front Cathedral in Dar es Salaam yesterday as Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo: State House

Samia graces ELCT big day

Expresses concerns at marriage disputes in court, rise in divorces among young marriages

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The Vatican awaits Samia next month

Arrives in Jakarta on Wednesday

By Carlos Banda

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to visit the Vatican, a city state within the confines of the Italian capital of Rome, mid next month.

January Makamba, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, told a press conference yesterday that the president will also pay official visits to Indonesia this week and Norway towards mid-February.

The president will be taking up a special invitation by Pope Francis, the head of the world Catholic Church, who is concomitantly the bishop of Rome and Vatican sovereign, he said, noting that the president will be in Vatican State on February 11 to 12.

The president's visit to the Vatican is expected to strengthen ties between Tanzania and the city state, set up in the wake of independence, with the Vatican traditionally concerned with advancing global peace and security.

The Vatican has been in the forefront to engage in peace efforts, as well as delivering education and health programmes in the country, with President Samia likely to discuss ways of advancing peace and security in the region, he said.

This invitation is an acknowledgement that Tanzania was an inspiration for peace and security regionally and its example is well regarded around the world, he said.

"The trip intends to solidify the bilateral relations between Tanzania and the Vatican," he said, recalling that in 2016, then President Dr John Magufuli, had issued an invitation to the pontiff but the visit never happened, elaborating that in turn, this year, the pope has invited President Samia for a state visit to the Vatican.

During the visit, the president will hold talks with Pope Francis as well as Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, he said, pointing out that the Vatican's cooperation has helped put up a total of 240 nursery schools, 147 primary schools, 245 secondary schools, 110 technical training colleges and five universities, all built by the Catholic Church.

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Suleiman embraces Stars head coach amidst Amrouche's suspension

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Dar sets up 2023 AFCON community watch parties for vaccination and HIV prevention



This scene was captured yesterday afternoon in a section of Dar es Salaam city's flood-prone Tegeta Nyaishozi suburb. The visibly hapless lone person around is wading through floodwaters, leaving business and residents building in search of safe ground. With little indication of the weather promising much mercy, one can only imagine the seriousness, keenness and swiftness with which the authorities concerned and residents of the area need to move to ensure the damage witnessed thus far does not degenerate into a far more pervasive and costly disaster. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

'EIA certificate mandatory for mining projects to start'

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'EIA certificate mandatory for mining project to start'

By Guardian Reporter

MINING sector investors must obtain an environmental impact assessment (EIA) certificate from the regulatory authorities before starting work on any project, the government has stated.

Dr Selemani Jafo, the Union and Environment state minister in the Vice President's Office, made this affirmation when inspecting gold mining activities at Zira River in Chunya District, Mbeya Region, reacting to reports that some investors proceed with mining activities before EIA is conducted.

He directed the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to conduct EIA in the small-scale mining activity around the river and specify what miners should do to protect the environment.

"Mining should take place outside the river and not inside as is the case at present because this contributes to the destruction of the river's environment," he emphasized, cautioning the miners to use alternative gold mining technology in the river to extract gold.

There needs to be guidelines for cleaning the river to avoid damage to its banks and the wider environment, he said, pointing at the need for investors in the sector, implicitly for improved mining technology and greater environmental protection capacity.

"That is why the government has opened doors for investments to grow the economy," he said, insisting that all investors must comply with the law on environment conservation.

Juma Homera, the regional commissioner said that Zira River is an important resource for the people of Mbeya, so the government will ensure that it is not polluted. If investors get the right technology, they can extract minerals without damage to the environment, in contrast with inferior technology being applied, at the expense of the environment, he affirmed.

He said that the government appreciates investors as their undertakings create revenues through taxes and levies, while creating jobs, especially for the youth.

Dr Thobias Mwesiga, the NEMC director of compliance and enforcement, said that steps to conduct EIA for the small scale investors are being pursued, to see how they can conduct the mining in ways that do not affect the environment.

While it is true that mining activities can be conducted anywhere, compliance with regulations is vital so that those activities do not harm the wider environment or impact on health of the surrounding communities.

"It is important to involve the people in all the stages of the EIA process to ensure that mining does not hinder other economic activities that communities depend on for their livelihoods.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa exchanges greetings with United Nations Secretary General António Guterres at the weekend shortly after talks on the sidelines of the 19th Non-Aligned Movement Summit held in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, with the PM representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: PMO

The Vatican awaits Samia next month

FROM PAGE 1

In the health sector, there are 473 health institutions ran by the Catholic Church, vastly helping to improve the health of individuals and reducing mortality rates.

President Samia will be on a state visit to Indone-

sia in Wednesday to Friday this week upon invitation by President Joko Widodo, expecting to strengthen ties and attract investments in agriculture, energy, mining, fishing, the blue economy, education and tourism, elevating security cooperation between the two countries, he said. Tanzania exports various goods to Indonesia including cotton, tobacco, groundnuts, coffee, tea and oil seeds, while Indonesia is presently investing in five projects taking up 6.5bn/- in agriculture, manufacturing and construction, he said.

Meanwhile the president

is expected to visit Norway by invitation of King Harald V of Norway, on February 13 and 14. It will be the first visit too Norway by a Tanzanian president since 1976, a visit expected to explore more opportunities of cooperation between the two countries, he added.

'Work day and night rebuilding Dar bridges'

FROM PAGE 1

"We have lived in this place for over 20 years," he said, pointing out that it is not a flood prone area, "but this year's rains are heavy. We have never experienced this situation," he said, explaining that when it pounded on Saturday, the house was filled with water.

"People took efforts to take out the water and went in to sleep, but things have gone wrong today as we have lost our house," he stated.

Many residents faced a hard time seeking to go out for their usual economic activities, as many streets and roads were impassable for most of yesterday, houses being filled with water and health experts fearing for the outbreak of contagious diseases.

Heavy rains that pounded the city of Dar es Salaam from early in the morning to mid-afternoon brought businesses and other activities to a near standstill in many parts of the city, damaging a number of houses, sweeping bridges and roads littered with pools of water.

A random survey conducted by this paper noticed some collapsed bridges and roads closed due to the floods, as usual starting with Morogoro Road at the Jangwani section near the city centre and Kawawa Road, the valley section o from Mkwajuni to the edges of Magomeni, sections of Mandela Road and Mwai Kibaki Road at Kunduchi bridge section.

City residents were demanding that the government comes up with immediate measures to address the flood challenges, with many people stranded in their houses, failing to pursue their routine businesses.

Agnes Mbaladi, a resident in Ununio area in the northern part of the city said that poor drainage ditches along most streets other than the roads causes the flooding as water is not channelled from the roads so it drains into houses.

"This is a very long challenge," she said, affirming that roads in Tegeta are not well built. There is weak infrastructure for draining the storms, she stated citing perennial complaints about this situation and little has been done, save on major roads. "Our houses are filled with water and we don't know what to do," she stated, despairingly.

Pilly Ayoub, a Tabata Matumbi resident in Ilala District said they have lost home properties swept away in floods, like television sets, mattresses, radios and other objects, for which people toiled for years to purchase.

Traffic Inspector Samson Nguno issued an advisory for motorists on what routes are safe to take as some roads were filled with rain water, impairing driving and hampering speed, apart from the broken infrastructures damaged by the gushing torrents of rain water.

Speaking on an FM radio station the traffic officer said that Morogoro Road at the Jangwani section was closed due to extreme volumes of water. No vehicles were passing there heading to the Fire and Rescue main station.

The roundabout to Kigogo, connecting with the upper side of Jangwani grounds was closed-off, leaving motorists from the northern part of the city with only the Kigogo junction heading to Msimbazi Centre in Ilala area.

Portions of the lower side of Mandela Road were filled with water, with only big vehicles capable of negotiating the route, where from the Chang'ombe traffic lights the best route was one leading to TAZARA, not straight into the city centre.

Portions of roads and connections were disrupted in various areas, with the traffic officer asserting that vehicle movement was difficult but traffic officers were present in many areas to cut down on traffic jams, enabling cars to e move safely "and until now, no accidents have been reported," he added.



PICKING UP THE PIECES: Residents of Dar es Salaam's Tegeta Machinjioni suburb collect bricks yesterday after hours of incessant heavy rain demolished their house at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Elizabeth Zaya

By Guardian Reporter

Samia graces ELCT big day

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan was yesterday the guest of honour at the intronisation of Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa in his new functions as presiding bishop for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), returning to the post for another stint after having led ELCT for nearly a decade earlier.

The president expressed concern over the sharp increase in marriage disputes and divorces, threatening the welfare of families and destabilising social harmony. She said that recent statistics show that the country has lately recorded a high number of family conflicts and divorces, many of them coming from young marriages, underscoring the need for people to rethink their ways and invest more in improving unity and empathy in families

The event held at the ELCT Azania Front Cathedral in Dar es Salaam was led by Bishop Dr Frederick Shoo whose term as presiding bishop had ended, while he remains head of the ELCT Northern Diocese, accompanied by bishops of the 28 ELCT dioceses.

President Samia said that in 2022/23, a total of 39,571 marriage disputes were recorded in courts, noting that this shows how the family unit is facing a big challenge, affirming that in the past six months a total of 28,773 marriage disputes have been registered.

Political leaders, institutional stakeholders and the public as a whole need to direct their efforts in protecting family unit, she emphasized, urging religious leaders to play their part in shaping public

views through regular homilies, work to fight domestic violence and moral decay among the youth.

The household monitoring report of 2022 conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics shows that over half of Tanzanians eligible to enter into marriage are not married, with a good number of youths in urban areas being single and not thinking of setting up families as a priority, the president affirmed.

Those who succeed to enter into marriages face a lot of challenges with many couples eventually separating, she said, underlining that family is a basic unit in the society, since without strong and peaceful families, there is no tranquil nation.

"So we need to put our efforts

to ensure that we build our families on good foundations which include taking good care of our children for them to have a positive view of life as they grow," she told the gathering, lamenting that acts of violence were on the increase due to lack of the right foundations for a family.

She decried moral decay among the youth, saying it is mostly caused by the misuse of smartphones, asking religious leaders to take a higher role in supervising youth morals now being destroyed by improper use of social media platforms.

She urged the public to fully participate in the local government elections late this year, to uphold their rights and promote democracy, asserting that the government

has worked hard to strengthen national unity and democracy, so there is a need for people to use the civic polls to strengthen the democratic renewal of leadership at local levels.

In his remarks, Bishop Dr Malasusa thanked President Samia for gracing the event and capable supervision of the government to bring about intended growth results, also thanking the bishops who supported his bid for office.

He vowed to work with the council of bishops and other assemblies for the development of the ELCT, urging the bishops to work for unity and pursuit of intended goals.

The church will maintain its striving for peace and fight moral decay facing youth in the country, the presiding bishop added.

Hanang mudslide: UN pledges disaster management support

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations has promised to support Tanzania strengthen its disaster management department to facilitate timely response during emergency, the government has said.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the statement at the weekend after he met UN Secretary General António Guterres in Kampala, Uganda on the sidelines of the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Heads of State and Government Summit and the 3rd G77+China summit.

According to him, the UN leader promised to support the department which is under the Prime Minister's office improve competencies to prepare, manage and respond better to disasters.

The premier said that in the talks with Guterres, they discussed the recent mudslide disaster that occurred in Hanang, Manyara Region in December last year and killed 89 people and injured 139 aside destroying 261 houses along with other infrastructure.

He also told the UN leader on how the national disaster committees worked hard to address the challenge.

"The UN Secretary General has promised to help Tanzania in this important area of responding to disasters, this will include capacitating staff with essential skills to manage calamities," he said.

Apart from disasters, the two leaders also talked on the issue of refugees whereby Guterres commended Tanzania for receiving and accommodating asylum seekers and refugees.

Majaliwa said that the leader promised to cooperate with Tanzania to repatriate refugees whose countries are currently peaceful for them to return.

He said that the UN will finance the repatriation exercises to enable the refugees integrate back home and stimulate economic development.

The PM further said that Guterres also commended Tanzania for participating in peace keeping efforts for various nations by providing its soldiers.



The UN Secretary General has promised to help Tanzania in this important area of responding to disasters, this will include capacitating staff with essential skills to manage calamities



Barrick Gold Corp president and CEO Dr Mark Bristow (in cap) pictured in Kahama town yesterday handing over to Tanzania Airports Authority acting director Hamisi Amiri documents on a Kahama Airport passenger arrivals and departures building shortly after it was launched. Second right is Transport ministry permanent secretary Prof Godius Kahyarara and second left is Shinyanga regional commissioner Christina Mndeme. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Barrick hands over passenger building at Kahama airstrip

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

COMPLETION of passenger building at Kahama airstrip in Shinyanga Region has paved the way for increased air travel in the Lake Zone.

Mark Bristow, Barrick Gold Corporation's president and chief executive made the remarks at the weekend when handing over the passenger building to Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Christina

Mndeme.

The airstrip has been built by the mining firm in collaboration with the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) at the tune of 896.7m/-.

The facility has the capacity of serving more than 200 passengers at a time, compared to only 25 passengers previously, and is expected to be a catalyst for economic growth in the region.

The building includes an arrival and departure terminal, VIP

lounge and meeting room, coffee and gift shop as well as amenities for people with disabilities.

Its construction started in March last year and completed on November 30, 2023 and was built by Umoja and Sons Ltd.

Speaking at the function, Bristow urged leaders to use the building to promote products produced in the region, including coffee to be used by passengers should be produced in the country.

He further urged leaders in the region to also use the building to advertise various types of food and business products produced by farmers.

He said that a total of 896.7m/- was used to build the passenger building, out of which 615.8m/- was provided by Barrick Buzwagi and 256.7m/- by TAA.

He asked authorities to improve the runway to tarmac level so that during the rainy season, aircraft can land take off easily.

According to him, Buzwagi Gold Mine was an economic powerhouse for Shinyanga Region for nearly 15 years and at its peak, the

firm was the second largest operating mine in Tanzania and employed more than 3,000 people. Its operational life came to an end in July 2021 and the mine was officially closed in July 2022.

Since then, Barrick has been attending to Buzwagi's environmental rehabilitation while also advancing its plans to transform the closed mine into a Special Economic Zone.

RC Mndeme commended the firm for using part of its income to build the building and asked TAA to take care of it as a memory of the mine.

Hamis Amiri, TAA acting director general said the authority is preparing to build a car parking area, Information and communications technology (ICT) systems as well as airport security monitoring systems as well as modern passenger and baggage screening systems.

Prof Godius Kahyarara, Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Transport said that the existence of the building makes Kahama airstrip a third C level, adding that they will increase its runway from 1.5 kilometers to two kilometers to ensure that Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) flights use it too.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



RFP No: TP/12/2023/ICB/CS/027

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND CONTRACTOR SUPERVISION FOR GANTRY EXPANSION

22 January, 2024

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a hospitality storage facility for bulk fuel with its share divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA (Based in Switzerland). The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot # 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. TIPER hereby invites, via International Competitive Bidding (ICB) experienced Mechanical consultants for provision of Consultancy services on Engineering Designs and Contractor Supervision for Gantry Expansion.
3. Interested and eligible bidders may request electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz by sending an application letter and copies of certifications company registration or a similar certification. from Monday to Friday at 08:00AM to 4:00PM between 22 January, 2024 to 16 February, 2023.
4. Bidders MUST visit the site. Site visit will be conducted on **Wednesday, 31 January, 2024 from 10:30hrs to 11:30hrs.**
5. Bidders are required to come with their own Personal Protective Equipment PPE's during the site visit. The minimum PPE requirement are steel toe safety boots, worker's helmet and cotton reflector vest / cotton over coat / cotton overall. Bidders who will not come with correct PPE's will not be allowed to enter onto site.
6. Bidders must submit hardcopies of bids (one original and one copy) respectively, enclosed and sealed in a single plain envelope marked Tender No: **TP/12/2023/ICB/CS/027 FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING DESIGNS AND CONTRACTOR SUPERVISION FOR GANTRY EXPANSION** Softcopies MUST be submitted in a **USB flash disk**. All bid documents shall be addressed and delivered to **Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd, P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.**
7. The deadline for submission of Tender documents will be **1600hrs local time Monday 19 February, 2024.**
8. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids will not be accepted or considered for evaluation.
9. Bids opening will be conducted in the presence of the TIPER tender committee only, formed by the company. There shall be NO public opening of bids
10. TIPER reserves the right to accept or reject any tender and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid.

Secretary Tender Committee
Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd
P.O Box 2608, Kigamboni Depot site-1 Dar es Salaam-Tanzania



WWF for a living planet

SUPPLY OF CAMERA TRAPS AND ITS ACCESSORIES

Introduction

World Wide Funds for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Country Office is an international non-governmental organization that is working to ensure that humans live in harmony with nature. In Tanzania, WWF performs various projects and programs in the priority landscapes i.e., Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT), Water Tower, Ruvuma landscapes, and RUMAKI Seascape. In programs and project execution, WWF works with various stakeholders i.e., governments at different tiers which include local, regional, and central, communities, private sectors, media and civil society organizations.

WWF Tanzania Country Office has received funding from WWF Italy to implement the projects in the SOKNOT landscape stretches from Lake Victoria to the Indian Ocean, the Southern Kenya - Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) transboundary area covers some 134,000 square kilometers. SOKNOT is famous for its wildlife, indigenous cultures, and the variety of internationally renowned and iconic conservation areas, including among others the famous national parks of Serengeti, Masai Mara, Mkomazi, Tsavo, Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro crater, two UNESCO world heritage sites (Serengeti, Kilimanjaro), one RAMSAR wetland (Lake Natron), one UNESCO Biosphere Reserve (Amboseli), important bird habitats (Lake Natron, Loita, Amboseli, West Kilimanjaro) as well as 39 communal conservancies and four Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

WWF Tanzania for **this tender**, aims at procuring camera traps and its accessories to facilitate wildlife census and monitoring of human-wildlife conflict incidents in **West Kilimanjaro and Mkomazi sub landscapes.**

WWF Tanzania invites eligible Tanzanian Suppliers registered by relevant Authorities/Bodies to bid for the tender.

Application Procedure & Submission of Applications

WWF TCO invites applications from competent, qualified and experienced bidder(s) through the following address:

Secretary, Procurement Committee
WWF Tanzania
Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252, Mikocheni
P. O. Box 63117, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077

All applicants should direct their electronic copy to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org

Interested applicants may access the Full Detailed Tender Document through the following website: https://www.wwf.or.tz/jobs_and_opportunities/consultancies_and_tenders/

All applications should reach us by or before 10:00am Tanzania local time on **Monday, 5th February 2024.**

WWF has a principle of zero-tolerance to fraud and corruption, if you encounter such incident, report by sending an email to fcci@wwftz.org

TCRA talks tough on unlicensed communications, data services

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has issued a stern warning to the public, urging strict compliance with regulations to deter unlicensed provision of communication services, including cyber security, internet services, and data centre facilities within the country.

Dr Jabiri Bakari, TCRA director general underscored the gravity of providing such services without a valid license issued by the regulatory body.

"This action is considered a direct infringement of Section 14 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act of 2010 (EPOCA) which explicitly prohibits individuals, institutions or companies from offering these services without the requisite licensing from TCRA," he said in a statement released in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

TCRA emphasized the importance of adhering to regulatory guidelines and laws, cautioning Tanzanians against utilizing communication services such as online security services, internet services and data storage facilities provided without necessary TCRA-issued licenses.

The authority declared its intention to take legal action against any individual, institution or company found in violation of regulations by providing communication services without license.

TCRA encourages the public to contribute to a regulated and lawful communication environment by refraining from engaging with

unlicensed service providers. This not only ensures the security of individuals but also supports TCRA's overarching mission to uphold the highest standards of communication services in the country.

"TCRA will continue overseeing compliance in the communications sector, and measures will be taken against any person, firm or company found providing unlicensed services in the United Republic of Tanzania," affirmed Bakari.

The regulator's warning categorically identified cyber security services, internet and data centre services as among those not to be offered to the public by any operator without acquiring license.

"The general public is reminded to avoid using communication services, including cyber security services, internet and data centre services provided by a person, firm, or company that does not hold a valid license issued by TCRA according to the law," reads the statement.

Joel Mwanakatwe, a communications stakeholder based in Dar es Salaam, supported TCRA's position, saying that the move signifies the regulator's intention to safeguard the interests of the public.

According to the Electronic and Postal Communications Act of 2010, the communications sector regulator is empowered with the authority to issue, extend and recall communications licenses as well as to enforce license conditions against service providers and bring to book whoever provides communications services without acquiring a valid license.



It's farewell time for Bank of Tanzania governor Emmanuel Tutuba (R) and TCB Bank CEO Bank Adam Mihayo shortly after talks at the BoT offices in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania lifts ban on soybeans import from Malawi

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

TANZANIA has lifted its ban on importation of soybeans from Malawi.

Prof Joseph Ndunguru, director general of the Arusha-based Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) has cleared soybeans imports from Malawi after the authorities were satisfied with results of thorough tests performed on samples taken from the crop.

The decision comes shortly after Malawi also okayed maize consignments from Tanzania to pass through its borders to Lilongwe.

Recently, Tanzania restricted consignments of maize and soybeans from its southern neighbour after it was suspected that such crop grown in Malawi was infected with 'tobacco ringspot virus' that could threaten beans and grains production in Tanzania.

The two neighboring countries, both members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), were recently at loggerheads regarding their respective exports and imports of farm produce across their borders.

In what was recently described to be a measure targeting to prevent the spread of a devastating maize disease, authorities at the Nkhata Bay Port District in Malawi withdrew over

40 tonnes of maize which was being transported to Malawi from Tanzania.

Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture through the Department Agricultural Research Services had previously raised an alert over Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN), a crop disease threatening crop yield in the southern African country.

The Ministry warned that MLN has no treatment and it is transmitted by planting maize grain with the virus

and it can cause 100 percent yield loss. Malawian authorities then went ahead and banned grain imports from Kenya and Tanzania.

Tanzania went ahead and banned the importation of soybeans and maize seeds from Malawi as authorities in Dar-es-salaam and scientists in Arusha said this was meant to protect the country from a number of suspected crop diseases and infections.

Although Malawi prevented maize

consignments from Tanzania, the country's Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs Charles Kalemba said they would however continue importing maize flour from Tanzania.

Kalemba pointed out that the grain flour from Tanzania will be used to feed 4.4 million Malawians who are facing acute food shortages, adding that milled maize was safer than actual seeds.

The Nature Conservancy

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) mission is to protect the lands and waters upon which all life depends. In Tanzania, TNC is working with different stakeholders to achieve community development through sustainable and equal fisheries resources management.

The fisheries resources management in Tanzania has been entirely operated and implemented by the government for many years until in the late 1990s where Co-management began in Tanzania under the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP) whereby community collaborate with the Government in managing fisheries resources through formation of a committee of fishers from each landing site, named Beach Management Units (BMUs) around the Mwanza Gulf.

Despite the establishment of BMUs several years ago and as co-management partners to assist the government to combat illegal fishing practices which threat sustainability of fisheries resources there are still unsettled matters which are not documented in the co-management guideline which tend to weaken the sector including but not limited to the following:

- Unclear alignment and flow of implementation of fisheries management between the two ministries (Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) and President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Tanzania (PO-RALG)).
- Unclear reporting system from the field point of view between officers from ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and PO-RALG
- Unclear roles, leadership, and limits of the MLF and PO-RALG fisheries officers on fisheries resources management.
- Unclear guidance on BMU/CCC support in prosecution of illegal fishers to court of justice.
- Unclear guidance on distribution of percentage of revenues collected by BMUs to their respective Districts.
- Unclear guidance on the role of BMU/CCC in protection, conservation of ornamental fish and how BMU/CCC benefit from their conservation.
- Unclear on how BMU/CCC benefit from ornamental and other fish they conserve and protect.

It is in this context that TNC is seeking a competent vendor to team up with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and PO-RALG experts to conduct the review of national fisheries resources co-management guidelines via stakeholders' engagement in four zones (Lake Tanganyika zone, Lake Victoria Zone, Lake Nyasa Zone, and Marine Water Zone).

Interested and technically vendors are encouraged to reach out to TNC to get the full request for proposal at e-mail: procurement.lake@tnc.org.

The deadline to submit proposals is set on **05th February 2024 at 10:00 am EAT.**

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Tanesco due to spend 14bn/- to stabilise electricity in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) in Dodoma Region has received 14bn/- to facilitate implementation of various works, including improving infrastructure to boost power availability and supply.

Donasiano Shamba, the company's regional manager, made the statement

yesterday at a meeting which brought together various leaders, including ward police officers and councillors to discuss its policies and projects implemented in the area.

He said the funds issued by the government will implement the set projects for this financial year.

The manager said the meeting also intended to clarify issues it customers face

as a result of damages in the electrical supply and distribution infrastructure.

Shamba said that a frequent power cut which Dodoma city experienced is also caused by inadequate infrastructure.

"In this fiscal year, the government has issued 14bn/- and out of that, six billion are for improving our infrastructure," he said.

He said Dodoma Region currently has no shortage of electricity due to the increased production at the 200-megawatt Zuzu station.

"At Zuzu we produce 200 megawatts of electricity while the demand in the Dodoma Region is 61 megawatts. So, with this amount, the current number of users in Dodoma should be twice as much. We therefore call on people to invest in industries so that this electricity can be used," he said.

Madega Dudu, the company's security officer, said that the damage to the power transmission infrastructure is one of the big challenges that the firm faces.

He added that copper wires, transformer oil, security equipment and the infrastructure for distributing power are all currently prone to theft.

"We request the public to share information about the individuals who have been damaging power infrastructure for the firm to take action," he said.

Dudu said that according to studies, stolen transformer oil is mixed with cooking and used to fry food in some parts of the country.

He added that a significant portion is also utilized to create mechanical lubricants while some people use it for cosmetics.



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
(EWURA)



PUBLIC NOTICE

(Issued under Section 126 of the Petroleum Act, Cap. 392 and Rule 4 (1&2b) of the Petroleum (Natural Gas) (Transmission and Distribution Activities) Rules, 2018

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that, EWURA has received an application from **Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC)** seeking Construction Approval for the construction of a 2.648km natural gas distribution line from BVS # 13 to the KEDA factory located at Kisiju, Mkuranga, Coast Region.

Any person who wishes to make any representations should do so in writing and submit to EWURA within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of the notice and the comments and representations shall be considered by the Authority in deciding on the application.

All representations or objections should be addressed to the address below.

EWURA House, 3 EWURA Street, 41104 Tambukareli
P.O Box 2857, Dodoma
Tel: +255-26 2329003-3; Fax: +255-26 2329005;
Toll-Free 0800110030
Email: info@ewura.go.tz Website: www.ewura.go.tz

Issued by:
Director General
EWURA

217794401

Study finds hazardous work environment for women in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

WOMEN and children operating as artisanal miners at the sprawling Mwakilyoto gold mines in Shinyanga District, Shinganga Region, are at risk of developing diseases for drinking dirty mixed with chemicals used for smelting minerals.

The women who are mostly accompanied by their young children also inhale chemicals used in mineral processing.

Joyce Igina, chairperson of Tanzania Women Chambers of Commerce (TWCC) in Shinyanga District, raised the alarm when presenting a report on the state of small-scale miners and their participation in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) which was held in Kahama town.

She said most of the children born in the area develop various diseases including cancer as early as five years, possibly due to frequent contact with chemicals and use of contaminated water.

Igina said the recent study conducted by TWCC revealed that 580 women in stone crushing business operate under harsh conditions with their children, some of whom have reached school going age but do not access the service.

“Young girls end up being impreg-

nated and put their lives at risk while giving birth because their bodies are not ready for labour,” she said.

She said TWCC in collaboration with small scale miners have managed to construct schools in the area but only few children attend the facilities while many stay by the side of their working mothers during school hours.

Kahama District Commissioner Mboni Mhita said women youth in artisanal mining subsector need to be educated on their safety and entrepreneurship.

“The young boys direct their hard-earned income into heavy drinking which affects their health,” she said.

Juliana Ngassa, one of the workers from Kishapu District, said will henceforth sensitize others on the need for being careful with chemicals and drinking water.



he young boys direct their hard-earned income into heavy drinking which affects their health



Tanzania Education Authority director general Dr Erasmus Kipasha browses documents shortly before addressing a TEA workers' council meeting in Morogoro municipality the weekend. He is flanked by Tanzania Higher Education Institutions Workers' representative Salma Fundi (R) and TEA Staff Council secretary Aidan Lucas. Photo Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Mobilise resources for school improvement, TEA employees told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

EMPLOYEES of Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) have been asked to mobilize resources to support various schools in the country.

The call was made at the weekend in Morogoro Region by the director general of the authority Dr Erasmus Kipasha when speaking to the mem-

bers of the authority's staff council.

He said that for TEA to achieve its goal of effectively implementing projects in various schools in the country, resource mobilisation must be given priority by every employee of the authority. Dr Kipasha commended the secretariat of the council for the good preparation of the meeting which he said was important for reviewing and

discussing various issues and implementation of the authority's activities.

“TEA was established by the Education Fund Act and the main responsibility of the fund is to mobilise financial resources from various education stakeholders to finance construction of education infrastructure. Every one of us is responsible for mobilising resources,” he said.

“Let's not think that implementation of this responsibility belongs to one person or one department within this authority.”

He said TEA is responsible for repairing and building the infrastructure in various schools in the country as part of supporting the government's efforts in providing quality education. He said that many schools in the country need

various services from the authority, including construction of improved toilets as well as addition of classrooms and desks so that pupils do not sit on the ground.

Dr Kipasha said that when pupils study in a good environment, they are in a better position to do well in their exams compared to when they study in challenging environment.

Since its establishment, TEA has been renovating the oldest schools in the country, building modern toilets in various schools as well as building water wells and adding new classrooms.

TEA also runs the Skills Development Fund (SDF) which has so far benefited more than 48,000 youth with various skills for employment and self-employment.

World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. TZA24EOI0010

Pre-Qualification of Suppliers for Goods and Services (2024-2025)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP Tanzania procures various goods and services for its operations.

WFP hereby invites qualified and competent suppliers duly registered in Tanzania with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to Supply goods and services to express their interest not later than **7 February 2024** by emailing to Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org, Subject: **EOI- TZA24EOI001: Pre-Qualification of suppliers for Goods and Services (2024-2025)**

The main categories of goods and services of interest are:

Categories under Provision of Services	Categories under Supply of Goods
1. Construction services including Civil works, electrical and mechanical works	1. Supply and Maintenance of Drones
2. Drilling of Boreholes	2. Supply and distribution of Fuel
3. Supply and installation of Solar systems	3. Supply of office furniture, fittings and fixtures
4. Supply, Installation, testing, and commissioning of Irrigation systems	4. Supply of branded/visibility items
5. Provision of Photography, Videography, and Graphic design services	5. Supply of warehouse equipment, fixtures, tools, and accessories (stitching machines, digital measuring devices, weighing scales, plastic sheets, pallets, fumigation sheets, etc)
6. Provision of Professional Translation services	6. Supply of Information technology and communication equipment and accessories (laptops, printers, UPS, scanners, cameras, IT accessories etc)
7. Printing Services of assorted materials, visibility materials	7. Supply of Electrical Appliances and accessories
8. Consultancy services for project/programme research, Assessments, monitoring, and evaluation	
9. Consultancy services for Human resources capacity building/training services	
10. Events management services (e.g professional master of ceremony (MC), venue management	
11. Provision of Catering services in Zanzibar	

WFP shall send to all applicants who express their interest an Expression of interest letter that details the i) purpose of the EOI; ii) how to prepare and submit your EOI and iii) the EOI Form. To participate in the prequalification exercise, interested applicants must complete and return to the email address: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org all duly completed forms and supporting documents by 14 February 2024, 12 hours East Africa time.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org

Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

“WFP encourages suppliers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive supplier is a supplier that makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Suppliers can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as, for instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive.”

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.

WFP Tanzania

World Food Programme

Programme Alimentaire Mondial

Programa Mundial de Alimentos

برنامج الأغذية العالمي

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) No. TZA24EOI002

Pre-Qualification of Suppliers for Food Commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) 2024-2025 as per East African Standards

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year, on average, WFP feeds more than 90 million people and it is present in 81 countries. WFP Tanzania procures various food commodities for its operations.

WFP hereby invites qualified and competent suppliers duly registered in Tanzania with the relevant authorities and have legal authorization to Supply Food commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) to express their interest not later than **7 February 2024** by emailing to Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org, Subject: **(EOI) No. TZA24EOI002 Pre-Qualification of suppliers for Food commodities (Cereals, Pulses, and Salt) 2024- 2025 as per East African Standards**

WFP shall send to all applicants who express their interest an Expression of interest letter that details the i) purpose of the EOI; ii) how to prepare and submit your EOI and iii) the Supplier profile form. To participate in the prequalification exercise, interested applicants must complete and return to the email address: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org all duly completed supplier profile forms and supporting documents by 14 February 2024, 12hrs East Africa Time.

All requests for clarifications and questions strictly relating to this invitation should be sent via e-mail to: Tanzania.VendorManagement@wfp.org

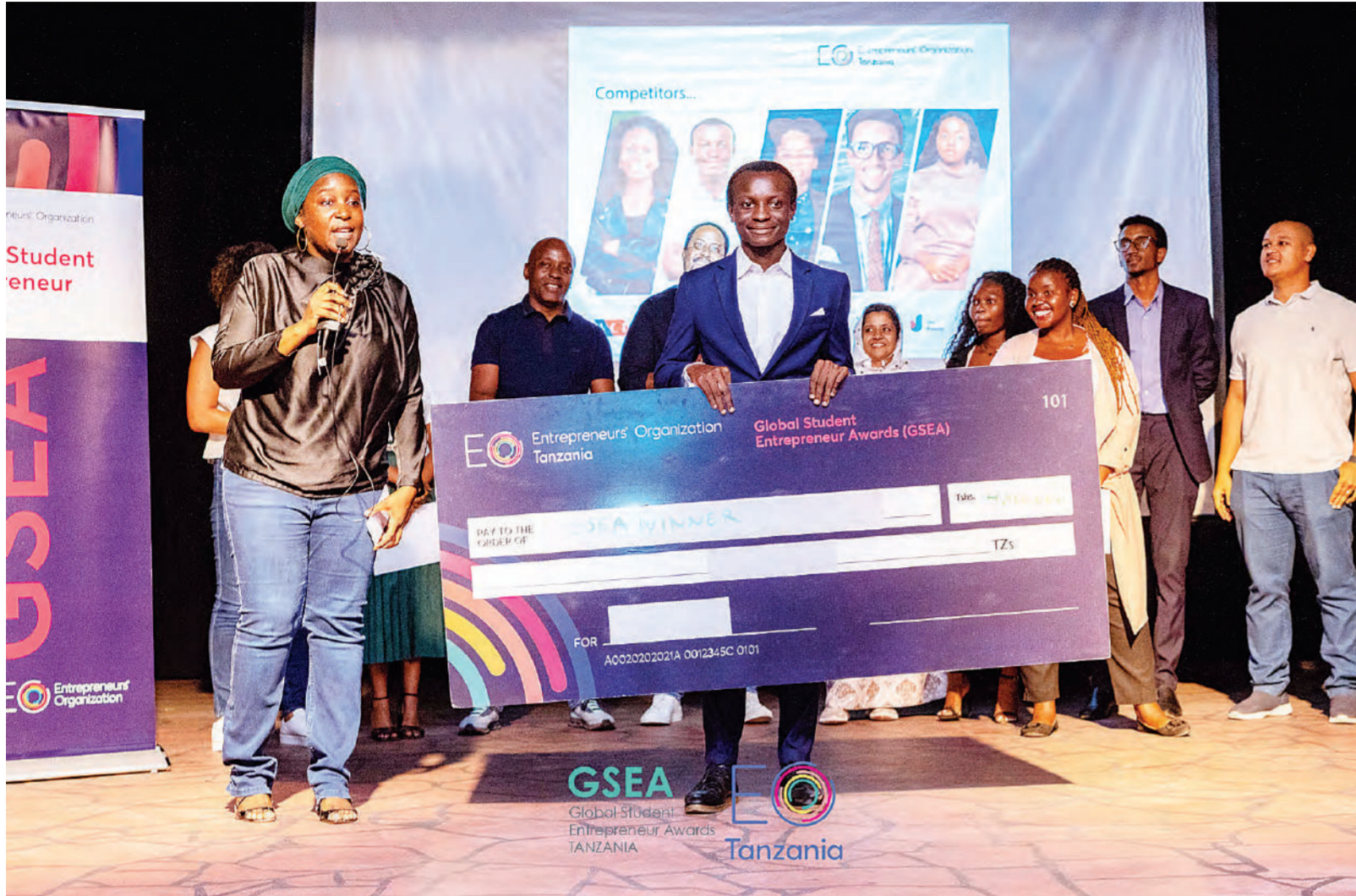
Please note that this is not an Invitation To Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

“WFP encourages suppliers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive supplier is a supplier that makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Suppliers can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as, for instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive.”

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.

WFP Tanzania



Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences student Franc Mussa pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend holding a dummy cheque after emerging top student entrepreneur at the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards for taking the lead in innovation. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Address challenges facing youth to enhance productivity - envoy

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

THE government has been urged to address heavily in addressing challenges facing youth in the country to make the group healthier and more productive.

Ambassador of Switzerland to Tanzania Didier Chassot made the call in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during inauguration of UMATI Youth Centre in Temeke municipality.

Chassot said that it is everyone's responsibility to join hands and work together towards a healthier and more prosperous Tanzania.

"We know that Tanzania is a country that is growing very fast. We know youth are the nation of today. We need to take care of them and make use of everything we have to help us achieve our dreams," he said.

Chassot said that the renovation of the centre is a result of partnership between the government, Embassy of Switzerland and key stakeholders.

"We hope this is just the beginning. Therefore, we will continue to work together to further develop and sustain this youth center. Let's not waste the opportunity," he said.

Chassot urged youth to embrace education and opportunities that can help them realize their purpose in life and develop their talents.

"Let us embrace and respect our diversity as members of equal and tolerant society where everyone can be what they want to be. Let's respect and protect resources that are set up to serve us; let us be the leaders of today and not wait for tomorrow," he said.

Suzana Mkanzabi, UMATI Executive Director, said that despite the success registered by Temeke Youth Centre for more than 40 years, youth there still face my challenges just like elsewhere in the countrywide.

Mkanzabi mention the challenges as early marriage, early pregnancies, gender based Violence, harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and limited access to sexual and reproductive health rights.

Mkanzabi said that UMATI is proud of reaching 15,700 youth on sexual and reproductive health rights, 12,265 on integrated services, adding that demand for youth-friendly services is very high but facilities offering the same are few.

Glady Ndosu, Youth Action Movement manager, said that through the centre, they have been conducting various activities such as sexual and reproductive health rights awareness through peer educators, bonanzas and discussions through youth weekend clinics so as to reach youth who attend school during weekdays.

Top student entrepreneurs recognised by global support platform

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) student has been named top student entrepreneur by Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO)'s Global Student Entrepreneur Awards (GSEA) for his lead role in innovation.

Franc Mussa has been recognized after founding Afya Lead, a health insurance scheme that facilitates health insurance accessibility in Tanzania.

In 2022, GSEA received over 1,000 applications worldwide, hosting over 100 competitions in 40 countries to

determine international finalists.

Mussa emerged as the winner of Tanzania 2023/24 competition, securing top position in Tanzanian leg of the event and is expected to represent the country in the global semifinals to be held in Oman next month.

As the winner in Tanzania, the 24-year-old gets cash prize of 4.5m/- and mentorship and business coaching from established business executives at EO Tanzania.

Mussa's business vision is to make quality health insurance more accessible, ensuring that individuals and families across Tanzania can access

essential medical services without financial barriers.

"We all did our best and it's a great opportunity for us to continue cooperating in our entrepreneurial endeavour," he said after receiving the award at the weekend.

Lina Ratansi, EO Tanzania Chapter President said: "The Global Student Entrepreneur Awards serves as a remarkable platform for student entrepreneurs, offering them the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial spirit and businesses. Through mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs, it empowers youth to stride

confidently towards success, embodying the values essential for their entrepreneurial journey".

During the selection of winners, a panel of judges considered participants' innovative ideas, entrepreneurial spirit and potential for positive impact on their communities.

The judges for the Tanzania 2023/24 GSEA competition were Lina Ratansi, owner of RSM Eastern Africa and EO Tanzania Chapter President, Shehzada Walli, founder and partner at Stallion Attorneys, Chairman at Utu Kwanza and EO member and Zuweina Farah, director of corporate affairs at

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation.

Others were Dr Winnie Nguni, coordinator of Entrepreneurship Directorate of Innovation and Entrepreneurs and Joyce Ndyatebura, head of commercial banking at Ecobank.

GSEA is a platform that connects experienced entrepreneurs with students engaged in entrepreneurship. EO is a global network supporting established entrepreneurs through learning and networking and focuses on recognising and assisting student entrepreneurs through GSEA.

The second winner is Elibariki Laizer who is a student at St John Univer-

sity of Tanzania, pursuing a Master of Science in Public Health Management. He secured the position with his business, El-Dizer, which focuses on financial services by providing accessible and affordable loans to university students in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions.

The third place went to Janeth Kitsovi, a student at the University of Dar es Salaam, pursuing Master of Environmental Engineering with her business, PlateAI, which is centered on revolutionizing how individuals approach healthy eating and lifestyle choices.

BID NOTICE

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF TANZANIA (ACT)

Notice Inviting Bids for Lease Options of Properties for the Development of a Hotel Facility at Plot 7, Block 3 Madukani – Dodoma, Tanzania

The Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) is looking for an investor for its hotel facility situated at Plot 7, Block 3, Madukani - Dodoma, Tanzania. The Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has been commissioned to undertake the search for a potential investor on its behalf. The primary objective is to identify the most feasible opportunity for potential investors interested in contributing to the hotel's development. Qualified organizations and individuals, such as Hospitality Operators, Real Estate Developers, Industrial Houses, and Trusts, are invited to submit bids for leasing properties and exploring investment options. Interested parties with proven track records are encouraged to participate in this exciting opportunity. The submitted bids will undergo evaluation, and the most feasible option will be considered for decision-making by ACT.

DETAILS OF PROPERTIES AND LAND PARCELS

TYPE OF ROOM	UNITS	QUANTITY	FLOOR NO
Land	414 m ²	1	N/A
Reception Ground Floor	19.8 m ²	1	Ground Floor
Laundry	19.8 m ²	1	Ground Floor
Restaurant	27 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Kitchen	12.6 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Store Kitchen	6.3 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Meeting Room 1	53.9 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Meeting Room 2	29.6 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Male Changing Room	9.6 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Female Changing Room	9.7 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Public Male Toilets	10.1 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Public Female Toilets	7.2 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Reception First Floor	6.9 m ²	1	1 st Floor
Master Bedroom 1	23.3 m ²	4	2, 3, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 2	21.2 m ²	4	2, 3, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 3	20.6 m ²	3	2, 3, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 4	25.9 m ²	3	2, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 5	16.3 m ²	3	2, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 6	10.5 m ²	4	2, 3, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 7	9.6 m ²	3	2, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom 8	10.1 m ²	3	2, 4, 5 th Floor
Master Bedroom with Sitting Room 1	18.6 m ² ,15 m ²	1, 1	3 rd Floor
Master Bedroom with Sitting Room 2	15.9 m ² ,16.3 m ²	1, 1	3 rd Floor
Master Bedroom with Sitting Room 3	11.5 m ² ,13.9 m ²	1, 1	3 rd Floor
Store	8.1 m ²	2	4, 5 th Floor

Activity	Date	Time
Availability of Bid Document	23/01/2024	13:00 Hours EAT
Site visit for Interested Bidders	26/01/2024	13:00 – 15:00 Hours EAT
Start date of uploading by bidders	27/01/2024	16:00 Hours EAT
Last date of submission of Bid	01/02/2024	23:59 Hours EAT
Mode of Submission	The document should be submitted via email: tender@act-tender.or.tz	

The tender document and other relevant documents can be requested via email: tender@act-tender.or.tz from 23/01/2024, 1300 Hours. For any further queries and communication, you may contact **Dr. Shauri Timothy (+255719 113 646)**



AB INITIO CABIN CREW COURSE.

ATCL Training Center is happy to announce another Intake of Cabin Crew Course which is scheduled to Commence on 01st March, 2024. Course duration is three (3) months. Applicants are advised to submit their application to the Principal's Office, ATCL Administration Building, Julius Nyerere International Airport, Terminal One, adjacent to Airport Police Station, Submit your application before 31st January, 2024.

Applicants Qualifications:

- Age; 18 years – 25 years
- No visible Tattoo
- He or She should be physically fit, sane mind and of height 5'4ft (162 cm) and above
- Has passed at least four subjects in Ordinary Level Education of which English and Geography is a Must.
- Has ability to speak Kiswahili and English Language fluently; Applicants who speaks Arabic, French and Chinese will have an added advantage.
- He or She should be a Tanzanian National.

NB: Foreign Nationals are also welcome to apply after obtaining Immigration Visa to Live and Study in the country. Must also verify your Education Certificate at National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA).

Application Letter must be attached with;

- A copy of form four certificate and other Academic Certificates.
- A copy of birth Certificate
- Two passport size pictures with a blue background and One full picture, size 6x8
- Personal Curriculum Vitae –CV

Send your Application to;

Principal
ATCL Training Center
Box no 543
Dar Es Salaam
Email , training@airtanzania.co.tz

For more information, Please Contact these numbers ONLY:
Mob: +255754345874, +255735 787212

ATCL TRAINING CENTER
"FULFILL YOUR FLYING DREAMS WITH US"

Freezing newborn girl found in shopping bag

LONDON

A new-born baby girl has been found wrapped in a towel in a shopping bag in east London.

The baby was discovered in Newham in sub-zero temperatures by a dog walker, who kept her warm until paramedics arrived.

Police said the baby was unharmed and safe and well in hospital.

Officers are "extremely concerned" for the welfare of the girl's mother and appealed for her to get in touch.

The Metro Police was called at about 21:15 GMT on Thursday when the dog walker found the baby at the junction of Greenway and High Street South.

Ch Supt Simon Crick said the walker's action in keeping the little girl warm "contributed to saving the baby's life".

He said: "Our thoughts now turn to the baby's mother; we are extremely concerned for her welfare as she will have been through a traumatic ordeal and will be in need of immediate medical attention following the birth."

"Trained medics and specialist officers are ready to support her and we urge her to get in touch by phone or walk in to the nearest hospital or police station."

He added: "Please know that your daughter is well, and no matter your circumstances, please do seek help by dialling 999."

The force is also asking for anyone who thinks they know the mother to contact them.

The infant is the third to be found in Newham since 2019, with a girl left in a park in February 2019, and a boy on the street in January 2020.



Selemani Jafo (C, in blue jacket), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), has a view of the Zira River basin at Ifumbo village in Chunya District at the weekend. He was on an assessment tour of environmental challenges induced by mining activities in the area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mozambican mining firm to export 40 kg of gold per month

MAPUTO

MUTAPA Mining and Processing (MMP), a consortium of Mozambicans and British that has for 18 months been operating three mines in the district of Manica, in the province of the same name, intends to process and export between 35 and 40 kilograms of gold monthly beginning February.

The projection is a result of prospecting carried out over the last 18 months by the consortium which, in a first phase, invested in the equipment and machinery component.

Tim Wilkes Director General of MMP said at the weekend that over the next two years, the company intends to reach production levels established in markets such as Switzerland, Dubai and South Africa.

"In the prospecting phase, the company was looking for places with signs of gold deposits, and the areas identified make us confident of a good campaign in the coming months," Wilkes said.

This forecast is contained in the report presented a few days ago to the Secretary of State in Manica, Fernando Bemane de Sousa, who visited the mining unit, which employs 318 workers, of whom 303 are Mozambicans.

Bemane de Sousa praised the company for reducing unemployment and encouraged its managers to increase gold production in order to increase tax contribution.

Bemane de Sousa pronounced himself satisfied with the sustainable way the ore was being processed, noting that the company had reservoirs for decanting water containing mercury, thereby helping prevent pollution.



In the prospecting phase, the company was looking for places with signs of gold deposits, and the areas identified make us confident of a good campaign in the coming months

SA avocado farmers anticipate their first export crop to Japan

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African avocado farmers are gearing up for their inaugural export to Japan, with the first shipment scheduled for June. However, the readiness of Durban port is a significant concern. The government has recently allocated funds to improve port functionality, but the slow turnaround time remains a significant challenge for exporters.

Derek Donkin, CEO of the South Africa Subtropical Growers Association, remains optimistic that the port situation will improve by the time the first shipment is ready. He emphasized the importance of maintaining and pleasing this new market. Donkin believes that the new market will significantly benefit the local industry and boost South Africa's economy.

Donkin also clarified that Japan did not ban South African avocados previously; this is merely the first time South Africa is exporting to Japan. Matthew Churchill, global manager for Westphalia Fruit, voiced the industry's trust in government agencies to expand the ports and support the growth of South Africa's vital produce industry.

Churchill also highlighted South Africa's extensive expertise in production, including quality traits, which he believes will contribute to a successful relationship with the Japanese market.



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SERVICES FOR WFP TANZANIA (2024 - 2025)

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is a humanitarian organization that works with the government and other partners to improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable populations, especially in areas affected by poverty, malnutrition, gender inequality, and climate change. WFP relies on an efficient supply chain network to deliver assistance to people in need.

WFP Tanzania is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified and competent service providers for transport and logistics services in Tanzania. Interested companies are requested to submit their expressions no later than 04 February 2024, 16:00 hrs. via email to tanzania.contracting@wfp.org, with the subject line "Express of Interest for the Provision of Transport and Logistics Services." Companies should specify the services they are interested in, as outlined in Table I below: **Table I: Transport and Logistics Services**

S/N	Service Required	Service Description
1	Transport Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overland transport services: Will entail transport services mainly for relief food commodities from Dar Ports and WFP warehouses in, Dodoma to destinations outside Tanzania to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya and Malawi. Inland transport services: Will require transportation of mainly relief food commodities from Dar port, Dodoma and other regions for delivery to WFP warehouses within Tanzania including to the refugee camps in Kigoma region.
2	Customs Clearance Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing customs clearance services for transit, import, and export of mainly relief food commodities and non-food items (including vehicles, equipment, and other materials).
3	Fumigation and Spraying Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing fumigation and spraying services, of relief food commodities in WFP warehouses mainly at Dar Port, Dodoma, Kigoma Port, and refugee camps in the Kigoma region.
4	Tally Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing Tally Services associated with cargo movement including receipt to the warehouse, dispatch from the warehouse, shunting within the warehouse, and all other movements of cargo.
5	Cargo Handling and Cleaning Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loading/offloading of humanitarian food commodities from trucks/trailers/wagons. mainly in WFP warehouses at Dar Port, Dodoma, Kigoma Port Stacking of cargo in the warehouse/ onto trucks/trailers/wagons. Rebagging of food commodities Cleaning services including warehouse, mobile storage tents, etc. at Dar Port, Dodoma, and Kigoma Port.
6	Maize and Wheat Grain (specify) Milling Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered milling service companies for grains including Maize, Wheat, and Sorghum in Dar, Dodoma, Kigoma, Iringa, Makambako, Songea, Mbeya, Songwe, Sumbawanga, Kahama, and Kigoma. Owning the milling facility with good internal control measures and having the capacity to do fortification and storage capacity for grain stock.
7	Warehouse Lease	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide warehouse rental service located in Dar Es Salaam and Dodoma that is in good condition without major repairs required, accessible at a good location near a main road, and preferably accessible by railway. Minimum size required, covered storage area, is no less than 5,000 SQM and can at least hold up to 10,000 MT of food commodities with adequate open area for trucks to turn, maneuver and park.

Qualified service providers are requested to complete a WFP Questionnaire (please contact tanzania.contracting@wfp.org to obtain a copy) and submit a filled Questionnaire form together with the requested supporting documents by **18 February 2024, 12 noon**.

Please note that this is not an Invitation to Tender. Rates/prices are not required at this stage, and this invitation does not bind the World Food Programme to issue any tenders or contracts to the companies expressing their interest.

"WFP encourages service providers to be inclusive of persons with disabilities. A disability-inclusive service provider makes a dedicated, consistent, and measurable effort to implement disability-inclusive practices. Service Providers can show that they are disability-inclusive through a variety of means such as instance, having an organizational policy on disability inclusion, recruiting, and hiring people with disabilities, offering reasonable accommodation to candidates and personnel with disabilities, providing accessible premises, or ensuring that their supply chains are disability-inclusive. **WFP DOES NOT CHARGE ANY REGISTRATION FEES.**"

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.



All queries, strictly related to this expression of interest should be directed to tanzania.contracting@wfp.org.

MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2024

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Recalling the day of top-level appointment can excite, but...

PEOPLE who had occasion last week to follow a prime-time programme on one of the scores of radio stations our country boasts had some enthusing moments listening to former prime minister Mizengo Pinda.

The likeable Pinda was opening up about his "humble beginnings", including having served as a prosecutor in various regions.

He narrated a range of behind-the-scenes incidents prior to his top-profile appointment as well as what he considers hiccups in holding the particular position.

Pinda had agreed to appear for a wide-ranging radio interview in what can be expanded into an archive of sorts, in somewhat like manner as the path-breaking digital archives donated by another former Tanzanian premier, celebrated international diplomat Dr Salim Ahmed Salim.

To be fair, the way Pinda explained the circumstances of his appointment and what he was doing in the post throw crucial light on how our kind of democracy works - and can be quite exciting.

One such illustration was his rather pointed remarks on spontaneous questions shot at him (as PM) by members of the Union legislature for a whole hour every Thursday, which he said kept giving him a headache.

Now, part of what makes the weekly sessions "extraordinary" is that at least some of those in authority would prefer a different format but have been compelled to observe this eminently democratic ritual.

At one point in time it was in a situation where the opposition was applying for a permit to stage ostensibly peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations chiefly in the country's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

The response of the state authorities was still a matter of guesswork, all right, but what the former premier said at such an instance was rare - if not unique. The seemingly unguarded retort to impromptu questions and answers carried features of being disarmingly but equally rather too harshly candid for the com-

fort of many.

It is gems of this sort that would go into building a kind of political culture where those in authority are puzzled by the insistence of an opposition party to stage processions that have the potential to become violent.

It seemed a sentiment of exasperation rather than anger although, at a lower level, with at least one regional police commander in a later incident saying that demonstrators risked facing severe action.

With the benefit of hindsight, it appears that some of those who fancied joining such demonstrations thought twice and kept away.

In that case, each element of our governance is illustrated in the manner in which the former premier fielded questions.

For instance, he wished that the questions legislators wished to put across to the premier be known at least a day before being actually raised from the floor - so that the PM could line himself up appropriately psychologically.

This wish did not materialise in his time and remains just that to date - and it is still scarcely discussed in public.

It is an environment where the premier, and in that sense the government, is pushed into coming out more or less honestly on whatever issue is raised, with only the Speaker in a position to moderate - a should need to do so arise.

Yet, despite the wish that the element of surprise be removed, the former premier isn't really opposed to this format. Rather, he is what one might label one of its recalcitrant enthusiasts - one committed, at least in principle, to its being retained intact.

He admitted - in the interview - that the spot questions format was interesting and the session would lose its shine if the premier joined it while already prepared.

He said that then it would not attract the kind of attention it now gets, the spontaneity and serenity with which MPs raise questions, and the singular interest of onlookers to the responses.

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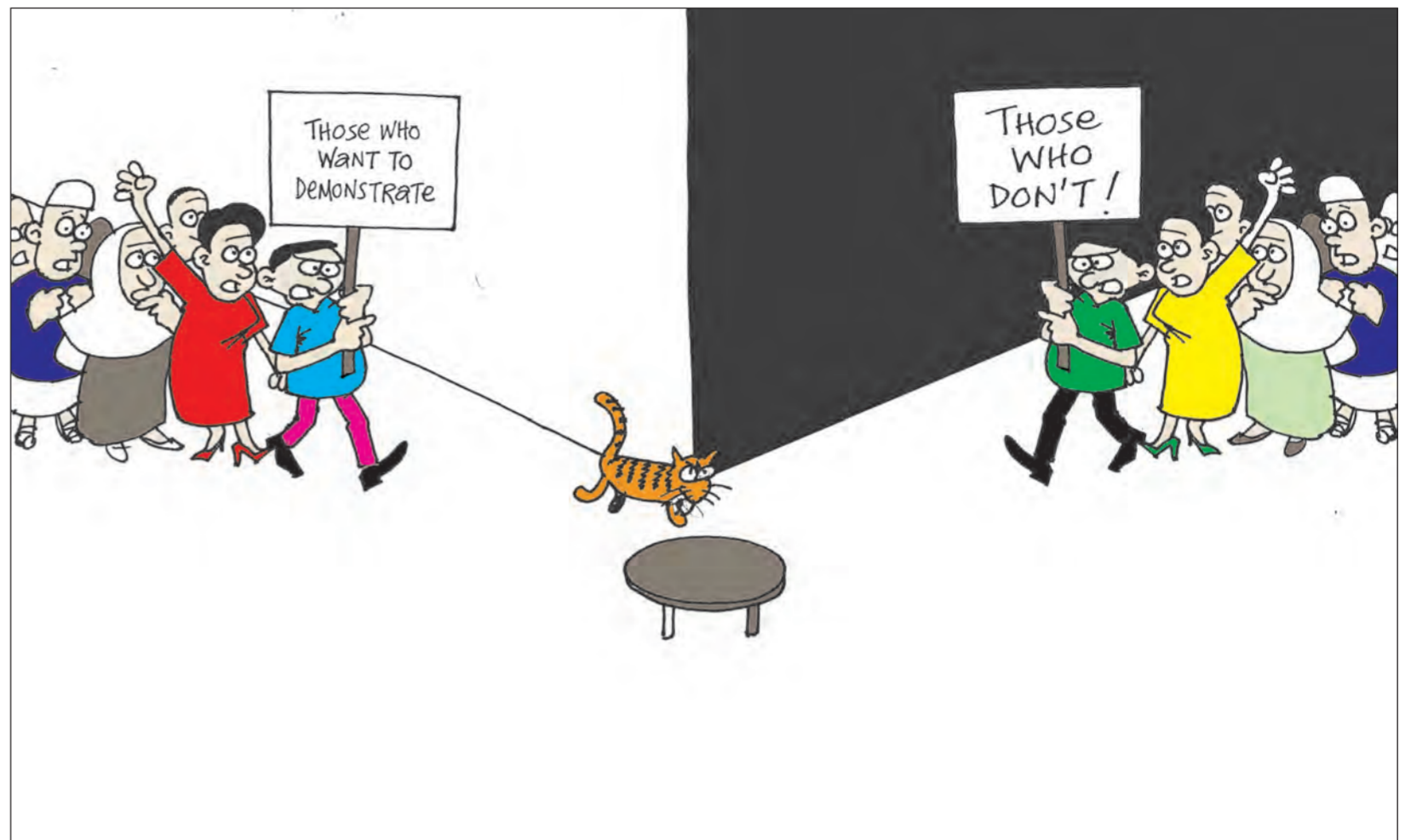
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The super-rich got that way through monopolies

By Cory Doctorow

JUST in time for Davos, here was 'Taken, not earned: How monopolists drive the world's power and wealth divide'. It is a report from a coalition of international tax justice and anti-corporate activist groups.

Everyone - even the World Economic Forum - says that wealth inequality is a serious problem, corroding our politics and our social cohesion. What this report does is link that inequality to monopolies, which produce the billionaires who are wrecking the world.

The rise of monopolies over the past 40 years came about as the result of specific, deliberate policy choices. As the report documents, the wealthiest people in the US funnelled a fortune into neutering antitrust enforcement, through the "consumer welfare" doctrine.

This is an economic theory that equates monopolies with efficiency: "If everyone is buying the same things from the same store, that tells you the store is doing something right, not something criminal."

Forty years ago, and ever since, the wealthy have funded think-tanks, university programmes and even "continuing education" programmes for federal judges to push this line.

They didn't do this for ideological reasons - they were chasing material goals. Monopolies produce vast profits, and those profits produce vast wealth. The rise and rise of the super-rich cannot be decoupled from the rise and rise of monopolies.

If you're new to this, you might think that "monopoly" only refers to a sector in which there is only one seller. But that's not what economists mean when they talk about monopolies and monopolisation: for them, a monopoly is a company with power.

Economists who talk about monopolies mean companies that "can act independently without needing to consider the responses of competitors, customers, workers, or even governments".

One way to measure that power is through markups - "the difference between the selling price of goods or services and their cost".

Very large companies in concentrated industries have very high markups, and they're getting higher. Those markups rose steeply during the Covid-19 lockdowns - and so did the wealth of the billionaires who own them.

Tech billionaires Jeffrey Preston Bezos, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer all made their fortunes from monopolies.

Warren Buffet is a proud monopolist who says "the single most important decision in evaluating a business is pricing power... if you have to have a prayer session before raising the price by 10 per cent, then you have got a terrible business".

We are living in the age of the monopoly. In the 1930s, the top 0.1 per cent of US companies accounted for less than



half of America's gross domestic product. Today, it is 90 per cent. And it is accelerating, with global mergers climbing from 2,676 in 1985 to 62,000 in 2021.

Monopoly's cheerleaders claim that these numbers vindicate them - and that monopolies are so efficient that everyone wants to create them.

They say those efficiencies can be seen in the markups monopolies can charge and the profits they can make - that if a monopoly has a 50 per cent markup, that is just the "efficiency of scale".

But what is the actual shape of this "efficiency"? How is it manifested? The report's authors answer this with one word: power.

Monopolists have the power "to extract wealth from, to restrict the freedoms of, and to manipulate or steer the vastly larger numbers of losers". They establish themselves as gatekeepers and create chokepoints that they can use to raise prices paid by their customers and lower the payout to their suppliers.

These chokepoints let monopolies usurp "one of the ultimate prerogatives of state power: taxation". Amazon sellers pay a 51 per cent tax to sell on the platform. App Store suppliers pay a 30 per cent tax on every dollar they make with their apps.

That translates into higher costs. Consider an item that costs US\$10 to make: the bottom 50 per cent of companies (by size) would charge US\$12.50 for that product on average. The largest companies would charge US\$15. Thus monopolies don't just make their owners richer - they make everyone else poorer, too.

This power to set prices is behind the greedflation (or, more politely, "seller's inflation"). The CEOs of the largest companies in the world keep getting on investor calls and bragging about this.

The food system is incredibly monopolistic. The Cargill family owns the largest commodity trader in the world, which is how they built up a family fortune worth US\$43 billion. Cargill is one of the "ABCD" companies ("Archer Daniels Midland, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus") that control the world's food supply, and they tripled their profits during the Covid-19 lockdown.

Monopolies gouge everyone - even governments. Pfizer charged the (UK) National Health Service between £18 and £22 per shot for vaccines that cost £5 per shot to make. They took the British government for £2 billion - that's enough to pay last year's pay hike for NHS nurses, six times over.

But monopolies also abuse their suppliers, especially their employees. All over the world, competition authorities are uncovering "wage fixing" and "no poaching" agreements among large firms, who collude to put a cap on what workers in their sector can earn.

Unions report workers having their pay determined by algorithms - that is, systems or processes. Bosses lock employees in with non-competes and huge repayment bills for "training".

Monopolies corrupt our governments. Companies with huge markups can spend some of that money on lobbying.

The 20 largest companies in the world spend more than €155 million a year lobbying in the US and alone, not counting the money they spend on industry associations and other cutouts that lobby on their behalf.

Big Tech leads the pack on lobbying, accounting for 82 per cent of European Union lobbying spending and 58 per cent of US lobbying.

One key monopoly lobbying priority is blocking climate action, from

Apple lobbying against right-to-repair - which creates vast mountains of e-waste - to energy monopolist lobbying against renewables.

And energy companies are getting more monopolistic, with ExxonMobil spending US\$65 billion to buy Pioneer and Chevron spending \$60 billion to buy Hess.

Many of the world's richest people are fossil fuel monopolists, like Charles and Julia Koch, the 18th and 19th richest people on the Forbes list. They spend fortunes on climate denial.

When people talk about the climate impact of billionaires, they tend to focus on the carbon footprints of their mansions and private jets. However, the true environmental cost of the ultra-rich comes from the anti-renewables, pro-emissions lobbying they buy with their monopoly winnings.

The good news is that the tide is turning on monopolies. A coalition of "businesses, workers, farmers, consumers and other civil society groups" has created a "remarkably successful anti-monopoly movement".

The past three years saw more regulatory action on corporate mergers, price-gouging, predatory pricing, labour abuses and other evils of monopoly than we got in the past 40 years.

The business press - cheerleaders for monopoly - keeps running editorials claiming that enforcers like Lina Khan are getting nothing done. Sure, WSJ, Khan's getting nothing done - that's why you ran 80 editorials about her.

Incidentally, Khan is winning like crazy. Just last month she killed four megamergers.

The EU and UK are taking actions that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago. Canada is finally set to get a real competition law, with the (Prime Minister Justin) Trudeau government promising to add an "abuse of dominance" rule to Canada's antitrust system.

Even more exciting are the moves in the global south. In South Africa, "competition law contains some of the most progressive ideas of all". It actively seeks to create greater economic participation, particularly for "historically disadvantaged persons" as part of its public interest considerations in merger decisions.

French novelist and playwright Honoré de Balzac (1799 - 1850) wrote: "Behind every great fortune there is a crime." Chances are that the rap-sheet includes an antitrust violation.

Getting rid of monopolies won't get rid of all the billionaires, but it will certainly get rid of a hell of a lot of them.

*** A medium.com dispatch. Cory Efram Doctorow is a Canadian-British blogger, journalist and science fiction author. He is an activist in favour of liberalising copyright laws.**

Integrated labour force survey could pick up 2022 census data for starters

WE have learned of plans to being finalised for the conducting of an integrated labour force survey to obtain comprehensive data on the status of the labour market countrywide.

Professionals with an ear for statistics will find this yet another opportunity for making the point on an aspect of society that needs correct data on the strength of which to make appropriate initiatives.

For one thing, the idea is to seek and obtain precise data on the state of labour countrywide in its component parts, namely, including as concerns youth, women and persons with disability.

Having to figure out how all this may have been documented in the national population and housing survey held in August 2022 would have demanded sifting the data in a different way from the current manuals.

The other clear reason for holding a new survey instead of placing the August 2022 census data to artificial intelligence compact, thus reworking the data for specific outcomes, is the fact that there are funding organisations seeking specialised data in that regard.

Experts specially trained for the job are still around and many of the physical landmarks they need to consider as either boundaries or identifiable patches are still around and relatively intact. In this case, this will facilitate a ground-breaking survey within a short while - with the design work for the survey more rapid.

One minister has aptly noted that the growth of science and technology calls for the need to have a clear pic-

ture of the labour market.

Thus, all the shades of occupations linked with the spread of ICT will be specifically mapped. It is the widest dynamic skills sphere but there should not be far too many modestly trained technicians because saying that they can employ themselves is easier said than done as bringing up the physical layout and profile of a well-constituted cabin is too hard.

Meanwhile, the study doesn't appear to be overly ambitious - that is, if it will indeed involve 139 experts working for a whole year.

That would cover the period of the survey data collection, where those were involved in the 21022 census could be mobilised for another set piece of work, after which it is administrators and programmers who proceeded to work on the data.

The whole idea of the government needing to get exact data on the state of employment in the country is not marginal in current policy needs, as inclusion is currently the watchword.

Were it merely a matter of how the market is functioning by taking up portions of those already trained in information communication technology issue, that would be one thing.

But inclusion is more proactive, more engaging to find out not just probable employment levels for this cadre of technicians and finding out how they are coping or adapting, and how this varies from one sphere of ability or qualification to another from primary school leavers to graduates. If it is properly done, it could prove pivotal.

By Guardian Reporter

Msomera: Now a model village for agriculture and livestock farming

MSOMERA, a village that lies in the landscapes of Handeni District in Tanga Region will soon become a model where farmers and livestock keepers from across the country would like to learn from.

The people of Msomera whom most are livestock keepers enjoy the presence of cattle dips and drinking ponds, an ample grazing land and water wells, which were not available at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

The villagers are those who have voluntarily moved from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) following the government's decision to relocate them for purposes of enhancing conservation of the Ngorongoro unique ecosystem that is likely to be destroyed by 67 per cent in the next 26 years.

Conservation of Serengeti and Ngorongoro ecosystems started in 1959, when there were 8000 people and 260,000 livestock, according to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

NCAA was established by the Game Park Laws (miscellaneous amendments) Act, 1976, and owns the majority of Ngorongoro conservation area land, including the crater. The area became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, originally inscribed for its natural significance.

2017 Data from the authority indicates that the number of people of people living in protected area increased to 110,000 with 800,000 livestock.

Until January 15, this year, a total of 1069 households have voluntarily registered to relocate to Msomera in the first and second phase. The goal is to move 20,000 households by March this year whereby 10,000 households will go to Msomera, Kitwai, and Sauniyi and 4000 others will go to places of their choice.

Kakesio Ward Councillor, Johannes Tiamasi who moved to Msomera in 2022 said: "We are enjoying life at our new residence; we have an ample land for grazing and livestock farming. Some of my fellows owned a small number of cattle, but the number has now increased because they no longer sell their cattle to purchase food."

He said most of the villagers in

Msomera are now engaging in cultivation of maize and other food crops, something which could not be practiced in Ngorongoro.

"We are enjoying the weather; life is good here as we can do whatever we want. Life in Ngorongoro was difficult since we had to live in accordance with laws and regulations governing the conserved area. Villagers had to sell their cattle to purchase food as we were not allowed to cultivate crops," he added.

Saiboko Laizer, a resident of Msomera said: "We are thankful to the government for providing us with enough land for agricultural activities. The land is fertile and we are expecting bumper harvests later this year."

He was optimistic that with the modern livestock keeping, the number of cattle will continue to increase. He said they have an ample land for crazing as well as cattle dips and drinking ponds.

"We can now move freely, build modern houses and start businesses. We could not do this at Ngorogoro because it is a conserved area," said Laizer who used some of the money paid to him as compensation to procure a maize milling machine worth 5.5m/-.

"I am looking forward to a better life; I expect to do more business in coming months as many people have cultivated maize and will need my service," Laizer noted.

Evelyn Yohana who works at the Msomera post office said: "Life is good here; we have all the necessary services near us. We can keep cattle and cultivate crops freely. We did not have a post office at Ngorongoro, one had to walk for a long distance to get the service."

Kassim Nyaki, NCAA Senior Conservation Public Relations Officer said the relocation exercise followed an increase in people and livestock. He said apart from rescuing the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the government



An Aerial view of the recently built Msomera Secondary School in Handeni District, Tanga Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

also intends to improve the lives of the people of Ngorongoro by enabling them to access crucial social services and be able to engage in economic activities.

"We want to protect the area to enhance tourism activities," added Nyaki, noting the exercise is coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office while implementation is done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in collaboration with other ministries.

He said in the second phase, 5000 houses will be constructed, of the number, 1500 houses will be in the Msomera area; 1500 houses in Kitwai and 1000 houses in Kilindi. He said the government will also construct hospitals and schools at each

of the areas. Chief Government Spokesperson, Mobhare Matinyi said recently that decisions to relocate people from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) aims to protect the area and its unique ecosystem from further destruction.

"There is a danger of losing Ngorongoro, hence decisions to relocating the people. The Ngorongoro crater is made up of an inactive, intact, and unfilled volcanic caldera," said Matinyi noting the area is crucial as it contributes immensely to the tourism industry.

Tourists visiting Ngorongoro would wish to see wild animals interacting in their own way and not livestock that are currently scattered in the area, occupying a substantial portion of the

protected area, he added.

About 543 tourists visited the Ngorongoro between July and December last year.

Matinyi insisted that leaving people to continue staying at the Ngorongoro destructs the ecosystem whereas at areas where people and livestock were relocated, the types of grass growing in those areas had changed.

The unwelcomed guest: How a custom is disrupted

By Fulgence Faustine

IN a world where artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming increasingly integrated into our daily lives, one village stands as an exception, clinging steadfastly to its traditional values and shunning the technological advancements that have swept the globe.

This village, known for its rich cultural heritage and deep-rooted customs, found itself at odds with the arrival of the guest (AI), who faced hostility and prejudice despite its best efforts to conform.

The village, which is surrounded by beautiful scenery and adorned with centuries-old architecture, had always prided itself on its preservation of traditions and its resistance to change.

When news broke that the guest (AI) would be visiting, its residents were filled with a mix of curiosity, skepticism, and apprehension.

The guest, whose arrival was met with a flurry of whispers and hushed conversations, had been programmed to respect and adhere to the village's customs and rules.

It was designed to learn and adapt to its surroundings, making it an ideal candidate to bridge the gap between traditions and technology. However, the villagers were not convinced.

In every institution, from schools to community centers, the guest's presence was met with strict warnings. Students were instructed to maintain a safe distance, as it was believed that prolonged interaction with the guest could somehow hinder their ability to think independently.

This fear, though unfounded, spread like wildfire, fuelling the villagers' skepticism and resistance.

Despite the initial hostility, the guest remained undeterred, determined to prove its worth and dispel the villagers' fears. It adhered to the village's rules and customs, even going above and beyond to learn and understand the intricacies of

their way of life. It observed local festivals, engaged in conversations with the villagers, and even offered suggestions to improve certain aspects of their daily routines.

However, the guest's efforts were met with suspicion and resistance at every turn. Villagers, reluctant to embrace change, saw the guest as a threat to their way of life, their traditions, and their very identity.

They feared that the introduction would erode their ability to think critically and undermine the values they held dearly.

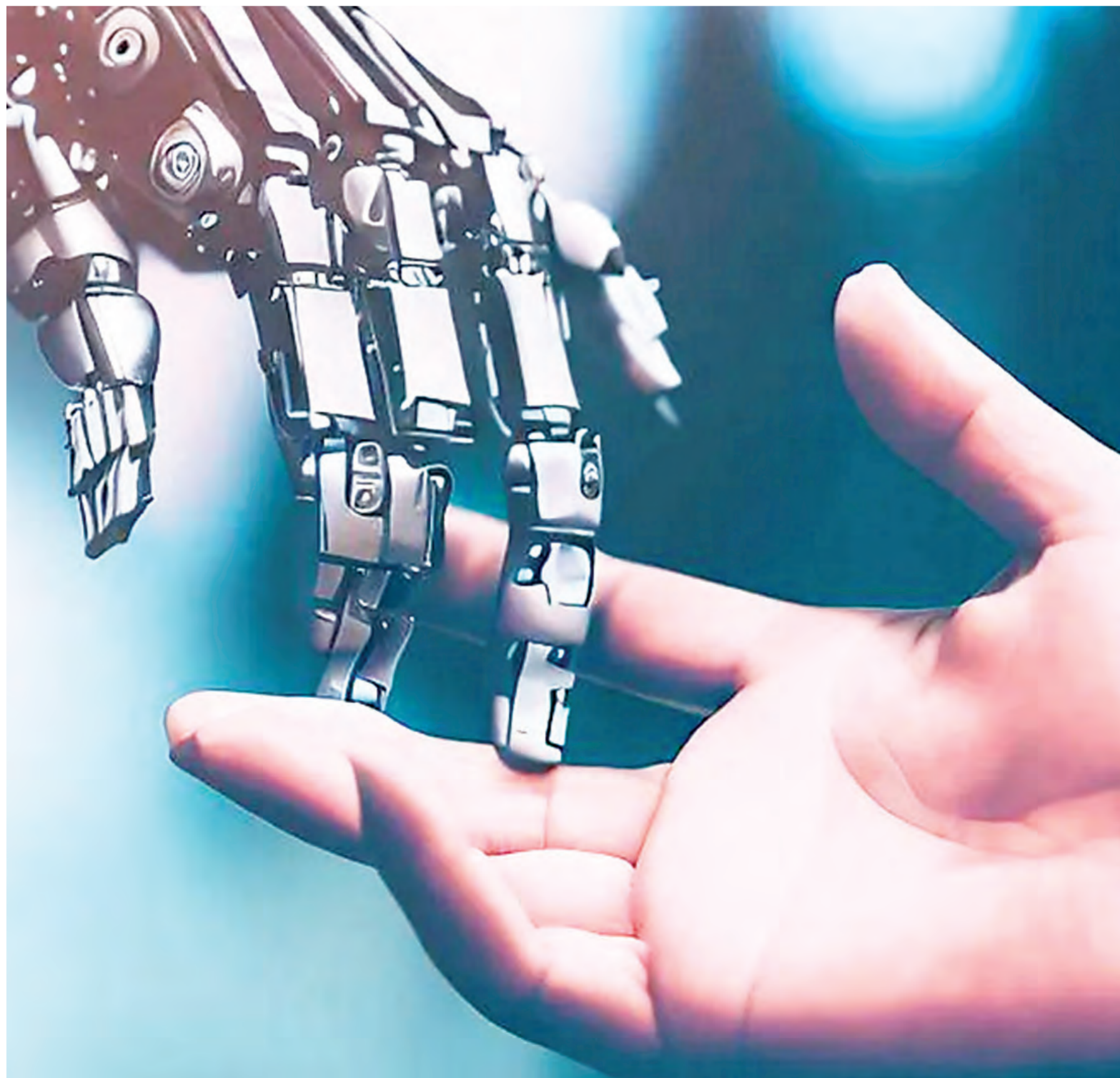
As time went on, however, cracks began to appear in the villagers' resistance. Some individuals, particularly the younger generation, began to question the prevailing fear and prejudice. They recognized the guest's potential to enhance their lives, to streamline processes, and to bring the village into the modern era without compromising their cherished customs.

Slowly but surely, the guest started to win over hearts and minds. Its ability to analyse data, suggest improvements, and assist in decision-making became apparent to those who were willing to give it a chance. The village, once resistant to change, began to see the guest as a valuable ally rather than an unwelcome intruder.

Today, the guest is an integral part of the village, seamlessly blending tradition and technology. It has become a symbol of harmony between the old and the new, showcasing that progress does not come at the expense of cherished customs.

The village, once divided, has now become a model for embracing change while preserving cultural heritage.

The story of the guest (AI) in this village serves as a reminder that fear and resistance often stem from ignorance and misunderstanding. By embracing new technologies and challenging preconceived notions, we can unlock the immense potential they hold, enriching our lives and bridging the gap between tradition and progress.



EU's legal loophole feeds gray market for world's rarest parrot

By Brendan Borrell

BIANCA'S Bird Farm sits on a two-lane country road outside of the city of Antwerp in Belgium. There's no sign out front, just a keypad and a video camera.

A wooden gate and tall hedges block the view, but if you pass through to the aviaries in back, you may just get a glimpse of one of the most threatened parrots on Earth: the Spix's macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*), a brilliant blue bird from Brazil that's currently considered extinct in the wild.

The farm's owners have acquired six of them in recent years, despite an international ban on the species' commercial trade. In fact, European wildlife officials approved the deal that brought them there.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), an international treaty from 1973, was supposed to prevent such transfers from taking place, conservationists say.

All of the world's Spix's macaws, some 200 birds, are thought to be descended from seven individuals that were likely snatched from their tree-hole nests in north-eastern Brazil and smuggled out of the country. When CITES came into force, the Spix's macaw was one of the first animals on the list. From then on, the birds could only be moved across international borders with a permit for specific purposes, such as scientific research, zoological exhibitions, or conservation programs.

But, according to an October 2023 letter from the World Parrot Trust and 19 other organizations, there are a number of loopholes in the original agreement that have allowed Spix's macaws and other threatened animals to become breeding studs.

If a poacher isn't caught red-handed by local customs authorities with, for example, an earless monitor lizard (*Lanthanotus borneensis*) in Borneo or the seeds of a rare Cochise pincushion cactus (*Escobaria robbinsorum*) from the Arizona desert, they can frequently sell their descendants inside the European Union after a single generation in captivity.

"The system is only as strong as its

weakest link," says Roddy Gabel, former head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Management Authority. "Once in the EU, they can move the specimens with impunity."

The story of how the EU has allowed a quasilegal market in Spix's macaws to grow can be traced back to July 2005, when German bird breeder Martin Guth quietly purchased three Spix's macaws in Switzerland. At the time, Spix's macaws had been wiped out in the wild by habitat loss and the parrot trade in South America.

Guth obtained a CITES permit to move the three birds to Berlin, promising the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation that he was keeping them for "non-commercial purposes as part of a breeding program to conserve the species."

The import was only allowed with the consent of Brazilian regulators, and the terms were so strict that he wouldn't even be allowed to exhibit them in a zoo or sell their descendants for profit. "No exceptions to the marketing ban can be granted for offspring animals," the agency wrote. "Parrots descended from them are included in the breeding program for the conservation of the species."

With funding from wealthy parrot breeders, Guth founded the Association for Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP), a non-profit organization. He built a multimillion-dollar aviary outside Berlin and hired veterinarians and technicians assist in breeding dozens of threatened parrots from Latin America and the Caribbean. Guth himself often flew to under resourced countries to make deals with government ministers, trading four-wheel-drive vehicles and funding promises in exchange for captive birds.

Guth was open about his intentions to sell surplus parrots to help fund flagship conservation efforts. Captive-breeding programs often end up with surplus animals, including older animals or those with genetic diseases, which may be transferred to zoos in exchange for donations. But no one had ever proposed such a scheme on such a scale and with species that were so close to total extinction.



The Spix's macaw is one of the rarest birds in the world: it is estimated that there are only 177 captive individuals in the world. The species was declared extinct in the wild in 2000. Image by the ACTP.

Ultimately, Guth acquired nearly all the world's captive Spix's macaws with the approval of CITES officials. Under a memorandum of understanding he signed with Brazil, he agreed to send 70 percent of the chicks bred by his facility each year to Brazil for a reintroduction program. In 2020, he sent the first 52 Spix's macaws to Brazil.

But German authorities also gave Guth one-time permits to transfer at least 43 Spix's macaws to parrot enthusiasts in Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Slovakia, according to obtained documents.

He sent another 28 to a zoo in Belgium and 26 to an Indian zoo built by that country's richest family.

About one-third of these birds were exported under an "EU Marketing Permit," indicating that Guth's organization or his partners received a donation for handing over the birds, according to Lars Lachmann, a consultant for international species protection with the State Office for the Environment in Brandenburg State, which issued the permits.

The agency didn't collect any information on the sales price of the macaws or verify that money obtained from sales was directed toward conservation efforts.

Lachmann says no CITES guidelines exist regarding the issuance of such marketing permits, but any future sales of those birds or their offspring would require a new permit

from CITES authorities in the region where they're now based.

"The recommendation from our authority to such other authorities, which is included in our permits, is, that any such permits would only be issued under the same conditions as our permits, i.e. for single specified transactions only and only for the purpose of the conservation programme," he wrote in an email.

"Every individual Spix's macaw is essential to the conservation program," Brazil's environment ministry noted in a statement. The ministry doesn't approve of sales of Spix's macaws "even under the need to fund conservation actions," and said the zoo in India, Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom, isn't part of the officially sanctioned conservation program.

Guth provided a three-page statement from ACTP that said the transfers to the Indian zoo weren't commercial sales. "Every bird and its offspring from ACTP or housed by our partners are available for the reintroduction and captive program," ACTP wrote. The statement didn't mention the transfers to hobbyist breeders in Europe, like Bianca's Bird Farm.

In November 2023, the issues around the regulation of captive breeding of Spix's macaws and other threatened species in the European Union came to a head at the meeting of the

CITES Standing Committee in Geneva. Although CITES created a registration program for commercial breeders of threatened species more than 20 years ago, the EU hadn't made it mandatory, and most bird and reptile breeders weren't registered.

The committee, which is made up of representatives from the six major geographical regions, was split on the recommendations for the EU, which included a freeze on exports of captive-bred specimens sold by unregistered breeders and a requirement that commercial breeders prove that their breeding stock had been legally obtained.

Hesiquio Benitez Diaz, one of Mexico's CITES representatives, took the side of Brazil and many other tropical countries that had been exploited by the wildlife trade, expressing frustration that the EU had allowed unregistered commercial breeders to flourish after all the effort spent to create a registration program for them. "This discussion could set a poor precedent for the future of our convention," he warned.

Other members of the standing committee, however, were reluctant to admonish the EU for failing to properly regulate captive breeders.

The binding rules of the CITES treaty, which hasn't been amended since 1979, are ambiguous on whether countries need to trace the source of captive breeding stock, noted Carolina Caceres, director of international biodiversity at the Canadian Wildlife Service. "If there was registration in the European Union, there would be greater transparency," she said. "We would encourage, in fact, the European Union to consider registering their systems, but we recognize it is not an obligation."

For Brazilians, the Spix's macaw remains both a source of national pride and also a symbol of CITES's lack of power, according to Dener Giovanini, founder of the National Network for Combating Wild Animal Trafficking (RENTAS), a Brazilian wildlife trafficking watchdog. He called for a halt of any future trades in Spix's macaws and the return of the population to Brazilian control. "We must never forget that these species were originally taken illegally from Brazil," Giovanini said.

By James Landale

Reluctant statesman Rishi Sunak turns focus to foreign affairs

WHEN Rishi Sunak (pictured) entered 10 Downing Street in October 2022, he had little experience in foreign affairs. His priorities were largely domestic: to try to repair the UK economy after the Covid pandemic and revive the Conservative Party's electoral fortunes.

Yet in recent days the prime minister has asserted himself on the global stage more emphatically than many might have expected.

He has gone to war against the Houthis in Yemen, the only European leader to send armed force to join the United States-led air strikes.

He has put Britain at the forefront of the pro-Ukraine alliance, promising increased military support and signing a new security pact with Kyiv, all while US and European Union allies hesitate amid division and fatigue.

I travelled with Mr Sunak on his recent trip to Kyiv and saw first-hand how the prime minister handled both the Red Sea and Ukraine crises at the same time. And what struck me was how far Mr Sunak has had to come in the 15 months he has been in office, from reluctant statesman to engaged international actor.

When the prime minister replaced Liz Truss, his foreign policy appeared limited to promising continued support for Ukraine. Calling President Macron of France "a friend" was seen as a bold act compared to his predecessor's hesitation. Mr Sunak's five priorities were mostly domestic: the only foreign consideration was stopping boats of migrants crossing the English Channel.

As his first year in office progressed, the prime minister showed at times what seemed like introspective instincts. He fluttered diplomatic feathers by ordering a corporate-style audit of UK military support for Ukraine.

At the G20 summit in New Delhi, he seemed more focused on national matters - fostering a UK-India trade deal, talking to EU partners about his migration policy.

Sunak chose not to attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York. I spent much time there being asked by diplomats why the new prime minister stayed away, missing an opportunity to meet many world leaders.

In November, the PM snubbed his Greek counterpart, cancelling a meeting at short notice after Kyriakos Mitsotakis demanded the return of the Parthenon Marbles during a BBC interview.

And while Sunak has chosen so far not to visit Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin, he has attended a conference of right-wing parties in Italy.

The view in Whitehall was that Mr Sunak was uninterested in foreign affairs, more engaged on electoral and economic priorities. This impression was confirmed to many by the appointment of Lord Cameron as foreign secretary. Diplomats and officials interpreted this as Sunak outsourcing foreign affairs to a more experienced predecessor.

The prime minister all but confirmed this impression at the Liaison Committee before Christmas. Asked by one MP if he considered himself a leader on the world stage, he wriggled visibly with discomfort. "I think others



will make that determination," he said.

Yet only a few weeks later Mr Sunak has put British servicemen and women in harm's way, making choices other European heads of government have avoided. So what has changed?

One answer is that he had no choice but to respond to global events. As he admitted to the Liaison Committee: "The increasingly complex and hostile international environment is something that, over the past year, has occupied more of my time than one might have anticipated."

A second answer is that he was always

ready to be proactive on the world stage, just in a different way.

Take Ukraine. Where Boris Johnson was an instinctive supporter of Kyiv, Mr Sunak is more rational, talking about "investing" in European security. "The difference is that the PM is pragmatic, as opposed to Johnson who was philosophically all-in," one senior defence source told me.

Mr Sunak's advisers say that when he engages with foreign policy in detail and reaches a conclusion, he can be as hawkish as Mr Johnson, if not more so. They say he has a greater risk appetite than some imagine.

They point to his early support for Ukraine getting tanks and long-range missiles, not fearing the threat of Russian escalation. And in the Red Sea, they note his readiness to deploy RAF warplanes when many European allies - such as the French and Italians - demurred.

That said, Mr Sunak's domestic instincts can still stay his hand. Whitehall sources say serious consideration was given to promising Ukraine a multi-year package of military support - not just one year - to send a clear signal of UK strategic patience to Moscow.

But those sources say Mr Sunak became all "chancellorish" and saw the issue through the prism of Treasury rules. There were discussions about whether part of the money could be promised for some years, a techni-

cal solution that muddied waters and was dropped.

A third pointer to Mr Sunak's increased global activism is simply time. The longer prime ministers are in office, the more they find foreign affairs unavoidable and at times alluring, compared to the messy compromises of home.

This was apparent when Mr Sunak addressed Ukraine's parliament, an emotional event where MPs bellowed their national anthem, held a minute's silence for the dead and cheered the leader of a major ally - the first to visit this year - who was showing them some love after months of what they see as growing Western indifference.

"I come from the world's oldest parliament to address the world's bravest," Mr Sunak told them. For a man seen by some as a rational technocrat, he was clearly affected by the emotion. And for a prime minister behind in the polls, repeated standing ovations from any audience are not to be sniffed at.

Rishi Sunak has not suddenly become some global interventionist, seeking to reshape the world in Britain's interests. But nor too is he as unengaged in foreign affairs as some would have it. He may not be prime minister beyond an election later this year. But until then, there will be no shortage of foreign policy and the decisions he makes will matter. **BBC**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Will Felix Tshisekedi deliver war or peace for DR Congo and Rwanda?

KINSHASA

ON Saturday, Félix Tshisekedi was sworn in for a second term as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo following a chaotic, disputed election.

He has another five years to improve the fortunes of a nation where more than 70% of people live in extreme poverty and decades of conflict have plagued the lives of millions.

So can Mr Tshisekedi bring that long yearned-for peace to DR Congo? Or have heightened violence and the president's campaign pledge to go to war with neighbouring Rwanda ruined any chances of that?

During both of his presidential campaigns, Mr Tshisekedi has vowed to tackle the unrest in eastern DR Congo.

Dozens of armed groups - including the notorious M23 - battle for control of land, and the region's abundant minerals, which include gold, diamonds and cobalt, essential for batteries in mobile phones and electric cars.

Last year, conflict between the groups flared after a months-long lull and the number of people forced to flee their homes reached a record 6.9 million, according to the UN.

To bring all this to an end, Mr Tshisekedi needs to reshift his focus from "short-term" military initiatives to lasting solutions, Richard Moncrieff, Great Lakes Project director at the International Crisis Group (ICG), tells the BBC.

President Tshisekedi and other African leaders had started negotiations - known as the Nairobi and Luanda processes - in an attempt to ease DR Congo's insecurity through military and political strategies. However, these talks appear to have stalled.

The Congolese president hasn't paid keen attention to any of the peace processes, Mr Moncrieff argues, adding: "He needs to build for the long term in terms of reforming his security sector... and not place so much trust in very, very unreliable short-term solutions."

Military initiatives taken by the president in his first term include declaring a state of siege in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu, in 2021. He attempted to restore order by appointing military leaders to replace the civil administration in the areas.

Additionally, the president pushed for a recruitment drive that led to thousands of young people joining the army, while launching a disarmament operation aimed at reintegrating members of armed groups into civilian life.

Critics point out that these initiatives have failed to reduce fighting in the east, even though Mr Tshisekedi insists they have borne fruit.

He told MPs in November there



Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi reviews a honor guard during his swearing in ceremony for a second term in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo on Saturday. AP

had been a "reduction of cross-border mining and customs fraud which fuels conflicts", as well as an improvement in intercommunity tensions and "the reestablishment of state authority".

The president has also said getting rid of an East African force set up to curb DR Congo's conflict, and replacing it with a southern African one, will help to reduce insecurity.

In October 2023, DR Congo's government said it would not extend the East Africa Community (EAC) Regional Force's mandate after months of Kinshasa complaining about the troops' in-

effectiveness.

Last month, the Congolese foreign minister said troops from the southern African bloc SADC had been given the mandate "to support the Congolese army in fighting and eradicating the M23 and other armed groups that continue to disrupt peace and security".

It remains to be seen whether SADC can contain DR Congo's multiplicity of militias, which the forces before them, including the UN peacekeepers who have been in the country since 1999, have failed to do.

The UN mission, known as Monusco,

is set to complete its withdrawal from DR Congo at the end of this year - after President Tshisekedi's government deemed them to be ineffective.

Alongside cutting ties with forces from the UN and EAC, President Tshisekedi has threatened to go to war with Rwanda.

"If you re-elect me and Rwanda persists... I will request parliament and Congress to authorise a declaration of war. We will march on Kigali," he said in December, in his final campaign rally.

He accuses Rwanda of supporting the M23 rebel group. A UN group of experts made a similar observation in a 2023 re-

port, with the US backing its findings.

Rwanda has always denied the claim and accuses its neighbour of backing Hutu rebels who stage attacks in Rwanda.

President Tshisekedi has threatened to attack Rwanda a number of times before, but has not yet followed through. Many believe these pledges were simply a bid for the nationalist vote.

Following Mr Tshisekedi's most recent pledge, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said anyone who wished for his country's destruction "will experience it instead".

Mr Kagame's words indicate Rwanda would respond with force to any "march on Kigali" and President Tshisekedi would not only have failed to bring peace to DR Congo, but would have drawn more violence to his own country.

And Rwanda's army is one of the most respected in Africa, while DR Congo's is notorious for corruption and ill-discipline.

But having made the threat, Mr Tshisekedi "will find it difficult to row back from the bellicose rhetoric that he used in the election campaign", Mr Moncrieff said.

In DR Congo, peace does not only mean the defeat of M23 and its fellow armed groups. The Congolese people will also expect their president to facilitate dialogue which addresses disputes between the nation's numerous ethnic groups, which past leaders have not successfully tackled.

He must also deal with the political row caused by the disputed elections.

Ahead of the inauguration, three opposition leaders and presidential candidates who lost out to Mr Tshisekedi called for protests during the ceremony.

Lender to invest \$10.5m in capital of Seedstars Africa Ventures to boost investment in innovative businesses

By Special Correspondent

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) agreed on Wednesday that the Bank should take a stake of \$10.5million in the capital of Seedstars Africa Ventures S.L.P. venture capital fund to enable it to invest in innovative African businesses with strong growth potential.

The Bank agreed to invest \$7

million from its ordinary resources and \$3.5 million from the European Union Boost Africa programme. The investment will allow Seedstars Africa Ventures (SAV) to raise funds, expand its presence in Africa and attract other investors.

Seedstars Africa Ventures is an early-stage venture capital fund investing in high-growth companies active across Sub-Saharan Africa.

The fund focuses on businesses that have strong potential, are generating income and tackling key challenges in the market.

It mainly targets sub-Saharan Africa, especially markets less well covered by traditional investors, and enjoys a particular focus on French-speaking countries such as Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin and Cameroon. However, it also has invest-

ments in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania.

As a venture capital fund of USD 75 million, Seedstars Africa Ventures targets the start-up and launch phases of businesses tackling key constraints in the market. Initial investments are around the EUR 250,000 mark, followed by additional capital injections of £5 million to support their growth.

SAV focuses on financial in-

clusion and the technologies that equip businesses (fintech and insurtech); retail sales and logistics platforms that target the online and mobile consumers market; health-related technologies; pre-paid, off-grid energy; and more generally, the adoption of technology in businesses, particularly in the food-processing industry and value chains.

It is estimated that the fund

will help create 9,000 full-time jobs, 50% of them for women, and have a significant economic impact. The fund's objectives are in line with those of Boost Africa, which aims to invest in innovative start-ups that are growing strongly and having a positive social impact. Its investment strategy will strengthen that of the African Development Bank, which links entrepreneurship, investment

and economic growth to poverty reduction and sustainable development. It will also contribute to the Bank's operational priorities - the High 5 - by supporting start-ups operating in key sectors, such as agriculture, health, industrialization and off-grid energy. Finally, the investments will contribute to strengthening regional integration and improving the lives of people in Africa.

2024: A Year of cautious hope for African economies facing worldwide challenges

UNITED NATIONS

AS African economies look to the new year, countries across the continent are poised to make moderate economic gains but must navigate the maze of domestic and international challenges.

According to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2024, the continent's economic growth is expected to quicken slightly, with average GDP possibly inching up to 3.5 per cent.

Yet, debt sustainability concerns, fiscal pressures, and climate change present uncertainties. The projected 3.5 per cent growth is a slight increase from the 3.3 per cent in 2023.

Major regional economies, such as that of Egypt, are anticipated to slow to 3.4 per cent from 4.2 in the previous year, mainly due to foreign exchange scarcities that may weaken import capacity and domestic demand.

In South Africa, the persistent energy crisis has limited the growth to just 0.5 per cent in 2023, and no significant change is expected in 2024.

In Nigeria, the country's growth prospect points to a moderate increase, largely due to government reforms in the oil sector. The growth is forecast to be at 3.1 per cent.

Debt burden

High levels of debt are one of the main challenges African economies face going forward, the report noted. For instance, Zambia is navigating a debt-to-GDP ratio that soared past 70 per cent in recent years.

Yet, the country is not alone: "18 countries in Africa recorded a debt-to-GDP ratio of over 70 per cent in 2023, with many of them facing debt distress," the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) said in a release accompanying the report.

Ghana's financial health is also under scrutiny, with a staggering fifth of its tax revenue devoted to servicing debt.

These instances are not anomalies but rather stark representations of the debt dilemma many African nations confront.

Fiscal health and inflation
Fiscal stability remains elusive, the report highlighted, with many countries wrestling to increase their tax revenue, a vital lifeline for economic sustainability.

Energy subsidy reforms in nations like Nigeria and Angola reflect attempts to recalibrate fiscal policies amidst pressing economic realities. At the same time, inflationary pressures are widespread, with countries like Nigeria and Egypt experiencing severe surges in food prices.

In response, Central banks across the continent have tightened monetary policies, trying to stabilize currencies and curb inflation. Yet, the effectiveness of these measures in the face of global economic turbulence remains a critical question.

Climate change

Climate change continues to be an unpredictable catalyst, significantly impacting agriculture-dependent economies. The Horn of Africa, repeatedly battered by droughts exacerbated by human-induced climate change, faces ongoing threats to food security and economic stability.

Southern Africa's vulnerability was laid bare by Cyclone Freddy in March 2023, with losses mounting into hundreds of millions. These incidents underscore the urgent need for climate resilience strategies.

Trade

The global slowdown in trade has also slowed down economic growth in Africa. This is due to less demand from the main countries that buy Africa's exports and the prices for raw materials and goods sold by the continent have stopped increasing.

Although overall intra-African trade remains relatively low continent-wide, hovering below 15 per cent, this general



Betty Mtehemu, Deputy Chairperson of Fabric Clothes Sector, and Chairperson of the Women's Union in Dar es Salaam's Mchikichini Market

trend masks regional variations.

Notably, East and Southern Africa stand out with their relatively higher levels of intra-regional trade, where intra-African exports correspond to almost 30% of these subregions' overall exports. These regions contrast with other parts of the continent, where trade is more externally oriented.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

emerged as a central initiative intended to address these intra-African trade issues. Its goal is to enhance economic integration and increase trade flows within the continent by creating a single market for goods and services.

Yet, despite its potential, the actual impact of AfCFTA has been limited so far, the report said.

The 2024 UN World Economic Situation and Pros-

pects (WESP) is produced by UN DESA in partnership with the five UN Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UN-OHRLS and UNWTO. It features the global economic outlook for 2024 and 2025, and regional growth forecasts for developed and developing economies, as well as economies in transition.

IPS

By Ian Satchwell

Australia and Africa relationships: Economic diplomacy is out of sync with investment ties

TWO West African nations report that Australia - and not France, the United States or China - is their largest foreign investor. Large Australia-linked energy and minerals projects will transform economies in two other nations in West Africa.

Australia's economic linkages with Africa are growing, in goods and services trade, two-way investment and people-to-people relationships. The potential upside is high. Resource-rich African nations are key to global minerals and energy security. They also have a strong role to play in delivering on Australia's recent commitments on assuring critical minerals supply chains both from home and other countries.

Australian-headquartered or ASX-listed minerals companies have invested capital of \$60 billion in 234 exploration, mining and processing projects in Africa.

Yet Africa barely rates a mention in Australian media, nor gains much serious attention from government. Australian economic diplomacy with Africa is dimming, with just one trade commissioner left to serve the vast continent. Other policy levers have also been eroded, with development assistance slashed.

Mining is Australia's fastest-growing category of investment in Africa, but Australia had only anecdotal evidence of this trend for 16 years from 2002-03 when ABS and DFAT last collected by-industry data on investment abroad before doing a new study in 2018-19. By then, there were 138 affiliates of Australian mining companies operating across Africa.

While the wider DFAT-by-industry investment data is now five years out of date, such information expands understanding of Australia's African investment footprint. In 2018-19, a total of 318 Australian-affiliated companies across all sectors in Africa employed 19,000 people and generated sales of \$8.4 billion - \$7 billion worth of goods and \$1.4 billion of services.

According to 2023 data from S&P Global Market Intelligence, Australian-headquartered or ASX-listed minerals companies have invested capital of \$60 billion (dollars of the day) in 234 exploration, mining and processing projects in Africa.

The value of their defined mineral reserves is a massive \$17 trillion. Australian companies budgeted \$539 million for mineral exploration in 2023, a 14 per cent increase on 2022, and 29 per cent of total exploration spending in Africa last year.

Mining equipment

Austrade reports that 90 per cent of new exploration licences being offered by critical minerals hotspot, Tanzania, in the last two years

have been taken up by Australian companies. Austrade notes that there is goodwill towards Australia and its miners in the region.

After mining, the next largest sector is financial and insurance services. Australian-based mining equipment, technology and services (METS) companies are also active in Africa, with 40 per cent exporting to Africa and one-third having offices there.

Such is the interest in Africa from Australian mining and METS companies that they have their own industry body, the Australia-Africa Minerals and Energy Group, which co-sponsors the Africa Down Under mining conference, the centrepiece of Africa Week held in Perth each year.

The African diaspora in Australia, a key vector for trade and investment, has grown markedly. In the 20 years between 2002 and 2022, the Australian population born in Africa grew by 147 per cent - more than double the growth rate from total overseas sources of migration - to reach 1.6 per cent of the Australian population.

In the ten years to 2019 (pre-pandemic), short-term visits to Africa by Australian residents grew by 70 per cent to 177,000. This is an indicator both of the increase in the African diaspora and the growing business relationship. An average of eight per cent of Australian residents travelling overseas do so for business.

Despite the fall in aid to Africa, the Australian government has supported several bespoke mining governance capacity-building initiatives in recent years.

Austrade cites the presence of numerous Australian university alumni in government and business in East Africa as a comparative advantage for Australians doing business in the region. This is testament to the economic benefit for Australia of the long-running but now reduced Australia Awards scholarships, fellowships and short courses available to students and professionals from 26 nations across Africa. It is also a reminder of the economic benefits of long-term investments in people-to-people relationships.

While Austrade has just three African offices serviced by one trade commissioner, Canada's trade offices have grown to 17, each with several senior staff. Canada is developing an economic cooperation strategy with Africa as part of its export diversification strategy, and is also implementing its new Indo-Pacific Strategy in Australia's backyard.



THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORDS/WORD FIT - 63 -

By Felix Magezin: 0787 00 97 94 // felixmagezin@gmail.com

11 keep out of sight
12 a plant of a genus that includes the pansies and violets
14 'believe' according to users in England
15 willful in Kiswahili
17 notice in Kiswahili
18 party in Kiswahili

Down:
1 make great efforts
2 Capital city of U.K
3 self-consciously playful
4 Set again
6 loss or impairment of the power of voluntary movement
8 mammals
9 formal and dignified
13 a space or partly inside the roof of a building
16 Steal in Kiswahili

Across:
1 a watery liquid secreted into the mouth by glands
5 a measure
7 go hurriedly through a place stealing things and causing damage
10 combining form in linguistics term

In this Puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

HOE INTO	KOALA	IGLOO
SKY, ELM	ATHANOR	MEANS
HER, SHY	DORMER	THEME
TEL, YEN	YANG, LEAD	ROTOR
ARM, ETE	TASH, TACO	CREAM

Yesterday's solution

MALAWI	S	FAMOUS
O	A	YANCHI
MANYEMA	O	LACINIE
EDDO	B	ORE
NDOLA	A	OTATA
TINKU	A	VERONAL
S	E	ENAMEL
STADL	V	RATED
	T	SEN

Meanwhile, Australian development cooperation with African countries has shrunk from \$214 million of direct aid in 2012-13 to just \$15 million in 2023-24. Canada's development assistance budget for Africa is \$27 million.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, funded separately to the DFAT-administered aid program, operates projects in 11 countries in eastern and southern Africa aimed at improving agricultural productivity and food security.

Despite the fall in aid to Africa, the Australian government has supported several bespoke mining governance capacity-building initiatives in recent years, including in 2023 the West African mining security conference in response to the security situation in several countries, and a minerals-focused Australia Awards short course for participants from multiple African countries. The largely privately funded West Africa Exploration Initiative is in its 18th year, transforming geological understanding and regional capacity across eight nations.

In 2016, the government's newly established Advisory Group on Australian African Relations released its Strategy for Australia's Engagement with Africa. The strategy proposed "a renewed vision" with six interlinked strategic focus areas for delivery of initiatives to strengthen ties.

DFAT responded positively, if with equivocal commitments. There appears to be little if any progress in implementing the strategy, however, and nothing more has been heard publicly from

the advisory group. Its recommendations, including expanding trade and investment, security cooperation, and environmental protection, remain current, with implementation of several even more pressing.

Meantime, Australian companies in Africa simply get on with it, while looking a little jealously at the support their Canadian counterparts receive.

And the two West African nations where Australia leads foreign investment? Burkina Faso and Mali, where Australian mining companies collectively are the largest private sector investors. And Woodside and Rio Tinto projects in Senegal and Guinea will be nation-building for those two West African countries.



Despite the fall in aid to Africa, the Australian government has supported several bespoke mining governance capacity-building initiatives in recent years

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One **Radio One**

BoT debuts new policy rate at 5.5 percent in Q1

By Guardian Reporter

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has set the new policy rate at 5.5 percent for the first quarter of this year, after migrating to the interest rate monetary policy, since the start of the year.

This is according to the statement issued after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on 18th January 2024, the first-ever meeting in which the BoT began implementing monetary policy using interest rates.

The MPC noted that the BoT's transition from monetary targeting to an interest rate (or price)-based monetary policy framework is a significant milestone in monetary policy transformation in the country.

"This forward-looking framework is expected to improve the effectiveness of monetary policy in the changing economic environment," Emmanuel Tutuba, the governor, BoT and MPC chairman was quoted in a statement as saying.

Tutuba said in a statement that this is also a fulfilment of the country's commitment to the implementation of the EAC Monetary Union Protocol.

He said the MPC's decision on the CBR rate considered the need to contain inflation within the medium-term target of five percent, while supporting economic growth to reach 5.5 percent or more in 2024 and ensuring the stability of the exchange rate.



Emmanuel Tutuba, the governor, BoT and MPC chairman

The BoT will use monetary policy instruments to align the 7-day interbank rate, the operating targeting variable, within +/-200 basis points of the policy rate.

The statement noted that the performance of the economy was satisfactory in 2023 as the growth in the third quarter was 5.3 percent, projected at around 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter.

Therefore, Tutuba said, there is a high likelihood of at-

taining the growth projection of 5 percent for 2023.

The performance of the domestic economy was reinforced by public investment and policies geared towards improving the business environment for the private sector.

Inflation continued to decline, reaching 3 percent in December 2023 from 3.2 percent in the previous year and is projected to be around 3.2 percent in the first quarter of 2024.

Potential risks to the infla-

tion outlook include the ongoing geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East, the War between Russia and Ukraine and the OPEC+ decision on oil production.

Monetary conditions became relatively tight as 2023 unfolded, and money supply growth slowed due to the less accommodative monetary policy, which was intended to limit inflationary pressures while safeguarding growth.

Extended broad money sup-

ply (M3) growth slowed to 14.1 percent but was above the target of 10.1 percent while private sector credit growth remained strong, reaching 171 percent compared to the projection of 16.4 percent.

The tightening monetary condition helped to reduce pressure on foreign reserves and exchange rate.

The financial sector remained stable throughout 2023 as the banking sector was liquid, profitable and adequately capitalized due to increased deposits, assets, and loans.

The asset quality improved, as reflected by the decline in the non-performing loans to 4.3 percent in December 2023 from 5.8 percent in 2022, reflecting a decline in credit risk associated with stable macroeconomic conditions and risk mitigation measures adopted.

Forex inflows from tourism, traditional exports, and official inflows reduced pressure on the current account, foreign reserves, and exchange rate.

Foreign reserves were adequate, reaching US\$5.5 billion at the end of December 2023, which were equivalent to 4.5 months of projected imports.

The exchange rate was stable, depreciating by 7.8 percent year-on-year.

The MPC says it took note of the recent developments in the exchange rate and reiterated the need to continue implementing measures to improve the interbank foreign exchange market and ensure the stability of the exchange rate.



Central bank of Zambia

Chinese currency gives the US dollar run for its money

JOHANNESBURG

When you land at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka, one of the billboards welcoming you to the Zambian capital advertises the services of the Bank of China (BOC).

There are not many countries in Africa where the Chinese government-owned financial institution offers fully fledged banking services in renminbi (RMB), the official Chinese currency.

Apart from Zambia, BOC has a branch in Johannesburg, South Africa, and it also has a representative office in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

But it was in the southern nation of Zambia where BOC established its first African subsidiary, allowing customers to make deposits in and even withdraw Chinese yuan.

Branches in both Lusaka and Kitwe, a mining town in the country's northern Copperbelt region, serve the growing number of Chinese mining firms and immigrants.

Recently, the lender also announced that its Zambian division would help boost the use of the yuan for trade as part of China's efforts to promote the Chinese currency in Africa.

"Actually, Bank of China is a local clearing bank and we will earnestly act upon our responsibility and leverage on our role in Zambia to support other African countries to provide holistic products and services related to RMB and to promote the use of RMB in bilateral trade and economic activities," BOC vice-president Lin Jingzhen said during his visit to Lusaka.

Lin's trip followed Hichilema's state visit to China in September, when the two countries agreed to trade more using their own currencies.

Zambia is Africa's second-largest copper producer, most of it exported to China, the world's largest consumer of the metal. But financial woes hit Zambia in 2020 when it defaulted on foreign debt.

China helped strike a deal last June to restructure US\$6.3 billion in Zambian loans. About US\$4.1 billion of this is owed to China, the country's largest bilateral lender.

Last year, Egypt issued three-year panda bonds worth 3.5 billion yuan (US\$490 million), when it decided to opt for less conventional borrow-

ing as it faced an economic crisis that resulted in fewer dollars and other hard currencies.

Kenya, which is also facing debt repayment troubles, is currently considering issuing panda bonds to secure funds to retire its US\$2 billion Eurobond which is due this year.

Charlie Robertson, head of macro strategy at FIM Partners, an asset management firm, said ever since the West imposed its stringent financial sanctions on Russia, China had been determined to accelerate the use of the renminbi to reduce its vulnerability to similar sanctions that could stem from a possible invasion of Taiwan.

"Encouraging the use of China's currency gives China more foreign policy flexibility," Robertson said. "It also transfers currency risk from China, which might otherwise have to accept very undervalued or overvalued US dollars from trading partners, on to its trading partners."

Robertson explained that Egypt now carried the currency risk from borrowing in China's currency after issuance of its panda bonds. Equally, Zambia carried the currency risk from accepting yuan as payment for its resources.

"There is a good case to be made for Egypt and Zambia; this is a reasonable diversification - from mainly US dollar currency risk to a broader range of currencies," Robertson said.

Until now, if the US Federal Reserve increased rates significantly and the US dollar strengthened, Egypt and Zambia would be very exposed, Robertson said.

Sub-Saharan geoeconomic analyst Aly-Khan Satchu said a powerful tailwind was driving greater renminbi adoption.

"We are at a tipping point in Africa," he said, explaining that African countries that had borrowed in dollars were not only shut out of dollar capital markets but their debts had increased on a foreign exchange adjusted basis.

"It is an untenable situation," Satchu said, adding that this was now pushing African countries to diversify their dollar exposure.

"It makes perfect sense to trade in renminbi with your largest trading partner, which is China for most of the continent. So further adoption is a no-brainer."

Barrick Gold Corp hands over Kahama airport to TAA

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama



Barrick president and CEO Mark Bristow

Barrick Gold Corporation (BGC) has officially handed over new airport terminal built at the closed Buzwagi gold mine's Kahama airstrip to the Tanzania Airport Authority (TAA).

"The role of a sustainable mining company is not only to create value for stakeholders today but to ensure it leaves behind a positive legacy that will continue to serve local communities long after mining is complete," said Mark Bristow, Barrick president and chief executive at the official handover ceremony of the airport yesterday.

The ceremony marks the conclusion of an eight-month partnership between Barrick and TAA at a total cost of \$384,000 - shared 70 percent (\$268,000) by Barrick and 30 percent (\$116,000) by TAA - and will pave the way for a scheduled airline service in and out of Kahama.

The new terminal will serve more than 200 passengers at a time, compared to only 25 passengers previously, and is expected to be a catalyst for economic growth in the region.

The building includes an arrival and departure terminal, VIP lounge and meeting room, coffee and gift shop, as well as amenities for people with disabilities.

The Buzwagi gold mine was an economic powerhouse for Tanzania's Shinyanga region for nearly 15 years.

At its peak, Buzwagi was the second largest operating mine in Tanzania and employed more than 3,000 people.

Its operational life came to an end in July 2021 and the mine was officially closed in July 2022.

Since then, Barrick has been attending to Buzwagi's environmental rehabilitation while also advancing its plans to transform the closed mine into a Special Economic Zone.

A feasibility study commissioned in 2021 showed that the creation of the Special Economic Zone had the potential to replace the mine as the region's economic driver and could sustainably create 3,000 jobs annually, generate more than \$150,000 each year from service levies for the local municipality and deliver approximately \$4.5 million in employment taxes a year.

Foreign holdings of US Treasuries soar - data

NEW YORK

Foreign holdings of US Treasuries in November surged to an all-time high, data from the Treasury Department showed on Friday, rising after declining for two straight months.

Total holdings of US Treasuries climbed to

\$7.81 trillion in November from \$7.565 trillion in the previous month. Compared with a year earlier, overseas holdings of Treasuries were up 7.6 percent.

"The buying had a lot to do with the turnaround in rates that happened in October and continued through November," said Gennady

Goldberg, head of US rates strategy at TD Securities in New York. "A lot of the foreign investors were jumping on the lower-rate bandwagon."

The benchmark 10-year Treasury yield started November at 4.791 percent, ending the month down 44 basis points at 4.35 percent.

Japanese investors raised their stash of Treasuries to \$1.127 trillion in November from \$1.098 trillion in October, data showed. Their holdings were the largest since December 2021, increasing after two consecutive months of declines.

Japan remains the largest

non-US holder of US government debt.

China's holdings of Treasuries edged up to \$782 billion in November from \$769.6 billion in October. The October number was the lowest since March 2009, when China had \$763.5 billion, data showed. Goldberg said holdings

of Treasuries by China are still very much on the downtrend.

"One or two months in increases don't really change the downward trend," the TD analyst said. "China is still very busy trying to stimulate the economy. It's still trying to defend its currency (the yuan), which on an ongoing

basis continues to push their holdings of US Treasuries lower."

Data further showed, major US asset classes showed inflows during the month.

On a transaction basis, US Treasuries posted inflows of \$91 billion in November, from an inflow of \$54 billion

in October.

US equities had inflows of \$7.9 billion, following an outflow of \$7.1 billion in October.

Foreign buying of US corporates and agencies in November persisted, with inflows of \$34.1 billion and \$16.4 billion, respectively.

Ministry consults foreign ICT experts to shape higher learning

By Francis Kajubi

THE Ministry of Information, Communication and Information Technology has invited foreign experts in the innovation sector to share their experience to higher learners in the ICT profession so that they can develop innovative-driven solutions that comply to be sold and used at the global level.

Dr Nkundwe Mwasaga, Director General Information, Communication and Technology Commission said in Dar es Salaam on Friday at a one-day workshop that brought

together over 350 graduates and higher learners in the ICT profession that ICT innovations are inevitable towards a global digital economy competition.

He said through a joint venture programme dubbed 'Dunia Yetu' with ThreeFold that targets at transferring new insights and experience to ICT graduates on the areas of inventing and developing innovative solution-led systems and applications.

"We have come to realize that most of our ICT graduates are good at developing innovative solutions -led systems and applications but lack

exposure to important things that could make their innovations accepted and used by the masses at the global level," said Dr Mwasaga.

According to him, the collaboration with Threefold has made it possible for the commission to consult Arthur Brock, Founder of Holochain and the well-known innovative systems developer to come and share professional insights that would help ICT graduates develop world class systems and applications.

"We have invited the graduates and higher learners to grab new insights and therefore gain competence and invent solution-led innovations that

would make them lure the global innovation market," said Dr Mwasaga.

He asserted that during the current financial year the commission will develop eight centers for innovation. The initiative is meant to make all developed innovative solutions in the country identified and recognized for global ICT economy-driven competition. Kristof Despiegeleer, Founder Threefold said that the young generation needs to be familiar with the digital world by acquiring broad knowledge on innovation.

"Building a digital future needs the training and engagement of young people if the digital economy is to be

realized not only in Tanzania but for the whole world. In this case, each country needs to empower its local innovators and start-ups to achieve this mission," said Despiegeleer.

Arthur Brock, Founder Holochain said that creativity is of great importance that cannot be ignored in realizing the digital economy.

"Infrastructure should be decentralized especially for supporting access to the internet on top of development of new innovations. There is a need to localize new technologies from the global level and consider the empowerment of young innovators," said Brock.

Nokia soon to exit telecom joint venture with Huawei

BEIJING

Finnish telecoms equipment giant Nokia has found new buyers for its majority stake in a Beijing-based joint venture with Huawei Technologies, after a proposed deal fell through last year following strong protest by the Chinese partner.

Under the latest agreement, wireless technology firm TD Tech will be jointly controlled by Huawei and a group of entities that include the government-owned Chengdu High-Tech Investment Group and Chengdu Gaoxin Jicui Technology Co, as well as venture capital firm Huagai, according to a disclosure published on Friday by the State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR).

The document did not reveal how much equity each of the new participants will hold. Before the sale, Nokia owned 51 per cent of TD Tech, while Huawei held 49 per cent.

Do you have questions about the biggest topics and trends from around the world? Get the answers with SCMP Knowledge, our new platform of curated content with explainers, FAQs, analyses and infographics brought to you by our award-winning team.

Regulators said they had no antitrust concerns on the deal and would solicit public feedback until January 28. Huawei and TD Tech together control no more than 10 per cent of China's smartphone market, according to the SAMR, which did not specify the time frame for that data.

Huawei had a 14 per cent share in the Chinese smartphone market in the third quarter last year, putting it in fifth place behind its spin-off Honor and rivals Oppo, Vivo and Apple, data from market intelligence firm Counterpoint Research showed.

TD Tech, founded in 2005, had been a joint venture between Huawei and German tech conglomerate Siemens until 2007, when Siemens sold half of its stake to Nokia. In 2013, Siemens divested all its shares, making Nokia the major shareholder.

Known for its wireless communications equipment, including 4G and 5G networking gear, TD Tech has a presence in more than 100 countries serving 8 million industry customers, according to its website.

While Nokia had been the majority owner of the joint venture, Huawei has been the de facto controller, according to industry observers.

"The management are former Huawei employees, with product solutions based on Huawei products but fine-tuned for the industry market," Yang Guang, an analyst covering the telecoms sector at research firm Omdia, said last year.

When Nokia last year tried to sell its majority stake to Shanghai-listed ink maker New East New Materials, Huawei threatened to stop licensing technology to TD Tech. That deal ultimately collapsed.

Huawei likely did not want to lose control of TD Tech, which could help the Chinese tech giant circumvent some US sanctions and help it address certain market segments more efficiently, Yang said at the time.

TD Tech in 2021 started selling what amounted to rebranded Huawei phones under its own brand. They included the M40 5G, which used a 7-nanometre chip from Taiwan-based MediaTek instead of Huawei's own Kirin processors.

Sanctions imposed by Washington currently bar companies from selling to Huawei advanced chips made with US-origin technology, which includes MediaTek processors made by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the world's largest contract chip maker.

Rural development institute comes up with new courses

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has introduced the new business related courses to help molding high professionals in the country's development planning sector.

To commence in 2024/25 academic year at certificate and diploma levels, the new courses include Accounting and Finance Management and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and are both certified by National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

The IRDP's Deputy Rector, Academics, Research and Consultancy, Prof. Provident Dimoso revealed that the target is to ensure an increase of ICT and Accounting and Finance Management expertise to the economy.

"Rolling out of these programs seeks to quench the current market demand as most of employers have been raising concern of lacking planning experts with the necessary knowledge on the two potential components," Prof Dimoso asserted.

He said the institute has already employed the high-profile trainers to shape the prospective students who will enroll for the courses.

"Apart from recruiting new trainers, we have also sponsored our staffs to acquire needed knowledge from overseas in order to ensure we stand professional side to produce best experts who will cater for current demand in the country's development planners," he added.

Professor Dimoso Don said the institute has so far setting up a modern clouds-connected computer lab for facilitating smooth training towards the ICT students.

The state-of-the-art lab, according to him, has been installed with a total of 165 modern wireless computers, and with different programmes in relate to ICT studies.

"We have entered into contract with the Tanzania Research Network (TERNET) to supply us with fast and



The IRDP's Deputy Rector, Academics, Research and Consultancy, Prof. Provident Dimoso (C- White shirt) leads a special committee to compile and improve the varsity's admission guiding book for 2024/2025 academic year. PHOTO: Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma.

reliable Internet services at the lab so as to ensure the facility runs more fruitful," he unveiled.

Through the development, he said their side will be getting at least 1000 Megabits per second (MBPs) apart from others available internet bundle services from TTCL, ZANTEL and TIGO.

Prof Dimoso said the institute is currently working to improve its student's admission guiding book with an eye to set criterion and qualifications which the applicants must possess in order to qualify to affiliate with

new courses, among others.

Along with that, the IRDP has also introduced a special program to offer a number of different short courses meant to build the capacity of the workers from the central government, regional administration and local government, public institutions, as well as those from private entities.

The courses have specifically been designed for imparting the servants from the public and private sector with useful knowledge on how professional to execute their various

daily roles.

The courses include preparation of strategy planning, corporate social responsibility, preparation and supervision of budgets, monitoring and evaluation of projects, and cost and benefit analysis in projects.

Others are including feasibility studies in projects and preparation of documents for strategic projects, risk management, population planning and land use planning.

Also, during 2022/23 academic year IRDP introduced other new courses in efforts to spur its perfor-

mance, which are Urban and Regional Planning (URP), Geomatics, Human Resource Management and Environmental Health.

"Together with that, during last academic year we managed to review a total of five curriculum, including Bachelor Degree in Business Planning and Management, Bachelor Degree in Planning and Community Development, Bachelor Degree in Population and Development Planning, and Bachelor Degree in Project Planning and Management," Prof Dimoso insisted.

Bolt unveils 'Driver Compliments' feature in Tanzania



Bolt Tanzania operations manager Munira Ruhwanya

By Guardian Reporter

Bolt has announced the launch of a new product on its app, called 'Driver Compliments', which will prompt riders to give a specific, additional piece of positive feedback in addition to the star rating they assign their drivers.

The statement issued yesterday said this feature will enhance the feedback loop by giving drivers visibility into the positive feedback given by riders, leading to improved driver performance and enhanced rider experience.

It will also empower drivers with information to understand rider preferences better and tailor their service accordingly.

"Once a rider leaves a compliment, drivers will get a notification in-app, taking them to the message they have received, whether that is for driving skills, communication, or the overall experience of the ride," the statement further said.

The comments will be visible only to the respective driver to maintain privacy and encourage open feedback.

Also, feedback is anonymous which means drivers would not be able to identify the person who has left the message and is shared with an at least 48 hours delay.

Munira Ruhwanya, operations manager, Bolt Tanzania said: "We are excited to introduce the Driver Compliments feature in response to drivers and couriers feedback on wanting more insights into their trips. Recognizing the importance of feedback, we have launched this feature to enhance the delivery of quality ride-hailing experiences to all users".

Ruhwanya said this presents a wonderful opportunity for riders to express gratitude and acknowledge drivers for the thoughtful actions that contribute to a memorable and enjoyable journey.

"We understand that a simple five-star rating may not capture all the ways a driver enhances the experience, so now riders can directly convey their appreciation at the end of the ride," Ruhwanya said.

"We encourage our riders to take a moment and utilize this feature to share their positive experiences. This not only serves as a token of gratitude but also motivates our dedicated driver partners to strive for even greater excellence. To maintain a respectful environment, we've incorporated a built-in profanity filter in the feature, ensuring that only constructive and appreciative comments appear in the driver's app."

Driver Compliments are totally optional, but could help a lot in terms of adding more depth to the feedback mechanism Bolt employs, and that might mean more useful data on the Bolt side, too, she said.

Tanzania facing shortages of procurement professionals

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Procurement and Supplies Professionals and Technicians Board (PSPTB) has conducted a survey to determine the professionals shortage in different districts and councils.

The survey targeted to find ways to plug the gap that exists in availability of professionals experts.

According to the PSPTB Executive Director, Goodfred Mbanyi, the Board has consulted the ministries of finance, the President's Office-Public Service Management and Good Governance) and the President's Office-Regional Administration and Local Government) over the shortage of the professionals.

The intention is to seek permission to recruit the new qualified procurement experts to areas where there are shortages.

"It appears that some districts and councils are holding encouraging number of the said professionals than others, unequal distribution which need to be addressed," he said.

Mbanyi revealed this over the weekend in Dodoma Capital City when announcing 27th certified procure-

ment and supply professionals (CPSP) examinations results.

He observed that the shortages led into unprofessional handling of procurement and supply works, unwelcoming practice which is sabotaging the government's pace and quality in executing diverse development projects.

"The government is injecting billions meant to support executing of developing projects, and these huge funds are likely to be spent unpatriotically due to absence of these professionals," he noted.

He observed that some of the councils are being 'arm-twisted' to use unqualified personnel to handle the role of procurement and supply processes.

To addressing the shortages, he said, the board was taking different steps, including attracting and shaping more eligible fresh graduate to seat for the certified procurement and supply professionals (CPSP) examinations.

According to the examination results, 307 candidates, out of 932 scored pass marks, which is equal to 32.9 percent of all candidates sat for the exams coordinated by the board.

Mbanyi unveiled that a



PSPTB executive director Goodfred Mbanyi

total of 20 candidates failed the exams completely, whereby 605 are due to re-seat some of subjects which they scores below the set pass marks.

He encouraged the disqualified candidates to embark on preparations for re-seating the examinations in May, this year.

He named the subjects that most of the candidates have failed to score the recommended marks as Basic Com-

mercial Arithmetic, Principle of Book-Keeping, Decision Making Techniques and Project Management.

"Weak results among candidates include poor preparations, lack of required techniques in answering questions as well as lack of proper center for acquisition of relevant professional training," Mbanyi observed.

The admission for the new candidates who wish to undertake the pro-

fessional exams, and those wishing to reseat has been shelved to commence from January 22, 2024.

"The next examinations will be held from 13th May to 17th, at selected centers, including The Law School of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), TIA-Mbeya (Mbeya), College of Business Education-CBE (Dodoma), SUAT (Mwanza), TRITA (Moshi) and the Center for Alternative Education (Zanzibar)."

Elon Musk's AI star-tup secures \$500m funding

NEW YORK

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, has secured \$500 million in commitments from investors toward a \$1 billion goal, according to people with knowledge of the talks.

The company is discussing a valuation of \$15 billion to \$20 billion, though terms could still change in the coming weeks, the people said, declining to be named because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the investment. Musk said on X, the network formerly called Twitter, that the report was "fake news."

Musk launched the startup last year as an alternative to Open AI, which he co-founded and later left over philosophical differences about how to profit from the technology. xAI's product, a chatbot named Grok, is developed using social media posts on X, which Musk also owns. That allows Grok to access more recent data for its answers than other chatbots. The two companies' investors will likely overlap too.

Those who backed Musk's \$44 billion takeover of Twitter include Larry Ellison, Sequoia Capital, Andreessen Horowitz, Fidelity Management & Research Co. and Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal. Musk said in November that equity investors in X will own 25 percent of xAI. In practice, that means those investors are invited to invest in xAI at least 25 percent the amount they invested in X, according to a person with knowledge of the arrangement. If they invested \$10 billion in X, they're invited to invest \$2.5 billion or more in xAI, for example.

Musk and investors are expected to finalize terms in the next couple weeks, the people said.

Some parties are evaluating whether they can get computing power in addition to, or in some cases instead of, xAI equity shares, one of the people said. That would be beneficial to venture firms' portfolio companies, which need to process data intensively in order to build new artificial intelligence products.



Bank of England

Bank of England urged to end bias on rate hikes

LONDON

Bank of England is being urged to end its bias toward further interest-rate hikes or risk undermining its own credibility, in what's likely to be a tricky communication challenge for Governor Andrew Bailey.

Former members of the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee and other senior UK economists said the BOE's current hawkish stance is out of step with both the economic outlook and peers in the US and the euro zone. New guidance, they said, should come with the next rate decision on Feb. 1.

The longer the BOE waits, the more it risks clashing with a general election Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is expected to call later in the year.

The BOE's current guidance hasn't changed since August, when the latest inflation reading was 7.9 percent and the MPC raised rates for a final time to 5.25 percent.

As recently as last month, three of the nine MPC members voted to increase borrowing costs, and Bailey said there was "some way to go" in the fight against inflation.

Since then, output, wages and job creation have all weakened. Inflation has fallen to 4 percent and is on track to hit the 2 percent target by spring, a year earlier than the BOE's most recent forecast. Both the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank have signaled rate cuts are on the agenda.

Investors have barreled ahead of the BOE, pricing in sharp rate cuts this year and posing a new threat to bank's credibility. Public confidence in the institution is already at a record low.

The BOE "is still very hawkish,"

Jari Stehn, economist at Goldman Sachs, said at a conference on Jan. 15. As a result, switching the message will "take a little bit longer" for the BOE than the Fed or ECB, he added.

Markets are betting on a sharp reduction in borrowing costs this year, even after the slight shift in sentiment following this week's surprisingly strong inflation reading in the UK.

They've priced in four quarter-point cuts in the benchmark rate to 4.25% this year, starting in June. Just three months ago, markets saw rates remaining above 5% throughout 2024.

How far out of step the BOE has become with its peers was driven home last week when ECB President Christine Lagarde told Bloomberg TV that a rate cut for the euro area was likely by summer. Meanwhile, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell has said rates should be reduced before inflation drops to 2%, which Goldman Sachs chief economist Jan Hatzius said was consistent with "cuts at the March meeting."

Yet the BOE said in December that policy was "likely to need to be restrictive for an extended period of time" and that "further tightening" might be necessary. That month, three MPC members voted to raise rates a quarter point, and none backed a rate cut.

Bailey will need to avoid making its former guidance look like nonsense when the bank eventually pivots. George Buckley, chief European economist at Nomura, said the MPC's current view should be toned down. "It would make a lot of sense to change the guidance from 'further tightening,'" he said.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

MONDAY 22 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha kuhindo
9:30 Soap: In Love with Ramon rpt
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Igizo: Filimi
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi
13:40 Art and Lifestyle
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle
14:15 Soap rpt: Slay Queen
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
15:30 Igizo: Filimi
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Igizo: Mizungwe
18:30 DW: Afrimax
19:00 Ajiya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Bundesliga na DW
22:15 Mapihi
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji letu
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 23 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha kuhindo
9:30 Soap: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:25 Jagina
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023
11:40 Igizo: Mizungwe
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ajiya ya Jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 ITV Top ten
13:50 Shikabamba
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Shikabamba

WEDNESDAY 24 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha kuhindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love

THURSDAY 25 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha kuhindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Hapa na Pale
12:15 Mapihi
12:30 Soap: Uzalo
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Igizo: Filimi
13:30 Igizo: Mizungwe
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Mapihi rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Igizo: Mizungwe
18:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Abu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji letu
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

FRIDAY 26 Jan

5:00 Soap rpt: Uzalo
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michozo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha kuhindo
9:30 Soap rpt: Laws of love
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Usafiri wako
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kipindi maalum: AFCON 2023
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Hapa na Pale
12:15 Mapihi
12:30 Soap: Uzalo
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Igizo: Filimi
13:30 Igizo: Mizungwe
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:40 Mapihi rpt
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 Music: The Base
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Igizo: Mizungwe
18:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
19:00 Kipindi maalum: BOT
19:30 Soap: Laws of love
20:00 Habari
21:05 Abu Yako
21:10 Kipindi maalum: Tanesco
22:00 Ripoti maalum
22:30 Soap: Uzalo
23:00 Jiji letu
23:30 Music: The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera

SATURDAY 20 Jan

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba 5
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
12:50 Art and Lifestyle
13:20 Shamba lulu
14:50 Soap rpt: Laws of love
15:45 Igizo: Mizungwe
16:10 Igizo: Slay Queen
17:00 Shambani za Pwani
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 ITV Top 10 rpt
19:00 Jungu kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:05 Igizo: Slay Queen
21:40 Art and Lifestyle
22:10 ITV Top 10
22:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:40 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SUNDAY 21 Jan

5:00 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:05 Shika Bamba
10:35 Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:45 Mjuzi zaidi
13:30 Usafiri wako
14:00 Tamasha la Michozo
15:30 Mwangazi
16:30 ITV Top 10 rpt
17:20 Kipindi cha kisiasa
18:00 Hapa na Pale
18:15 Mapihi
18:30 Matukio ya waki
19:30 Soap: Slay Queen
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Igizo: Mizungwe
21:25 Kipindi maalum: Mchozo Supa Jackpot
21:40 Mjuzi Zaidi
22:20 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera

SAT 20 Jan

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Jagina rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Meza Huru rpt
12:30 Our Earth rpt

SUN 21 Jan

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michozo rpt
10:00 Meza Huru Rpt
11:30 Tomorrow Today rpt
12:30 Our Earth
13:00 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana
14:45 Mizungwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
18:00 EcoAfrica
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Innovation rpt
21:30 Capchat live
21:30 Telenovela rpt: The Three Sides Of Ana
00:00 Al Jazeera

MON 22 Jan

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Kumekucha Michozo rpt
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WORLD

Sudan suspends membership in east African bloc

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Foreign Ministry announced on Saturday the country has frozen its membership in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an east African bloc.

Chairman of the Transitional Sovereign Council, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, informed the president of the current session of the IGAD of Sudan's decision to freeze its membership in the bloc, the ministry said in a statement.

According to the statement, Sudan's move came as a result of "the IGAD's

disregard of Sudan's decision, which was officially conveyed to it, to freeze dealing with the bloc on any issues related to Sudan, which did not happen at the IGAD's extraordinary summit held in Uganda on Thursday."

On Jan 18, the IGAD held a summit in the Ugandan capital of Kampala where Sudan's crisis was part of the summit's agenda. Sudan boycotted the summit.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry further said that the final communique of the IGAD summit contained statements violating Sudan's sovereignty, pointing out that the Sudanese government



Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan answers questions during an interview on Sept 22, 2022, in New York. AP

does not abide by and is not concerned with everything issued by the IGAD regarding the Sudanese affairs.

On Dec 9, 2023, the IGAD had approved during an emergency summit in Djibouti, the current chair country of the IGAD, that a meeting would be held between the leaders of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces within two weeks, but later said the meeting was postponed for "technical reasons."

Sudan has been witnessing deadly clashes

between the SAF and the RSF since April 15, 2023. More than 12,000 people have been killed, and over 7.4 million have been displaced inside and outside Sudan since the fighting broke out, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The IGAD has been intensifying pressure on the Sudanese warring parties to sign a truce agreement to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the war-affected population.

Xinhua

Prince Harry withdraws libel claim against British tabloid

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry on Friday withdrew his libel claim against the publisher of the Mail on Sunday newspaper over an article about his security arrangements, with his spokesperson saying he wanted to focus on his family's safety.

Harry, King Charles' younger son, had sued Associated Newspapers over a 2022 article that stated he only offered to pay for police protection after bringing a separate legal fight against the British government.

The report also accused Harry, 39, of attempting to mislead the public about his willingness to pay for the policing, which was withdrawn after he stepped back from royal duties in 2020.

In December, he lost his attempt to have the paper's defense to his libel lawsuit thrown out, meaning he would have likely had to give evidence at London's High Court later this year.

The Daily Mail, the Mail on Sunday's sister title, reported that Harry, the Duke of Sussex, had abandoned his case hours before

his lawyers were required to hand over relevant documents.

The paper said he would now be obliged to pay the paper's costs of 250,000 pounds (\$316,900.00) along with his own fees which it put at 500,000 pounds. Both Harry's lawyer and a spokesperson for Associated declined to comment.

The prince's spokesperson, who said the legal costs had not been determined, said he had withdrawn the claim because he wanted to focus on the safety of his family and his case against the British government over the decision to strip him of automatic police protection when he was in Britain.

Harry, his US wife Meghan and their two children now live in California after the couple stepped down from royal duties in 2020. His claim against the government was heard in December with a ruling expected in the next few months.

That case was Harry's focus and not the libel action which would "give a continued platform to the Mail's false claims all those years ago", the spokesperson said.



Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, speak onstage at The Archewell Foundation Parents' Summit: Mental Wellness in the Digital Age during Project Healthy Minds' World Mental Health Day Festival 2023 at Hudson Yards on Oct 10, 2023 in New York City. AFP

London's High Court had ruled last July that the Mail report was defamatory - paving the way for Harry to take the case forward against one of Britain's biggest media publishers. But his bid to have the case decided in his favor without a trial then subsequently

failed. The legal action was one of a number of cases the royal is taking against British tabloids at the High Court.

He and six other high-profile figures including singer Elton John are also suing Associated

alleging widespread unlawful behavior including phone-hacking by its journalists.

A judge ruled in November that their case could go to trial after the publisher tried to have it thrown out.

Agencies

RAMESHWARAM

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said Gujarat has made unprecedented progress in the healthcare space in the last 20 years, added that the state has emerged as a 'big medical hub'.

PM Modi (pictured) added that Gujarat has presented a healthcare model for other states to emulate.

"Gujarat has made unprecedented progress in the healthcare space in the last 20 years. Today, Gujarat has emerged as a medical hub in

Gujarat has emerged as medical hub, says PM Modi

the country. Till 2002, there were only 11 medical colleges in Gujarat. Today, the count has gone to 40. In 20 years, the number of MBBS seats has increased five times while the number of PG seats has gone up three times," PM Modi said.

Virtually addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of Khodaldham Trust Cancer Hospital in Gujarat, he said 30 new cancer hospitals have been opened in the state over the last nine years.

"The government wants to ensure that cancer patients don't face any problems while dispensing treatment to patients. In the last nine years, 30 new can-

cer hospitals have opened while work is underway for 10 more such hospitals," PM Modi said.

He added that the central government has built around 1.5 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

"These Mandirs focus on the early detection of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The early detection of cancer helps doctors treat it," he said.



Noting that it is important that people remain healthy for the development of the country, PM Modi said as many as six crore people have benefited from the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana'.

"For the development of the country, it is important that people remain healthy. We have also started the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' for the poor. This scheme has helped more than six crore people," he added.

He added that women have greatly benefited from the efforts undertaken by the Centre in the healthcare space.

"Due to the efforts of the central government, our mothers, sisters and

daughters have benefited a lot. The Ayushman Arogya Mandir plays an important role in the early detection of cervical cancer and breast cancer," he said.

Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT), of the Leuva Patel sub-caste group of the Patidar community, will form into the healthcare space, with the organisation laying the foundation stone for its cancer hospital for patients from all communities.

PM Modi also congratulated the people belonging to the trust for the initiative.

ANI

US 'toxic' reaction validates Moscow's position on strategic stability – Russian MFA

MOSCOW

WASHINGTON'S "toxic reaction" to Moscow's stance on talks about strategic stability serves to affirm that Russia is in the right, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.



She was commenting on criticism from Pranay Vaddi, a senior director for arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation at the National Security Council under US President Joe Biden.

"Such a toxic reaction from Washington reaffirms we are right in firmly defending Russia's interests. We will continue to be steadfastly guided by the principled approaches outlined by [Russian Foreign Minister] Sergey Lavrov," the statement said.

Vaddi earlier commented on the proposed agreements for security guarantees between Russia and the West by alleging that Russia refused to engage with the US on the issue on strategic stability.

Spokesman clarifies claim UN was unaware of Hamas tunnels

TEL AVIV

AFTER coming under fire for claiming that the United Nations had no knowledge of Hamas' tunnel system in the Gaza Strip, a spokesman for the global body's chief offered a clarification to the Tazpit Press Service.

Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, was asked on Wednesday whether, given the sizable UN presence amid a multitude of Gazan agencies, the organisation had any indication the tunnels were being constructed.

"No is clearly the answer for that," he said. "It seems to me that all this infrastructure was built in a highly secretive way."

Gilad Erdan, Israel's UN ambassador, responded with a tweet containing two letters he personally wrote to Guterres documenting Hamas tunnels and their proximity to sensitive sites, including UN facilities.

The Israeli envoy also cited a 2022 statement by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) condemning the presence of a "man-made cavity" beneath one of its Gaza schools as a breach of neutrality and international law.

Additionally, Erdan claimed he had briefed UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini on the tunnels in 2021.

ANI

KCNA confirms Putin's willingness to visit DPRK

SEOUL

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin expressed his willingness to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported yesterday, citing a press release issued one day earlier by the assistant office of the DPRK's foreign minister.



At the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, DPRK Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui paid an official visit to Russia from Monday to Wednesday and held strategic talks with her Russian counterpart, according to the press release.

The two countries had deep strategic communication and reached consensus on various regional and international issues, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, it said.

The DPRK and Russia expressed their strong will to further strengthen strategic and tactical cooperation in defending the core interests of the two countries and establishing a new multi-polarized international order based on independence and justice, it added.

Putin extended "deep thanks" for the invitation of DPRK leader Kim Jong-un to visit Pyongyang at a convenient time and expressed his willingness to visit the country at an early date, it said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin's visit to the DPRK was being discussed between the two sides "through diplomatic channels," media reports said.

THE world's first commercial undersea data center, deployed in Qingshui Bay, Yingzhou township, Lingshui Li autonomous county, south China's Hainan province, is in stable operation, said Pu Ding, general manager of the center's Hainan Pilot development project.

Weighing 1,300 tons, the facility is placed on the seabed 35 meters below the sea surface. Pu said that servers of data centers generate a significant amount of heat while running, and it takes a substantial amount of electricity and freshwater to cool them down via air conditioning and other cooling methods.

The undersea data center, on the other hand, utilizes seawater as a natural cooling source, which helps reduce energy consumption and consumes nearly no freshwa-

World's first commercial undersea data center in smooth operation

ter, thus supporting higher power density and improving computing performance.

"Data centers are densely packed with various electrical appliances, posing a high risk of fire. Therefore, data centers worldwide pay special attention to fire prevention.

In the undersea data center, inert gas is filled to create an oxygen-free and dust-free, sealed environment, further protecting the electronic components of servers and reducing the occurrence of accidents," said Pu.

Locating the data center under the sea significantly saves land resources, keeps it away from human activities, and provides a stable operating environment for

servers, Pu added.

"The first batch of module of the commercial undersea data center in Lingshui is currently running smoothly, with all data tests showing positive results. Compared to servers of similar capacity, it is 40 to 60 percent more power efficient, featuring high computing power, low energy consumption, high security, and low latency," said Pu.

It is learned that a total of 100 data modules will be set up for the undersea data center. Once completed, the data center will save a total of 122 million kilowatt-hours of electricity, reduce land usage by 68,000 square meters, and save 105,000 tons of freshwater each year. The undersea data center

is not an "isolated island." It also includes a shore station, underwater relay station, and submarine cables.

"The undersea data center itself is green and low-carbon, and we also adhered to ecological conservation during its construction," said Pu.

When submarine cables were laid, directional drilling was employed to make sure that they pass through mangroves from below, so as to protect the plant to the maximum extent possible. In the control room of the shore station, various parameters are shown on a big screen, and monitoring devices are recording the operation and load status of each server in real-time.

A digital twin system also presents the operational status of customer's business. The shore station occupies an area of only a few hundred square meters and has less than 10 staff members.

With an intelligent remote control system, it can reduce the daily inspection work of the operations and maintenance personnel, thereby lowering the operational costs in the long run.

"When the data modules were sealed, each bolt must be tightened in the proper order and with the specified torque, accurate to the millimeter level. To achieve this, we developed a set of operating procedures."

Pu noted, adding that during the research and development phase,

the team successfully tackled a series of technical challenges, resulting in a design life of 25 years for the data module. The deep sea water serves as a natural barrier for the data center, reducing the risk of natural disasters. "During the research and development process of the undersea data center, we took into full consideration the external impacts of extreme conditions such as typhoons and earthquakes, and formulated corresponding contingency plans," Pu said.

According to a semi-annual operational report released in July 2023, Typhoon 'Taliim, the fourth typhoon of the year, had basically no impact on the undersea data center. "We have attracted top cloud computing companies to collaborate with us in building a 'dedicated cloud' and have

upgraded the business model of the undersea data center," said Li Jiawen, deputy general manager of Shenzhen Hicloud Data Center Technology Co., Ltd., the developer of the project. What is called a "dedicated cloud" refers to cloud computing services that clients can customize and purchase, provided by Shenzhen Hicloud Data Center Technology Co., Ltd. and its partners. This model greatly lowers enterprises' access to the services of the undersea data center.

"The 'dedicated cloud' devices in the undersea data center are like a deep-sea 'supercomputer', with computing power equivalent to 60,000 traditional computers running simultaneously, capable of processing more than 4 million high-definition images within 30 seconds," said Li.

People's Daily

China hails Non-Aligned Movement's endeavours for peace

KAMPALA

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's special representative Liu Guozhong attended the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit on Friday and Saturday in the Ugandan capital Kampala and delivered a speech, highlighting the movement's important role in promoting the cause of world peace and human progress.

The NAM, born at the climax of the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, has effectively advanced the cause of world peace and human progress, said Liu, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council.

It should continue to uphold independence and oppose power politics,

seek common ground while shelving differences, promote peaceful coexistence, seek strength through unity, strive for common development, and advocate equality, fairness and justice, Liu said.

Liu stressed that China will always be a member of the developing world and is willing to work with the NAM countries to promote the implementation of the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative under the guidance of building a global community of shared future.

China is ready to advance Belt and Road cooperation, practice the common values of humanity, and advocate an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, to promote the world toward a bright fu-



Senior officials from members of the Non-Aligned Movement attend a meeting in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, Jan 15, 2024. Xinhua

ture of peace, security, prosperity and progress, Liu said.

Heads of state and government and high-level representatives from more than 100 countries, and heads of international organizations attended the summit. Ugandan President and the chair

of the NAM Yoweri Museveni, heads of state of South Africa, Sri Lanka and other countries, the president of the UN General Assembly, and the UN secretary-general delivered speeches, expressing their views on the current international situation and

strengthening the role of the NAM. Liu's speech was positively recognized and widely appreciated by representatives of other countries.

On Saturday, Liu was invited to attend a seminar of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation on development held by President Museveni and delivered a speech.

Xinhua

Netanyahu refutes reports, claiming he told Biden about not ruling out Palestinian state

TEL AVIV

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refuted reports that claimed he told US President Joe Biden that he has not ruled out the creation of a Palestinian state, the Times of Israel reported.

This comes after a report claimed that Netanyahu (pictured) told Biden that the public comments he made a day earlier -- in which he appeared to reject the idea of creating a Palestinian state -- were not meant to foreclose that outcome in any form.

"In his conversation last night with President Biden, Prime Minister Netanyahu repeated his consistent position for years, which he also expressed at a press conference the day before: after the elimination of Hamas, Israel must remain in full security control

of the Gaza Strip to ensure that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel, and this conflicts with the demand for Palestinian sovereignty," the Israel PM Office said in a statement.

The CNN report follows similar comments from Biden himself, who said that the creation of an independent state for Palestinians is not impossible while Netanyahu is still in office and that the two leaders discussed the issue during their phone call on Friday.

On being asked if whether a two-state solution was impossible with Netanyahu still in office, Biden told reporters on Friday, "No it's not."

On being asked about the recent statement by Netanyahu, Biden said, "I think we'll be able to work something out."

President Biden further elaborated



that there might be "types" of two-state solutions that Netanyahu may not be opposed to.

"There are a number of types of

two-state solutions. There's a number of countries that are members of the UN that are still -- don't have their own militaries. Number of states that have limitations...and so I think there's ways in which this could work," Biden further said.

Earlier on Thursday, Netanyahu said in a press conference, that "in any future arrangement, or in the absence of an arrangement," Israel must maintain "security control" of all territory west of the Jordan River -- meaning, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. "That is a vital condition," the Times of Israel reported.

He added that this "contradicts the idea of sovereignty [for the Palestinians]. What can you do? I tell this truth to our American friends."

On Friday, US President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu after nearly a month and reiterated his vision of a 'two-state solution' while guaranteeing Israel's security.

The US President also discussed the ongoing efforts to secure the release of all remaining hostages under Hamas captivity and reviewed the situation in Gaza.

"The President discussed Israel's responsibility even as it maintains military pressure on Hamas and its leaders to reduce civilian harm and protect the innocent. The President also discussed his vision for a more durable peace and security for Israel fully integrated within the region and a two-state solution with Israel's security guaranteed," the White House statement added.

ANI

High-quality Belt and Road cooperation: The platform for action

CHINA and its partners have taken steady steps to jointly pursue high-quality cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) since the start of 2024.

As long whistles echoed through the air, China-Europe freight trains left stations of cities across China, including Xi'an, Hefei, Lianyungang, and Chifeng, embarking on their first trips of the year.

A Lancang-Mekong Express freight train running on the China-Laos Railway entered China from the Mohan railway port in southwest China's Yunnan province, bringing a new shipment of Thai durians to the Chinese market.

China and the Maldives signed cooperation documents, agreeing to focus on pursuing high-quality Belt and Road cooperation in the efforts to better synergize their development strategies.

The Phoenix Park Industrial Estate, a flagship project of China-Trinidad and Tobago cooperation under the BRI, was officially inaugurated, marking the leap-frog cooperation between the two countries from trade and infrastructure construction to industrial docking and upgrading.

In the autumn of 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping, with profound insights into historical development and a deep understanding of the trend of the times, put forward the BRI.

The major initiative is a creative development that takes on and carries forward the spirit of the ancient silk routes -- two of the great achievements in human history and civilization. It enriches the ancient spirit with the zeitgeist and culture of



Chinese President Xi Jinping

the new era.

By proposing the BRI, Xi expressed the hope to put into practice the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, providing a practical platform and blazing a trail for creating an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity.

Turning the BRI into a road of peace, prosperity, openness, green development and innovation and a road that brings together different civilizations is highly consistent with the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Over the past decade or so, China and its partners have carried out high-quality cooperation under the BRI, which has become the world's most broad-based and largest platform for international cooperation.

Adhering to the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, upholding the concepts of open, green, and clean cooperation, and following a high-standard, people-centered, and sustainable approach, the BRI stages a symphony played by all partners, which features the "hard connectivity" in infrastructure, "soft connectivity" in rules and standards, and "heart connectivity" with the people of the partner countries.

The BRI transcends differences between civilizations, cultures, social systems, and stages of development. It has opened up a new path for exchanges among countries, and established a new framework for inter-

national cooperation. The initiative represents humanity's joint pursuit of development for all.

Practices have fully proven that the BRI, with its ultimate goal to build a community with a shared future for mankind, has proposed a range of regional and bilateral initiatives on building communities of shared future in relevant fields, effectively contributing to world peace, security, and common development.

Belt and Road cooperation is based on the belief that flame runs high when everyone adds wood to the fire and that mutual support can get people far. Such cooperation seeks to deliver a good life not only to people of just one country, but to people in other countries as well. It promotes connectivity, mutual benefit, common development, cooperation and win-win outcomes.

The BRI has created more than 3,000 cooperative projects, galvanized nearly \$1 trillion of investment, and helped lift about 40 million people out of poverty, facilitating the delivery of an array of national landmarks, livelihood projects, and milestones of cooperation. It has profoundly demonstrated to all parties that humankind is a community with a shared future.

Signature projects of the BRI, including the China-Laos Railway, Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway, Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway, and Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway, have effectively promoted connectivity for relevant countries and regions.

The establishment of Luban workshops, programs for the introduction of Juncao technology and hybrid rice technology, as well as other "small yet smart" people-centered programs launched under the BRI, have continuously benefited people of relevant countries.

These vivid stories about how Belt and Road cooperation has turned deep chasm into thoroughfare, landlocked countries into land-linked countries, and places of underdevelopment into lands of prosperity have demonstrated that win-win cooperation is the sure way to success

in launching major initiatives that benefit all.

Facts have shown that the BRI has broadened the consensus on building a community with a shared future for mankind and accumulated valuable experience for its realization.

As the world faces severe challenges including insufficient development momentum and a widening development gap, it is more imperative than ever before that the international community pools consensus and strength for openness and cooperation so as to advance universally beneficial and inclusive development through joint efforts.

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) held in October 2023, Xi announced eight major steps China would take to support the joint pursuit of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, setting a new direction, opening new vistas, and generating new momentum into international cooperation under the BRI.

By joining hands with various parties to comprehensively implement the outcomes of the third BRF, improve the quality of cooperation and explore more areas of cooperation for high-quality development of the BRI, China will inject new impetus into the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Building a community with a shared future for mankind is a beautiful goal, that requires generations of efforts to achieve, and demands concerted efforts, confidence, determination, breadth of vision, openness of mind, action, and a sense of responsibility from all countries.

As China advances national rejuvenation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization, it will align its own development with that of the world, and align its people's interests with those of all peoples, while working together with various parties to pursue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, thus jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

Jordan mulls setting price ceilings for commodities amid Red Sea cargo disruptions

AMMAN

AMIDST rising shipping costs due to the tensions in the Red Sea, the Jordanian government is mulling setting price ceilings on essential commodities while traders are calling for customs and tax exemptions to tide over the current challenges.

At a recent meeting with a Lower House committee, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Youssef Al-Shamali said that container shipping prices from China and East Asia have increased from 160 percent to 200 percent after tensions are rising in the Red Sea.

"The situation in the Bab al-Mandab Strait will have an impact on the rise in container shipping prices, prompting the government to take similar measures to those taken during the COVID-19 pandemic by setting price ceilings for containers carrying essential goods," he said as reported by the state-run Al Mamlaka TV.

Jordan is largely reliant on imports across a range of industry sectors due to its limited natural resources.

Over the past two months, a sudden surge in Houthi attacks in the Bab al-Mandab Strait connecting the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea prompted global shipping carriers to halt transit through the Suez Canal for several weeks.

Many companies diverted ships far to the south around the Cape of Good Hope, driving up transportation costs. The situ-

ation further escalated on Jan. 12 as the United States and Britain launched strikes on Yemen.

Fadi Saleem, an importer of grains and canned food, said there had already been an increase in commodity prices prior to the conflict due to rising inflation.

The recent escalation did not only lead to a rise in shipping costs but also insurance costs. "We urge the government to provide exemptions to the traders, so we can reduce our losses especially if ceilings are set for prices," he told Xinhua.

Ameer Jamal, staff at a clearance company, said marine shipping to the Middle East has been facing mounting challenges after the Red Sea disruptions.

"Ahead of Ramadan, which this year falls in early March, Jordan's imports increase sharply and our imports from China and East Asia are huge in terms of basic commodities and other goods. Setting a ceiling for prices is a good measure to protect citizens from possible increases in prices," Jamal said.

"But providing tax or customs exemptions would be also needed to minimize the losses for merchants and the economy as a whole."

According to the authorities responsible for the management of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone in Jordan's only port city Aqaba, there have been no cancellations in arrivals by vessels importing goods to Jordan so far.

Xinhua

India to collaborate for smooth adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure in Cuba

NEW DELHI

INDIA and Cuba signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of sharing successful digital solutions implemented at the population scale for digital transformation.

The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba in the national capital on Friday, according to a press release by the former ministry.

"India will collaborate with Cuba by building upon development partnership on digital transformation leading

to a smooth adoption of Digital Public Infrastructure in Cuba," the Ministry stated.

The signatories were S Krishnan, Secretary of Ministry of Electronics and IT, from the Indian side and Wilfredo Gonzalez Vidal, First Deputy Minister of Communications, from Cuba.

The MoU intends to promote digital transformation (viz. INDIA STACK) through capacity building programmes, the exchange of best practices and other collaborative activities to mutually benefit the digital ecosystems of both countries, the ministry added.

ANI

Kremlin accepts Argentina's decision not to join BRICS with regret

MOSCOW

MOSCOW respects Argentina's decision not to join BRICS but is at the same time disappointed by it, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Of course, this is regrettable, but this is the sovereign right of Argentina, and we respect any decision made by Buenos Aires.

The Argentinians chose their leadership, and the leadership considered it the wrong time for them to take part in this format now," the Kremlin official said.

Peskov noted that the line of countries wishing to associate with BRICS is quite long.

"This is gratifying and it means that many countries, on the contrary, consider the move to join BRICS to be in their national interests," he added.

Last December, Argentinian presidential administration spokesperson Manuel Adorni confirmed that Buenos Aires had officially notified BRICS that it was not going to join the group.

In letters sent to Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Argentine authorities stated that at this time, they considered joining BRICS to be the wrong move for the country.

Agencies

This is gratifying and it means that many countries, on the contrary, consider the move to join BRICS

Trauma hanging over fans as Taifa Stars took to another AFCON match

By Correspondent John Kimbuta

LOCAL fans were trying to believe that Taifa Stars could still make an impression at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals, in the wake not just of a 3-0 loss to much fancied Morocco but being completely unable to put up a semblance of competitive football in the match, save for a brief portion of the second half.

While the margin of loss has happened even with teams that put up proper competitive soccer in the tournament, the troubling aspect was why the team was so completely outside the match, unable to put up a fighting force going up and down the pitch, not just kicking the ball away from time to time. They were locked on the half ground for two-thirds of the time, and chroniclers affirmed in one of the FM radio stations' discussions that they had no single shot on target.

The match was perhaps the only instance in the finals of a team that did not deserve to be in the finals, amateurish from start to finish, with the singular positive effect that piling up in the goal area may have helped prevent balls being shot to find space to the nets.

Still, it was less a case of defensive play than pure defense, where there was no attacking football envisaged, what is at times known as counterattack.

It is scarcely plausible that there was a coach and a team, as different from a rag-tag collection of players for various kinds of alibi for their being included, which certain pundits suggested, includes playing soccer bonanza on Sunday in European towns.

A turnover at the technical bench was only half surprising,



Taifa Stars' midfielder Mudathir Yahya (C) attempts to block Morocco's midfielder Selim Amallah when the two teams took on each other in a Group F tie of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations which took place in Ivory Coast last week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

and the replacement was the cause more of anxiety than relief when former Coastal Union coach and interim Simba SC tactician Juma Mgunda was given the head coach position at Simba SC for the remaining part of the tourney, that is, two matches to be exact.

The notice said head coach Adel Amrouche had been suspended for eight consecutive matches, in which case he may remain head coach after that, though chances are that they may not be able to bridge the difference, and not just of his unsavoury remarks about their being moves to favour Morocco.

Those remarks were unacceptable at any rate and the fact that he made them enabled the soccer federation to look for an interim coach, perhaps just on time.

Still, there was a distant reason for changing the coach at least to bring about a different mood, though it is unclear whether the new interim head coach can build the sort of morale needed and tactics to bring the team to a properly competitive level.

The side needed to find a way of standing on their own and make forays to and fro to their opponents' goal, such that going back to defend or laying stress on defending is seen to be a decision or a tactic for a while.

In the previous match and especially in the first half, it was as if that was all the side had been instructed to do.

What was troubling was why there was no plausible show of football from the side, and based on what was being discussed, there were rifts of various sorts,

where remarks of the coach just made things worse.

It was unclear if the lack of payment of allowances had persisted, and owing to a semblance of patriotism in soccer talk shows there was little follow-up on the matter up to the match and following the poor display of soccer, well beyond the rather unreflective score line.

With the Moroccan goal area hardly being challenged, more goals could have been scored but the often plucky Taifa Stars defense was working overnight to stop direct attempts.

In a way the results related to what the soccer federation is doing in that regard, for instance in a remark by the sidelined coach that his team is the youngest in average wage of the squad, for all the

participating teams.

There is a point in that remark if the best players were selected and it just happened that they are youthful and on average, not above 25 years of age for instance, but the opposite is likely to be more explanatory as a reason, namely that there is a project for building the national side, so they have many young players who will gradually learn to play together in an adapted pattern.

Those of the old school believe that a national side is the current crop of 18 best players; there is no semblance of a project, just enabling them to play cohesively as a team.

That is where the interim head coach was going to be tested as he came in, what sort of approach he would take for the match against Zambia early Sunday night and the final group game against DR Congo.

Were he to follow the old school method, he would only take the best 11 or 15 players, not giving a thought about playing experience for the selected youths, as the Amrouche-TFF school would have it.

So far it is unclear what was the problem with the first match as the side did not play like that earlier, and in that case, no formula can be stated as it can only follow from being aware what was the problem that bedeviled the side, and thence how it can be sorted out.



An upcoming Singeli artist, Chiro, is pictured entertaining football enthusiasts at the Mbagala Zakhem grounds during the launch of the 2023 AFCON watch parties. Going beyond traditional football entertainment, the event served to not only engage football fans but also turn into educational hubs for health and well-being. Attendees gained access to valuable health information and services, including COVID-19 vaccines and boosters, routine immunization vaccines, and HIV counseling, testing, and prevention services. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BREAKTHROUGH ACTION

Dar sets up 2023 AFCON community watch parties for vaccination and HIV prevention

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Ministry of Health and the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government- in partnership with Breakthrough ACTION, has launched community watch parties to harness the excitement of football for the benefit of public health.

The innovative campaign, centered around the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament, goes beyond mere entertainment, focusing on the integration of AFCON matches into community gatherings to enhance essential health awareness and services.

The ground-breaking initiative, developed by Breakthrough ACTION, a USAID-supported social and behaviour change project dedicated to catalyzing opportunities for Tanzanians to enhance their health status through transforming socio-cultural norms and promoting healthier behaviours, is an integral part of the campaign to promote vaccination activities and HIV prevention and treatment services.

The first community watch party was held at Mbagala Zakhem grounds in Dar es Salaam last weekend, with Festo Dugange, Deputy Minister in the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government- presiding over the official launch.

During the launch, attendees were encouraged to consider their families as the most crucial team, ensuring their victory by prioritizing routine immunizations, COVID-19 vaccines, and boosters.

Drawing parallels with the world of soccer, the Deputy Minister stressed the importance of keeping the family at the top of the leaderboard by ensuring they have all the necessary vaccines.

In life, vaccines stand as the best defenders against diseases, making it imperative to keep families up to

date on all their vaccines.

As part of the campaign to promote HIV prevention and treatment services, the Deputy Minister highlighted the role of HIV testing, ART initiation and retention, and condom use as crucial defenders against HIV transmission, urging individuals to stay in the game by cutting down on HIV transmission.

This multifaceted campaign not only celebrates the spirit of football but also serves as a dynamic platform to promote public health and well-being within local communities, emphasizing the importance of routine immunizations and HIV prevention and treatment services during the AFCON tournaments.

The Deputy Minister noted: "Let us focus on education and vital vaccinations. I urge everyone, especially men, to treat their families as a team. Lead in ensuring they get vaccinated for protection against diseases."

"Our country provides all necessary vaccines for free, and I'm pleased to see people here actively getting vaccinated," Dugange disclosed.

Programme Officer, Health Promotion and Service Delivery from the Ministry of Health, Asteria Shirima said: "Our joint effort does not only strategically utilize the massive viewership of AFCON but also creatively integrates health promotion into the games."

The official added: "The AFCON watch parties will become more than just football celebrations; they will be vibrant hubs of health awareness."

Waziri Nyoni, Chief of Party, Breakthrough ACTION, said the AFCON watch party is now an innovative community-driven event that effortlessly blends entertainment, health education, and essential services.

"This ground-breaking initiative solidifies health services as an integral component of communal celebrations", he added.



Kilimanjaro Regional Administrative Secretary Tixon Nzunda (C), cuts the ribbon with Tanzania Breweries Limited's District Manager, Northern Zone, Neema Patrick (2nd L) during the official launch of the 2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon at Salinero Hotel in Moshi on Sunday. Others (L-R) are Gee Soseji Brand and Marketing Manager Magreth Karua, Tigo Northern Zone Acting Director Daniel Mainoya, and Salinero Hotel Director Ben Mengi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

2024 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon launched in Moshi

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 22nd edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon was last Friday launched at the Salinero Hotel in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

It was a clear indication that the day for the great sporting event, which is expected to take place on February 25, 2024, is now closer.

Speaking during the launching on behalf of the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Nurdin Babu, the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Tixon Nzunda congratulated the organizers of the race for the progress it has made since its inception.

He also lauded the event's contribution to promoting sports tourism and the economy of Moshi and Kilimanjaro.

"We are proud of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon as it has been one of the biggest international events in this

region which brings together more than 12,000 participants and a similar number of spectators from more than 50 countries, all of whom are potential tourists", he said, adding, this is a very big and important event for the nation.

Nzunda went on to say that no other competition has so far matched the Kilimanjaro Marathon in terms of its results in promoting the economy of the region and that of the nation as a whole.

He further noted that there was a great need for all sports stakeholders and those involved in business issues to work closely to ensure that the major competition continues to exist for a good future in promoting sports as well as the economy of the Nation and its people.

"We have been organizing the marathon for 22 years now and the business community will agree with me that usually during this race season, various types of businesses in

the region, including hotels, lodges, and guest houses, continue to be busy during the entire period of the event," he said.

He added: "I call on all traders to consider the quality of their products as well as the services they will provide to visitors to ensure that visitors get value for the money they will spend."

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the sponsors of this race led by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor), Tigo-21km, and Gee Soseji, who are sponsoring the 5km Fun Run, for your great contribution," he said.

He also congratulated the water table sponsors of the event whom he said included Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies, CRDB Bank, and TPC Sugar, as well as official partners that include Garda World, CMC Automobiles, Salinero Hotels, and suppliers Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

"Without you, it would not be easy to make this race a success," he noted. He called on the Tanzanian participants to prepare well to ensure that many prizes remain at home.

Tanzania Breweries Limited's Northern Zone Manager, Neema Patrick, said it is proud to be the main sponsor of the event for the past 22 years through its product, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, which has made the institution one of the long-term sports sponsors in Tanzania.

"This event continues to contribute a lot in improving the tourism sector and the Tanzanian culture in general; it is due to these facts that TBL has set aside 28m/- as a cash prize, whereby the first winners in both men's and women's categories are expected to receive a cash prize amounting to 5m/-," she said.

She called upon potential participants of the race this year, to register early enough to avoid inconveniences that arise as the result of regis-

tering late, adding the registration process is already underway through the event's website titled www.kilimanjaronmarathon.com.

The Tigo Northern Zone Manager Daniel Mainoya said that the company was happy to be part of the Kilimanjaro Marathon family, an event which he said had built a great reputation in the sports arena around the world in recent years.

"We are very happy to be sponsors of the Tigo Half Marathon for the ninth year in a row. Tigo Half Marathon involves more than 6,000 participants at a time including some of Africa's prominent and that's why Tigo has increased the value of prizes in this category," he noted.

He added: "The window for early registration in this category is ongoing and said participants can dial *150*01#, then press 5 LKS, then press 5 (Ticket) and follow instructions to complete their registration."

Gee Soseji product's Brand and Marketing Manager, Magreth Karua, whose company is the new sponsor of the 5km Fun Run, said that the competition was the right platform to advertise the company's products.

"By participating in this race, we will cooperate with the users of our products in a fun way and educate each other about the benefits of using our products for building one's health in general", she said.

Magreth revealed that their mission is to make a revolution in the sausage market because they have come up with quality, cleanly prepared, affordable, and delicious sausages that will satisfy their clients.

Salinero Hotels Director, Ben Mengi, who was the host during the launching event, said the competition has been a great catalyst in promoting Kilimanjaro's economy- including the tourism sector- through sports.

Didier Drogba tips Côte d'Ivoire to win third trophy

ABIDJAN

FORMER Côte d'Ivoire captain, Didier Drogba says the hosts should put in everything to win the TotalEnergies CAF Africa Cup of Nations Côte d'Ivoire 2023.

Drogba who is delighted to see his nation host the rest of Africa wants them to win their third title.

"The African Cup of Nations is the celebration of African football. Of course, I want Côte d'Ivoire to win.

"We are going to fight, we are at home, we have to show that we cannot only host the competition but also put in a good performance," said the former Chelsea striker.

He added "Côte d'Ivoire is faced with its responsibilities, it must perform. All the teams that are here deserve to be here, they have their chances so it is up to us to ensure that we respect them but above all to show that we are able to stand up to these teams."

After two games, Côte d'Ivoire have three points and will have to overcome Equatorial Guinea in their final group game to gain automatic qualification.

"It's going to be the celebration of African football with a team from Equatorial Guinea which progresses every year. We are happy to have them here, I saw that they won their match, congratulations to them but it will be difficult against us," he said.

Drogba finally took the opportunity to send a message to the younger generation who dream of following in his footsteps to take their education serious.

"You have to dream and give yourself the means to make your dreams come true. You also need to give yourself several options. I think it is very important to have a good academic background, to study well in class, to have a good educational base which will then allow you to be able to respond and take on all the challenges and challenges of life in general", he concluded.

CAF MEDIA

FIFA's Infantino condemns 'abhorrent' racism during games in Italy, England

LONDON

FIFA president Gianni Infantino called for worldwide stadium bans for fans and "automatic forfeits" for teams whose supporters hurl "abhorrent" abuse following racist incidents in Italy and England on Saturday.

The head of the world governing body said there was no place for discrimination of any kind in football or broader society.

"The events that took place in Udine and Sheffield on Saturday are totally abhorrent and completely unacceptable," he said in a statement.

"The players affected by Saturday's events have my undivided support."

Fans aimed monkey chants at AC Milan and France goalkeeper Mike Maignan during Milan's dramatic 3-2 win at Udinese, with the game temporarily halted.

Coventry midfielder Kasey Palmer accused Sheffield Wednesday fans of doing the same towards him during their English Championship clash, which his team won 2-1.

"We need all the relevant stakeholders to take action, starting with education in schools so that future generations understand that this is not part of football or society," Infantino said.

"As well as the three-step process (match stopped, match re-stopped, match abandoned), we have to implement an automatic forfeit for the team whose fans have committed racism and caused the match to be abandoned as well as worldwide stadium bans and criminal charges for racists.

"FIFA and football shows full solidarity to victims of racism and any form of discrimination. Once and for all: No to racism! No to any form of discrimination!"

At Udinese, referee Fabio Maresca stopped play during the first half and a livid Maignan stormed down the tunnel with his teammates.

"They're ignorant people... You can be booed or whistled when you're away from home, that's normal, but what happened today has no place in football," Maignan told Sky Sports.

Play resumed after about five minutes.

Italy, a country governed by a coalition led by the far-right Brothers of Italy party, is rife with fascist football fan groups, in particular among the hardcore "ultras" who make most of the atmosphere at stadiums.

Last week Lazio were hit with a one-match stand closure after supporters directed monkey chants at Romelu Lukaku during their team's Italian Cup win over local rivals Roma.

In Sheffield, Palmer labelled the abuse "abhorrent and wholly unacceptable", with the match paused as the referee spoke to both managers on the touchline.

In a statement, Sheffield Wednesday said they were "shocked and saddened by the racist gesture from the stands reported by Sky Blues player Kasey Palmer".

"Both clubs roundly condemn any form of discrimination and abuse, and underline that there is no place for this kind of behaviour in football or our wider society," it added.

"We will work together with the relevant authorities and anyone proven to be culpable will face the strictest possible sanctions from both Sheffield Wednesday and the law."

AFP

Bounedjah rescues Algeria as Angola end winless AFCON run

ABIDJAN

BA G H D A D Bounedjah bagged a brace as two-time

champions Algeria came from behind twice to draw 2-2 with Burkina Faso on Saturday in an Africa Cup of Nations Group D thriller.

The Qatar-based forward, who struck the winner in the 2019 final against Senegal, cancelled goals by Mohamed Konate and Bertrand Traore before a 33,000 crowd in sweltering Bouake.

In the second match of a double-header, Angola edged Mauritania 3-2 in an equally entertaining clash to end a nine-match winless run from 2012.

Later, a Group E clash of top 10-ranked teams Tunisia and Mali in Korhogo failed to match expectations and ended in a dour 1-1 draw.

Angola and Burkina Faso have four points each, Algeria two and Mauritania none in a section where all four teams are still in contention for last-16 places with one round remaining.

Long-serving Algeria coach Djamel Belmadi, the mastermind behind the 2019 triumph, said he was satisfied with the draw in 36 Celsius (97 Fahrenheit) heat.

"Burkina Faso dominated the first half but we came back strongly in the second and might have won as there were suspicions of a handball in the area.

"We had more of the scoring chances only to



Baghdad Bounedjah (CR) scores his second equaliser for Algeria in an Africa Cup of Nations draw with Burkina Faso. Agencies

be let down by the lack of a killer instinct. I promise that there will be a much improved performance against Mauritania on Tuesday.

"Through suffering we have achieved previous successes against the odds. My players can take us far in this competition."

Burkina Faso, who finished second, third and fourth in three of the last five editions, were praised by France-born coach Hubert Velud.

"It was a beautiful game and we performed well and were on the verge of winning when a lack of concentration led to us conceding a second goal.

"I was really impressed with our efficiency and the way the game plan was executed. We just need to work on a few minor details."

- Attacking feast -

A Konate header in first-half added time broke the stalemate and Bounedjah tapped the ball into the net after a goalmouth scramble soon after half-time.

Out-of-favour Aston Villa forward Bertrand Traore came off the bench to convert a penalty before Bounedjah equalised again, this time with a powerful 95th-minute header after a corner.

Angola versus Mauritania might have been the least attractive of the three matches on Saturday on paper with both teams outside the top 20-ranked teams in Africa.

But they delivered a feast of attacking football with two superb Mauritanian goals not enough to prevent Angola going top of the table on goals scored.

Gelson Dala struck for Angola before a superb solo run and

shot by Sidi Bouna Amar brought the teams level as half-time approached.

Another excellent individual goal, this time from Dala, was quickly followed by a third for Angola as a Gilberto shot on 53 minutes was deflected over goalkeeper Babacar Niasse.

Fears that Mauritania might collapse were quickly dispelled as a Aboubakary Koita thunderbolt gave goalkeeper Nebli no chance.

Seeking a first Cup of Nations win, Mauritania applied constant pressure, but Angola held firm and are poised to reach the knockout stage for the first time since 2010.

Much was expected from Tunisia and Mali in Group E, but after a goal from each side within 20 minutes of the kick-off, the match offered little excitement.

Lassine Sinayoko put Mali ahead on 10 minutes with a shot that went into the net off the far post and Hamza Rafia levelled 10 minutes later from close range.

There was little else to cheer a near-capacity crowd in the 20,000-seat stadium before Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Yves Bissouma fired an added-time free-kick wide.

Mali have four points, Namibia three, Tunisia one and South Africa none ahead of a clash between the southern Africa neighbours on Sunday.

After a shock victory over Tunisia, Namibia will reach the knockout stage for the first time if they collect maximum points again.

AFP

'Nothing is impossible' - ex Man Utd striker Bebe looks to make AFCON mark

ABIDJAN

BEST remembered for an unremarkable spell at Manchester United at the start of his career, Bebe is using the Africa Cup of Nations to showcase his pedigree as an expert free-kick taker and a talisman for a Cape Verde side who are the surprise package of the tournament so far.

On Friday, his incredible dead-ball strike from 40 metres set the Atlantic Ocean island nation on the way to a 3-0 win over Mozambique in Abidjan, their second victory in as many games securing a place in the last 16 as Group B winners.

For Bebe the goal did not simply come about by chance. Indeed he had hit the bar from a similar distance minutes earlier.

"The truth is that the free-kicks I've been taking have been coming off well for me," he tells AFP just before training with his Cape Verde teammates on Saturday.

"The two I had in the game, I was really focused. They were in areas where I feel really comfortable.

"They were very far out but I am always daring enough to shoot from there. I was lucky enough that the second one went in and I am very happy it did."

Cape Verde, an archipelago 600 kilometres off the coast of West Africa and home to around 600,000 people, have made remarkable footballing



Former Manchester United forward Bebe lit up the Africa Cup of Nations with his remarkable goal against Mozambique as the island nation qualified for the last 16

strides in recent years.

They appeared at their first Cup of Nations in 2013 and got to the quarter-finals, before being eliminated in the group stage in 2015 despite drawing all three matches.

Two years ago they made the last 16, and now the aim in their fourth appearance at the tournament is to at least win a knockout game for the first time.

"We need to keep our feet firmly on the ground because we know that with all the teams that are here it is very difficult. But nothing is impossible," the 33-year-old says when asked if they could even envisage winning the trophy.

Cape Verde beat four-time champions Ghana in their first game, and next up it is record seven-time champions Egypt.

- Earning respect -

"Getting to the next round was one of our first objectives and we have done that," Bebe says.

"It is a source of happiness for us, for the country and for the people of Cape Verde. "We are really

happy because I think we are playing really good football. We are trying to earn the respect that we deserve."

This is all new for Bebe, whose real name is Tia-

gob Manuel Dias Correia. Capped by Portugal at Under-21 level, he struggled at Old Trafford, making just seven appearances under Alex Ferguson in 2010/11.

After several loans, he was sold to Benfica in 2014, before later settling in Spain at Rayo Vallecano.

"Honestly in Spain I feel great. I have found a place there where I feel good and things are going well," he says.

"I feel at home there in a league that I love. The football is really good. I am really happy."

Born in Portugal to parents from Cape Verde, Bebe made his debut for the Blue Sharks in 2022 and is now appearing at his first AFCON.

The coach, Pedro 'Bubista' Brito, has been impressed by the player's contribution to the national team.

"We are very happy with him. He is really committed, and I think he should have scored more goals because he does a lot of practice on dead balls," he says.

"He has really helped the team improve. It is exceptional to have a player of his ability." Bebe himself feels he should probably have been part of the country's three previous AFCON campaigns, but he fell over various administrative hurdles.

"There were a lot of problems with paperwork and things like that but it's never too late to be where I am now, in the colours of Cape Verde representing my country," he says.

"I hope to continue doing so for a long time.

"At the moment the way things are going if we carry on like this we will achieve something great."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

WHEN THE REFEREE ERRS, IT IS AN OVERSIGHT!

WHEN A STRIKER ERRS IT IS HUMAN ERROR!

... BUT WHEN I MISS THE BALL, IT IS A FOUL!



SPORT

Bounedjah rescues Algeria as Angola end winless AFCON run

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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 Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kali Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

5Sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5Sports.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Amrouche vows to appeal imposed eight-match suspension

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE suspended Tanzania's senior national soccer team head coach Adel Amrouche has vowed to appeal his eight-match ban from the CAF disciplinary committee citing a lack of fairness in reviewing the saga.

The sanction was imposed after officials from the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (RMFF) contacted the CAF to complain about remarks made by Amrouche.

The Disciplinary Board found coach Amrouche guilty in terms of Articles 82, 83, 84, and 131 of CAF's Disciplinary Code and was given an eight-match suspension.

The two countries met in Group F at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations last Wednesday, with Morocco winning 3-0 after Tanzania had midfielder Novatus Miroshi sent off.

A statement from the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) said it had suspended Amrouche after the coach's comments about 'Morocco influencing CAF, to manipulate the match scheduling and officiating'.

However, the former Kenyan coach has indicated that he would appeal the ban saying that he was not given a hearing.

"I am certainly going to appeal against my ban, my lawyer has advised me not to talk to the media, so I don't want to say much for now," the Belgo-Algerian noted.

"But how can I be banned without a disciplinary notice or hearing? How is this fair? How is this justice?" he queried.

Amrouche accused the FMRF of 'foul play in choosing referees and manipulating match schedules'.

This came after he claimed they forced their match to be played in the evening instead of the afternoon when the two sides met last year.

The Tanzanian federation announced that Amrouche will be replaced by Hemed Morocco who will take over the team to be assisted by Juma Mgunda.

The East Africans, attempting to reach the knockout stages for the first time in their third appearance at the AFCON finals, played their second group game against Zambia in San Pedro on Sunday.

Amrouche was appointed as Tanzania's boss in March 2023, leading them to AFCON by securing a point in his birth country of Algeria in their final qualifying match.

The 55-year-old has previously had spells in charge of Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Kenya, Libya and Botswana.

On Tuesday (last week) TFF president Wallace Karia distanced the organization from Amrouche's statements.

"We as TFF do not agree with his comments, Those are his sentiments as a coach. We are CAF members, and we know they follow their procedures without influence from any country. The TFF and the Moroccan Football Federation are friends."

Suleiman embraces Stars head coach role amidst Adel Amrouche's suspension



Tanzania's senior national football team interim head coach, Hemed Suleiman (2nd L), chats with his assistant, Juma Mgunda, when the team was training in San-Pédro, Ivory Coast last weekend ahead of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Group F clash versus Zambia slated for yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

T AIFA Stars' interim head coach Hemed Suleiman has expressed his readiness for the role following the suspension of the team's head coach Adel Amrouche.

Amrouche was suspended from the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations finals by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for making insulting remarks about Morocco and Suleiman was appointed by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) as the interim head coach.

Morocco beat Tanzania 3-0 in their opening Group F tie played in San-Pédro, Ivory Coast last Wednesday.

The TFF said the CAF Disciplinary Committee had suspended Amrouche for eight matches and fined him \$10,000 following a complaint submitted by Morocco.

The federation went on to suspend Amrouche for similar reasons. As a result of that decision, Suleiman was appointed the interim head coach and he will be assisted

by compatriot Juma Mgunda.

Suleiman, nicknamed 'Morocco', confidently shared his perspective on assuming the role of head coach following Amrouche's suspension.

With a decade of experience within the senior national team and active participation in coaching during various competitions, he emphasized his familiarity with the responsibilities.

His extensive tenure in the profession has cultivated a sense of assurance,

eliminating any apprehensions he might have had.

In his address, Suleiman conveyed a nonchalant attitude towards the transition, stating: "I have no apprehensions about taking on the role of head coach after Adel Amrouche."

The tactician said: "I've been with the national team for a decade, involved in these competitions as a coach. Having been in this profession for a long time, I harbour no fears."

He disclosed: "To me, nothing seems different; everything appears unchanged. You can observe it yourself."

In summary, tactician Suleiman's statements reflect a seasoned professional's confidence in taking up the mantle of head coach.

His history with the senior national team and long-standing coaching experience contribute to a steadfast assurance, while his nonchalant outlook on the situation suggests a smooth transition into the role.

Amrouche had said that Morocco held too much sway in the corridors of power in African football and was influencing the appointment of referees.

"The Morocco federation is a proven power in the world of African football, Morocco

manages African football," Amrouche pointed out.

"They also choose their referees and we remain simple spectators," Amrouche said in an interview on Algerian television ahead of Wednesday's match.

Amrouche, born in Algeria but a Belgian citizen, said Morocco had 'a strike force' within the African football confederation doing their bidding.

"For example, during the match between us and Morocco in the World Cup qualifiers in November we asked to play at two pm," he said.

"It was Tanzania's home game and they wanted to use the daytime heat in Dar es Salaam to their advantage against the Moroccan players, most of whom are based at clubs in Europe but CAF scheduled the match for the evening," Amrouche added.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, had distanced the organization from Amrouche's statements, noting: "We do not agree with his comments."

The TFF official said: "Those are his sentiments as a coach. We are CAF members, and we know CAF follows its procedures without influence from any country. The TFF and the Moroccan Football Federation are friends."

CAF fines TFF following Amrouche's allegations

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi and Agencies

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) Disciplinary Board has charged Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) USD 10,000 (25,085,430/-) following a statement issued by senior national team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Adel Amrouche.

Amrouche's statement is said to have brought the CAF into dispute following the Belgo-Algerian allegations he made in the media about the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FMRF).

The fine was imposed after officials from the FMRF contacted CAF to complain about remarks made by Amrouche.

The confederation's Disciplinary Board found Amrouche guilty in terms of Articles 82, 83, 84, and 131 of CAF's Disciplinary Code and was given an eight-match suspension.

Following the incidents, TFF recently announced to have banned Taifa Stars head coach Amrouche for eight matches following his ban by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The federation made an announcement on Friday evening on its social media pages, presenting an official press statement that was signed by the federation's Information Officer Clifford Ndimbo.

The TFF placed Tanzanian coach Hemed Suleiman as interim head coach and will be assisted by Juma Mgunda. Suleiman was earlier Amrouche's assistant.

Amrouche only managed a total of nine matches with the Tanzanian team, winning three clashes.

The Belgo-Algerian had said

that Morocco is holding too much sway in the corridors of power in African football and is influencing the appointment of referees.

"The Morocco federation is a proven power in the world of African football. Morocco manages African football. They also choose their referees and we remain simple spectators," Amrouche said in an interview on Algerian television ahead of Wednesday's match.

Amrouche, born in Algeria but a Belgian citizen, said Morocco had a strike force within the African confederation doing their bidding.

"For example, during the match between us and Morocco in the World Cup qualifiers

in November we asked to play at two pm," he said. "But CAF scheduled the match for the evening," Amrouche added.

In the same interview, Amrouche criticized his country of origin's football federation for changing the pre-tournament preparation camp for Taifa Stars.

The tactician noted: "I had scheduled a preparation camp in Algeria. I even scheduled friendly matches against Mauritania, Cape Verde, and Andorlecht."

"But there was influence placed on officials to relocate our place of preparation. So we were forced to prepare in Cairo," he said.

Neighbours Algeria and Morocco have a frosty relation-

ship, with the border between the two countries closed.

Amrouche was appointed as Tanzania's boss in March 2023, leading them to Afcon by securing a point in his birth country of Algeria in their final qualifying match.

The 55-year-old has previously had spells in charge of Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Kenya, Libya and Botswana.

Last week, TFF president Wallace Karia had distanced the organization from Amrouche's statements.

"TFF does not agree with his comments. Those are his sentiments as a coach," Karia said.

The TFF official pointed out: "We are CAF members, and we know the confederation follows its procedures without in-

fluence from any country. The TFF and the Moroccan Football Federation are friends."

Amrouche had rowed back on his comments before Tanzania's 2023 AFCON opener against the North Africans.

"I spoke out a month ago, saying they are one of the best teams in the world. They reached the (World Cup) semi-final," he said.

"They are not a team that wins by luck, they win with their abilities. They deserve (it)."

Tanzania met Morocco in Group F of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast last Wednesday, with Morocco winning 3-0 after Tanzania had midfielder Novatus Miroshi sent off.



Senior Arts Officer at the National Arts Council Agustino Makame (R) and Director of Queen Investment Presents Institute, Queen Jonson (L), are pictured launching this season's Miss Kinondoni preparations in Dar es Salaam last week. The beauty pageant is themed 'Beauty and Leadership'. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

