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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 9392 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY, 2025

With extensive renovations over, Kariakoo Market reopens

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

KARIAKOO Market, the leading commercial hub in the city of Dar es Salaam, reopens today after undergoing extensive renovations to erase marks of the July 2021 fire outbreak.

Hawa Ghasia, chairperson of the Kariakoo Markets Corporation board told journalists over the weekend that traders will once again be able to conduct business, in newly renovated spaces.

Traders who were operating in the mar-

We've uploaded the names of traders who were in the market before the fire, and starting today, they will visit the office to receive instructions on filling out forms and signing contracts

ket before the fire but had outstanding cave tax debts will be required to settle their debts before being facilitated to return to the market, she said.

"We've uploaded the names of traders who were in the market before the fire, and starting today, they will visit the office to receive instructions on filling out forms and signing contracts," she stated.

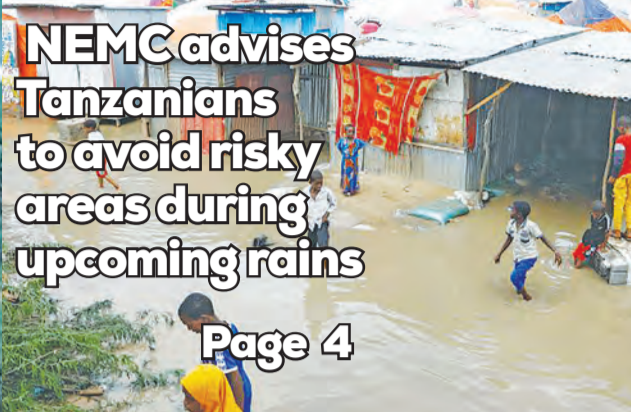
"Once we have processed the traders who were previously at the market, we will extend opportunities for new traders to join up and do business," she explained.

The mid-2021 blaze affected hundreds of

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List Kalambo Falls among World Heritage Sites, govt urged Page 3



NEMC advises Tanzanians to avoid risky areas during upcoming rains Page 4



CCTV cameras worth 1bn/- to be installed in Dar Page 6

NHIF rolls out two tier health coverage format

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A motorcycle rider carries three pupils, a prohibited habit, at Mbezi Terminal area in Dar es Salaam last week, violating road safety regulations.. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SPORTS Page 20



Ramovic praises Yanga after dominant 4-0 win over Kagera Sugar

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Medo blames defensive errors, officiating for Kagera Sugar's 4-0 defeat

This is an important year where the nation will choose national leaders, it is important for us as church members to increase efforts in prayer for a calm election

Speaker cautions about disrespect for authority

By Guardian Reporter

RESPECTING those in authority is vital for the country to be assured of peace and unity, a top legislator has declared.

Dr Tulia Ackson, speaker of the

National Assembly, made this observation in remarks to the congregation at the Kimara Parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Asked to greet the congregation

while attending church service, she appealed to Tanzanians to pray for maintaining peace, unity and harmony in the country, especially in view of the general election towards the end of the year.

The speaker, who funds a care

centre attached to the parish, was making a routine visit and thus turned up for mass, where she urged church members to dedi

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National Assembly Speaker Dr. Tulia Ackson attends a Sunday service at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Kimara Parish in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent

TPSF: Reforms will enhance global market participation

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has highlighted key challenges hindering local businesses seeking wider access to global export markets.

Angelina Ngalula, the TPSF chairperson, said at an inter-ministerial high level trade and investment dialogue in Dar es Salaam over the weekend that the challenges include high taxes on the private sector.

There are also drawbacks like insufficient capital, poor infrastructure, limited use of technology, she stated, similarly alluding to "the presence of foreign investors who end up operating small businesses rather than making large-scale investments."

She stressed that the barriers hold back Tanzanian businesses from fully participating in international trade, seeking solutions at the forum meant to sort out policies, plans

and strategies for a more conducive environment for Tanzanian traders and investors to take up more openings beyond the country's borders.

These challenges greatly weaken development of local industries, she said, urging the government to address the issues in order to create a more supportive business environment, even expanding the coun

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TPSF: Reforms will enhance global market participation

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try's footprints in global markets.

Elibariki Shabby, the TradeMark Africa country director, emphasised the importance of reassessing industrial and trade policies to foster greater global market participation.

The private and public sectors need to work together to eliminate non-tariff barriers at borders, streamline trade procedures and improve domestic production to increase competitiveness in international markets, he stated.

"We need to focus more on the cooperation between ministries and the private sector, especially in reviewing trade policies to enhance our ability to sell Tanzanian products not only in East Africa and SADC but also globally," he stated.

Timothy Mbagi, executive director for the Tanzania Agriculture Council (ACT) urged the government to set clear guidelines for investors and small business owners.

"Such guidelines need to ensure that local traders are not side lined by foreign investors who come to engage in small-scale operations," he remarked.

"Foreign investors should not be allowed to take over small business opportunities that are better suited for locals, as this limits their potential," he insisted.

TPSF underscored the need to reduce taxes for the private sector, to help stimulate economic growth and enhance local businesses pursuit of digital technologies in promote their products.

Sempeho Manongi, the director of industrial and trade development at the Industry and Trade ministry, acknowledged the critical role TPSF members play in industrial and business development.

The government is committed to improving infrastructure and ensuring that Tanzanian products meet international quality standards, he said, affirming that to compete in global markets, "we must focus on producing high-quality products that align with international requirements."

The country already has a number of successful exports such as cashew nuts, sisal and cotton that have already made a mark on the global stage, he added.



Judge Jacobs Mwambegele (L), chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), addresses election supervisors in Tanga Region yesterday, during a two-day training session as part of preparations for the Permanent Voters' Register update exercise for Tanga and Coast regions from 13th to 19th February. He is flanked by the commission's director, Kailima Ramadhani. Photo: INEC

With extensive renovations over, Kariakoo Market reopens

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traders, pushing the government invest funds for giving the key establishment a fresh look, where John Mtui, a supervising contractor with the National Housing Corporation (NHC),

said the reconstruction and renovation works took up 28bn/-.

Main renovation work was carried out by Estim Construction Ltd with the NHC in the role of consulting contractor, while a space use review conducted by the market

management showed that 1,520 traders can return to the market to resume their business activities.

A total of 366 traders still owe the corporation 358.5m/- in cave taxes, which they will be required to settle before

regaining access to stall space, on the basis of board instructions.

A series of investigations were launched into the cause of the fire, with President Samia Suluhu Hassan lately affirming that the fire was ignited to cover up fraudulent

activities, citing large piles of untaxed goods in warehouse.

"When I visited the market and ordered an investigation, they set it on fire to destroy the evidence. But I made the decision to rebuild it so that our traders could

continue their business activities," the president intoned.

Kariakoo Market, a vital commercial centre for the city, also serves as a significant source market for traders all over East Africa, officials say.



Young people from Kipunguni and Kivule wards in Dar es Salaam participating in training on making alternative charcoal, organised by Global Impact (T) at Kipunguni earlier this week, involving 60 youths. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Speaker Ackson cautions about disrespect for top authorities

FROM PAGE 1

cate more of their time to praying for the nation's future.

She highlighted the importance of collective prayers not only for the peaceful conduct of the general election but also for the nation to obtain strong, wise and capable leaders to steer the country towards greater progress. "This is an important year where the nation will choose national leaders, it is important for us as church members to increase efforts in prayer for a calm election," she pursued, stressing the power that prayer has in shaping the destiny of a country.

The general election is a major moment in the life of the country and it is crucial to have leaders who embody values of integrity, dedication and vision, she added.

NHIF rolls out two tier health coverage format

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) has set out a two tier coverage system with two sets of packages, a lower cost structure and benefits known as Serengeti and a higher cost structure termed Ngorongoro.

Prices for different components of the two tier packages range from lowest 240,000/- for children in the lower cost and benefits package, to 6,388,400/- for seniors in the upper cost package.

In its notice set for publica-

tion today and availed in Dar es Salaam yesterday, NHIF outlines benefits for each package, where Serengeti offers 1,815 benefits and Ngorongoro has 445 benefits listed.

The annual medical expenditure limit for a single beneficiary is 22m/- for inpatient care and 3m/- for outpatient care under the Serengeti format, while the Ngorongoro module sets 8m/- limit for inpatient care and 2m/- for outpatient care.

Children up to 17 years have a coverage cost of 240,000/- in the Ngorongoro package and 660,000/- in the Serengeti ver-

sion, while cost the coverage format for individuals aged 18-35 range from 432,000/- to 1,684,800/- in the Ngorongoro format and from 792,000/- to 3,880,800/- for the Serengeti version, the notice indicates.

Persons aged 36 to 59 will have coverage costs ranging from 540,000/- to 1,890,000/- in the Ngorongoro format, and from 1,620,000/- to 5,454,000/- in the Serengeti version. For individuals aged 60 and above, coverage is set at 708,000/- for the Ngorongoro format and 3,336,000/- for the Serengeti version for couples, with higher rates for couples

with children, it specified.

The Serengeti cover entails 907 medicine types, 565 major and minor surgery instances, 315 laboratory tests or examinations, the provision of 17 assistive medical devices with doctor consultations and inpatient services.

The Ngorongoro compact by contrast covers 286 medicine types, 60 surgery instances, 88 tests plus doctor consultations and inpatient services without assistive devices, it further indicates.

The notice explains that these health insurance packages are intended to enable

individuals or families to contribute towards healthcare services before illness, ensuring access to medical care.

Other benefits include a wide range of services, specialist care, a 10 percent discount for family enrolments, nationwide coverage in over 10,000 facilities and referral systems for regional and national hospitals.

"Members should be mindful of the annual spending limits and avoid excessive costs. They must wait 30 days after registration before expecting to receive services and renew their membership within 30

days of expiry. Failure to renew within the period results in being treated as a new member with a 30-day waiting period," it cautions.

Dependents include spouses and up to four biological, adopted or foster children under 21 years of age, it says.

For those paying 50,400/- under the children package, benefits include doctor consultations, specialist consultations, laboratory tests, CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, X-rays, ECHO and ECO. Additional coverage includes medications for non-communicable diseases like diabe-

tes, hypertension, sickle cell anemia, heart and kidney diseases tied with inpatient care, ICU, surgeries, dialysis, cancer treatment, dental care, physiotherapy, emergency services and prosthetics, it said.

For those paying 150,000/- under the same class of benefits the annual limit is 2m/- for inpatient care and 500,000/- for outpatient care, it said.

"These packages also cover students at all education levels, offering services at over 10,000 facilities nationwide with a referral system in place for regional and national hospitals," the notice added.

Serious crimes convicts not part of compensation scheme, says minister

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE government has said it will not pay any amount of money to convicts wrongly jailed for serious crimes under any circumstances.

Minister for Constitution and Legal Affairs Dr Damas Ndumbaro said one of the challenges Tanzania faces is receiving orders to pay applicants jailed for serious crimes such as rape and armed robbery.

A certain amount was to be paid as compensation recently due to the fact that the applicants were not provided with legal services as required under the standards of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The minister made the statement while addressing delegates during the stakeholders' platform taking place at the 76th ordinary session of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Dr Ndumbaro pointed out that the \$125 was close to the minimum monthly wage of 300,000/- in Tanzania. Therefore, it was rather strange to pay such an amount to someone who was convicted for the offence of raping a 14 year old girl simply because he was not provided with legal services.

The minister explained that legal aid services are usually provided for the offences with the capital punishment sentence, thus to pay the convict one month's minimum wage while he is still in prison serving lawful sentence for undisputed offence cannot be accepted by the society and likewise impossible for the government to implement.

Under such matters, there will always be disconnection between the orders of the African

Court, the expectations of the people that the same institution is meant to protect and the government's policy.

Justice Imani Daud Aboud, President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, said despite the court's establishment as a beacon of hope for victims of human rights violations, statistics indicate that 20 years after the adoption of the protocol, only 34 of the 55 member states of the African Union are parties to it.

"And out of 34 state parties to the protocol, only 12 have deposited the Article 34(6) Declaration, and 4 have withdrawn in recent years. The withdrawals have created significant barriers for African citizens seeking justice and reparations," she stated.

The participants said that advocacy for increased ratifications and depositions of the declaration will be a critical focus moving forward.

"Another critical issue discussed during the meeting was the alarming low compliance rate with the court's decisions which currently stands below 10 percent," she said.

"This significant lack of compliance not only undermines the authority of the court but also denies justice to countless victims of human rights violations, leaving them without the redress they rightfully deserve."

"A range of practical and actionable measures to address this challenge include strengthening political will among state parties to honour their legal obligations, leveraging the power of civil society advocacy to hold governments accountable and foster strategic partnerships with both regional and international human rights organizations."



Josephine Shula profiles her avocado seedlings before Dr. Lauren Rumble, associate director for gender equality at UNICEF headquarters (4th R) and the UNICEF Tanzania team. He farm is part of a scheme to grow and sell the seedlings through the Integrated Programme for Out-of-School Adolescents (IPOSA). The team was on a visit to Songwe Region by the team to assess the country's progress and challenges in advancing gender equality and adolescent girls' empowerment. Story on page 7. Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke

Seek world heritage site status for Kalambo Falls, govt urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

THE government has been urged to seek UNESCO World Heritage Site status for Kalambo Falls located in Rukwa Region due to its uniqueness, a move that would promote tourism and foster employment opportunities for women and youth.

Kalambo Falls, the 235-meter (772 ft.) single-drop waterfall located in Kalambo District, is one of Africa's tallest uninterrupted falls, following South Af-

rica's Tugela Falls and Ethiopia's Jin Bahir Falls.

Rose Ngunangwa, executive director of Tanzania Media for Community Development (TAMCODE), made the call at the weekend during a field visit with journalists in the region. The visit was coordinated by her organisation in collaboration with UNESCO-Alwaleed Philanthropies.

Ngunangwa highlighted that listing Kalambo Falls as the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site would provide global rec-

ognition, boosting tourism and investment in the region. "Kalambo Falls deserves to be among the wonders of the world due to its uniqueness, the surrounding forest conservation, and the historical significance of the area," said Ngunangwa.

She further urged the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to invite private and public sector investors to develop hospitality services in the area. "The ministry should encourage investors to build quality hotels and shops to

accommodate tourists. This will create employment opportunities for women and youth, who can also sell traditional foods, clothing, and other goods," Ngunangwa added.

Adam Evarist, sports and culture officer for Rukwa Region noted that the falls were previously difficult to access. However, the government has made significant improvements, including constructing 1,270 steps to facilitate better viewing from the Tanzanian side.

Evarist emphasised the importance of

forest conservation to preserve the falls for future generation and called on investors to build hotels and provide essential services to enhance tourism.

The one-day field visit included journalists from community radio stations and digital platforms, as well as cultural officers from Sumbawanga District and Rukwa Region. The initiative aimed to promote forest conservation, cultural heritage, and tourism while fostering employment opportunities for youth and women in the Rukwa Region.

INEC calls for professionalism in voter register improvement effort

By Guardian Reporter

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has urged officials involved in improving the Permanent Voter Register (PVR) to perform their roles with the utmost professionalism, dedication and commitment.

This comes as training sessions for officials in Tanga and Coast regions kicked off last week, marking an important step towards ensuring the success of the voter register improvement process.

Speaking during the training session in Tanga yesterday, INEC chairman Judge Jacobs Mwambegele emphasised the critical role the officials play in updating the voter register in preparation for future elections.

Addressing the newly trained officials, Judge Mwambegele underscored the importance of their experience and commitment to ensure the smooth and efficient execution of the voter registration process.

"Many of you have been involved in previous phases. With the training you receive, I am confident you will perform your duties with the necessary professionalism and commitment, contributing to the success of this process," he said.

He also encouraged the trained officials to

share their knowledge with colleagues who may not have participated in similar exercises, ensuring that all involved are equipped to carry out their roles effectively.

In a parallel training session held in Coast Region, INEC vice chairman, Judge (rtd) Mbarouk Salim Mbarouk, emphasised the importance of carefully handling the voter registration equipment.

The equipment, which was purchased at a significant cost, will be used across various regions, making it crucial for officials to maintain and use it properly.

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TENDER NOTICE

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Dough Works Limited (DWL) is a dynamic and innovative food and beverage company specializing in high quality food experiences and convenience amenities. With a commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, the company operates more than 30 restaurants across prime locations.

DWL hereby invites qualified and capable vendors to request the tender documents from:

Dough Works Limited - Procurement
Email: procurement@doughworks.co.tz

All our existing service providers are required to participate alongside prospective service providers in order to be reviewed and considered.

The tender duration is **26 days** and closes on **28th February 2025 at 5 p.m.**

Category of Tenders	
1. Dairy Items	11. Events & Décor
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6. Spirits and Tobacco	16. Security Services
7. Beer	17. Printing Services
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Revenue Mobilization Advisor

GIZ is a federally owned enterprise operating worldwide, assisting the German Government in achieving its policy objectives in the field of international cooperation. It offers demand-driven, tailor-made and effective services for sustainable development worldwide. In Tanzania and across the region GIZ supports the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the EAC in attaining their development goals.

The Good Financial Governance (GFG) project in Tanzania, funded by Germany, Switzerland, and the EU, supports the government of Tanzania in implementing public finance reforms. The project focuses on four key areas: 1) enhancing administrative capacity for revenue collection at both local and national levels, 2) strengthening budget control, 3) improving fiscal policy and transparency, and 4) supporting public finance reform in Zanzibar.

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced Revenue Mobilization Advisor to join our team. In this role, you will support the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) under the GFG project's Revenue Mobilization component. Your responsibilities will include strategic planning, providing technical advice, and coordinating activities to enhance TRA's revenue mobilization efforts in line with international standards.

Duty station: Dar es Salaam

Fixed term contract Job location: Band 4

Responsibilities and Tasks

- Ensure implementation of revenue mobilization activities in line with operational plans agreed with TRA.
- Provide technical advice on tax reforms, accompanying reform processes and ensuring alignment with international standards.
- Advise on technical and organizational matters of national tax administration.
- Conduct research and manage knowledge tasks related to revenue mobilization.
- Provide advisory support on data exchange, systems architecture, and interfacing national and local revenue systems.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and training on tax data analysis.
- Advise on digital taxpayer services
- Prepare terms of reference for short-term assignments and ensure that the partners' needs are reflected in them
- Accompany and supervise short-term expert assignments to ensure the quality and embedment of results in partner system
- Contribute to M&E, communication and reporting of project results.
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Qualification

- Advanced degree in Economics, Finance, Public Administration, or a related field.

Professional experience

- Extensive experience in tax policy, tax administration, or public finance management.
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- Ability to work collaboratively with government agencies and international partners.
- Proficiency in research, data analysis, and knowledge management.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.

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<https://www.fuzu.com/jobs/revenue-mobilization-advisor-giz-tz>

Closing date for submission: **15.02.2025. GIZ**

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability, or any other minority group.

216356001

Experts devise AI-aided app for self-diagnosis of disease

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

MEDICAL experts have invented health an application which uses artificial intelligence to run personal health diagnosis accurately.

The application which can be downloaded records all individual information, physical profile, mental capabilities and health status, keeping the important records in its AI brain for periodical references.

Its lead inventor, Arusha-based Dr Ahmed Raza, said the app addresses the long existing shortcomings among Tanzanians who normally never take the trouble of undergoing personal medical check-ups.

"Now each person can run own health diagnosis at the comfort of their own home, office or wherever

they happen to be," he said during the application launch at the Arusha Technical College.

Dr Raza explained that all the medical data is fed into the app, kept securely and when one attends hospitals for treatment, doctors simply retrieve all the important information from the app storage.

But even before attending medical services, the app system asks questions on lifestyle and offers advice on diet and exercise, therefore helping to solve health problems before they occur.

"An Artificial Intelligence brain will process the information and give daily advice as requested. It is some form of a personalised AI doctor that knows everything about your wellbeing," he said.

"The health IQ system will not replace your doctor but make things simple and actually cut down the trips to the medics, solve the problem of dangerous self-medication and assist the physicians to get accurate data about their patients," he said.

The application will also address the problem of patients' inability to explain their conditions, especially when the same is extremely serious that they are unable to speak. Doctors can retrieve their personal data, records and other information from the app.

On the other hand, with mental health becoming the biggest challenge, the app comes in handy to address the problem at early stages.



Dr Immaculate Semesi, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) director general, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday regarding waste disposal practices that do not harm the environment. Photo: Joseph Mwendapole

Registrar appeals for collaboration to ensure timely delivery of justice

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHIEF Registrar of the Judiciary, Eva Nkya, has emphasised the importance collaboration among institutions within the criminal justice system to ensure timely delivery of justice.

Nkya made the appeal in Dodoma at the weekend while closing the 2025 Law Week exhibition.

She highlighted that cooperation is a key pillar for success and expressed gratitude to all participating institutions. She encouraged them to maintain their collaborative efforts to enhance justice accessibility and effectiveness.

"I would like to thank all participants and stakeholders; you are the driving force behind the success of the Law Week. The Judiciary worked closely with stakeholders to provide legal education and justice through booths and outreach efforts, reaching the public directly," she said.

"This approach has allowed us to reach many more people, aligning with the third pillar of the Judiciary's plan, which emphasises collaboration to effectively promote education on access to justice," she added.

George Herbert, Chairperson of the organising committee of the exhibition and Registrar of the Court of Appeal, reflected on the event's success. He noted that this year's exhibition reached a broader audience both inside the booths and through other channels.

"We had 39 institutions participating, and 3,446 people visited the booths to get education briefs on law, justice, and dispute resolution. We also reached many more people through media coverage," he said.

David Elias, Director of Forensic Services at the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), expressed gratitude for contributions and emphasised the goal of providing legal education to address citizens' challenges. He also acknowledged the government's support to provide the necessary infrastructure for such initiatives.

"We focus on education and serving Tanzanians with the support of government infrastructure. In line with the National Vision 2050, we are working to integrate systems through technology and ICT to better serve the public," he said.

On January 15 this year, Chief Justice Prof. Ibrahim Juma noted that the judiciary would use the 2025 Law Week as a platform for driving reforms, marking the beginning of its journey toward achieving the goals outlined in Vision 2050.

Prof. Juma explained that the Law Week, which started on January 25 and ends today is an opportunity for reflection and improvements in the judiciary.

"The Law Week serves as a platform for us to assess our readiness to align with the aspirations of Vision 2050," he explained.

"Since 2015, we have been implementing reforms guided by Vision 2025. The event provides us with an opportunity to evaluate progress and gauge preparedness for the ambitious goals of Vision 2050," he said.

NEMC urges Tanzanians to avoid risky areas during upcoming rains

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has urged citizens to take precautions and avoid areas such as beaches, lake and riverbanks during heavy rains which are expected to begin soon.

NEMC has also called on local government authorities, particularly in Dar es Salaam, to take measures to prevent dumping of solid waste into water systems.

The council has emphasised the importance of keeping water systems clean and ensuring that water channels remain free from debris.

Dr. Immaculate Semesi, NEMC director general, made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking to journalists about the anticipated heavy rains.

Dr. Semesi emphasised that it is everyone's responsibility to maintain clean and safe environment to prevent floods and disease outbreaks, which have hampered national development efforts.

According to the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA), the heavy rains predicted on January 23 will be moderate to above average in Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, and Manyara regions.

Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Coast, Morogoro, Kigoma, Kagera, Geita and Mwanza are expected to experience moderate to below average rains.

"NEMC appeals to the public to refrain from the behaviours that contribute to environmental destruction. We urge citizens to monitor the weather information provided by TMA and be aware of risky areas," she said.

She advised people living near mountains or steep slopes to take precautions against landslides.

"We urge local government authorities to closely monitor mining and debris areas to ensure the safety of our communities, including controlling solid wastes to prevent them from clogged drains which can cause flooding," she added.

Dr. Semesi also cautioned transport officials and passengers to be careful during travels when roads are flooded.

She encouraged citizens to report any emerging impacts of heavy rains to local leaders.

"Citizens are reminded to comply with the Environmental Management Act of 2004, Article 57, and avoid construction in hazardous areas such as riverbanks, valleys, seashores, and wetlands," she said, adding that it is vital to take precautions to minimise the potential harm caused by floods and landslides.



NEMC appeals to the public to refrain from the behaviours that contribute to environmental destruction. We urge citizens to monitor the weather information

Govt wants local content in mining, states minister

By Guardian Reporter

MINERALS Minister, Anthony Mavunde has emphasised the government's priority for local mineral producers and the use of locally produced raw materials to support industries.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently at the official launch of the Tanzania Mineral Sector Suppliers Association (TAMISA), Mavunde said that the government has made significant changes to the mining industry.

He said the government is determined to empower small-scale miners economically.

He also praised TAMISA's efforts to unite stakeholders for the interest of Tanzanians.

"TAMISA will greatly assist the government in addressing challenges within the mining sector," he said.

TAMISA chairman, Peter Kumalilwa, said the association has created opportunities for Tanzanians to actively participate in mining activities, a move driven by the government, saying: "This development marks a crucial step towards fostering an environment where more Tanzanians will benefit from the sector which had been dominated by foreign miners and investors."

According to him, TAMISA aims to address the need for a platform that unites mining sector stakeholders while providing professional and financial support to miners, sup-

pliers, and service providers.

"This support helps to tackle challenges such as access to quality and modern equipment," he said, pointing out that the association was established to address the lack of representation and professional support in the mining sector. He emphasised the need for technical assistance to modernise mining operations.

"TAMISA seeks to revolutionise the mining sector by fostering collaboration among members, the government, and private institutions," Kumalilwa said, noting that TAMISA has made significant strides.

TAMISA has also focused on ensuring transparent bidding processes, allowing members to access procurement opportunities more efficiently.

The mining sector contributes significantly to Tanzania's economy, accounting for 56 percent of foreign currency earnings in 2023.

Despite its successes, TAMISA continues to address challenges such as compliance with regulations and procurement processes.

Kumalilwa highlighted the importance of transparency in bid announcements, stressing: "We want transparency and proper processes so that members can benefit from the opportunities."

TAMISA's presence at key events, included the International Mining Investment Confer-



Minerals Minister Anthony Mavunde shares a light moment with Chairman of Tanzania Mining Suppliers Association (TAMISA) Peter Kumalilwa shortly after the launch of the association in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Correspondent

ence at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centre, underscores its role in bringing stakeholders together to foster member-

ship growth.

The establishment of mineral marketing centres in Tunduma, Dodoma, Geita,

Mwanza, Manyara, Mara, and Arusha empowered Tanzanians to benefit from mining activities.

Stakeholders appeal for soil lab in every district

By Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga, Arusha

THE government has been urged to set up soil laboratories in every district to facilitate easier access to soil analysis services, ensuring farmers receive accurate information.

This proposal is expected to benefit farmers by fostering modern and productive agricultural practices.

Stakeholders made the suggestion at the weekend on the side-lines of the ongoing training for science, mathematics, and ICT teachers from Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions held at Ilboru Boys' Secondary School in Arusha.

Juma Lusonge, a chemistry teacher, emphasised that the establishment of soil laboratories in each district would allow farmers to understand essential soil qualities such as nutrient levels and water content, enabling them to improve farming practices.

He also noted that the initiative would help farmers move away from traditional farming methods which have not yielded optimal results. Instead, farmers would be able to analyse soil in their areas and determine which crops are best suited for their land.

"The laboratories will provide farmers with critical information to promote productive farming by considering soil type, fertilizer levels and water availability for better results," he said.

Additionally, he called for close collaboration between the government and stakeholders and emphasise teaching students modern soil testing techniques and soil resource management in schools. This will empower students to protect, improve, and utilise soil for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation, ultimately equipping farmers with modern agricultural skills.

Lusonge stressed that teachers should focus on teaching soil testing technologies, particularly concerning pH levels and essential minerals for crops, emphasising that the knowledge will help students become better farmers once they graduate.

He also urged the government to continue offering professional development opportunities for teachers, enabling them to learn new technologies and pass them on to students who will become better farmers in the future.

During 2024 Nananene agriculture exhibition in Mbeya Region, the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) advised farmers to regularly test their soil before planting to assess its quality and avoid issues that could damage crops.

Elias Mulima, manager of GCLA in southern highlands region, encouraged farmers to visit their offices for soil testing to identify potential problems, such as high acidity levels, that may negatively impact crops.

"We have specialised experts and modern equipment to identify issues in the soil and provide solutions," he said.



The laboratories will provide farmers with critical information to promote productive farming by considering soil type, fertilizer levels and water availability for better results

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TEA allocates 3bn/-for upgrade of 20 schools this financial year

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA Education Authority (TEA) has allocated 3bn/- this fiscal year for the purchase of equipment and improvement of infrastructure in 20 schools across various regions.

The targeted schools provide practical training in agriculture, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), cooking, tailoring, sports and arts.

Dr. Erasmus Kipsha, TEA director general made the announcement during the launch of the 2014 Education Policy 2023 edition in Dodoma at the weekend, emphasising that TEA aims to enhance learning infrastructure and support practical training to implement new education and vocational training policy.

Dr. Kipsha stressed that improving infrastructure and providing adequate equipment for practical training are essential for the successful implementation of the new education policy, highlighting TEA's responsibility to ensure that teaching and learning environments meet the required standards.

"Effective implementation of the new policy cannot happen without improving the infrastructure," he said, adding that TEA will continue collaborating with stakeholders to se-

cure financial resources and improve practical training facilities across the country.

Through the National Education Fund, TEA has been improving infrastructure to provide students with better learning environments, contributing to improved academic performance.

Recently, TEA funded the construction of five dormitories for three schools in Coast and Lindi regions, benefiting 400 female pupils.

Dr. Kipsha also highlighted the completion of two dormitories at Kwala Secondary School in Coast Region, which can accommodate 160 pupils at the cost of 228 m/-. Additionally, TEA completed the construction of six houses for teachers at Vikumburu Secondary School in Kisarawe, Coast Region, at the cost of 185m/-, providing teachers with better living conditions to fulfil their duties.

The National Education Fund managed by TEA continues to mobilise financial resources and equipment from both domestic and foreign sources to support education projects and improve the quality and access to education across the country.

Dr. Kipsha reaffirmed TEA's commitment to engaging various stakeholders to contribute to improve the education sector.



Dr. Erasmus Kipsha (2nd L) the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) director general, welcomes some guests who visited the authority's pavilion during the launch of the 2014 education policy, its 2023 edition in Dodoma at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent

TPA, Egyptian academy ink deal for staff drilling

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Egypt's Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) for training of its staff.

Under the agreement, 23 TPA staff members have been enrolled at AASTMT to undergo specialised training in maritime engineering, ship operations and port manage-

ment. The training aims to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet international standards.

The collaboration marks a significant step for TPA as it continues to invest in human capital development, with the goal of transforming Tanzania's maritime industry.

Speaking shortly after the MoU was signed at the weekend, TPA director general, Plasduce Mbossa, described the agreement

as strong indication of TPA's commitment to improve its workforce. He stressed that the goal is to ensure that employees possess the necessary skills for efficient port operations.

"Enhancing the skills of our employees in providing services both onshore and offshore was crucial for expanding our service delivery to customers using our ports," Mbossa said.

"This agreement will enable our employees to receive training at

the Egyptian Academy, which has expertise in port-related matters, to build capacity and improve service delivery at our ports across the country," he added.

Mbossa explained that TPA chose to partner with the Egyptian institution due to its long-standing reputation for delivering high-quality, international-standard training.

"We reviewed several institutions, but we chose to partner with the Egyptian academy because of its experience," he said.

"We have had a long-standing relationship with the Academy whereas in the past we sent our ship captains and other employees from various departments for training aimed at improving efficiency as well as

mandatory courses for certificate renewals," he said.

He noted that the staff members attending long-term studies at the academy are those who have completed Form Six. They will gain additional skills and certifications that will enable them to provide better services at the Tanzania's ports.

Earlier, President of AASTMT, Prof. Ismail Abdelghaffar, expressed his pleasure at the partnership. He said that the signing of the agreement marks the beginning of a new journey towards achieving shared professional goals.

"I am very happy and honoured to meet the visionary leaders of the maritime sector here in Tanzania," he said.

"Their vision, strategy, work,

dedication, and belief in investing in human capital are very important for the future of this crucial maritime industry," he added.

Prof. Abdelghaffar emphasised that the Academy will work closely with TPA to develop the future human capital for the sector.

"The success and professionalism of the ports will continue to improve with service providers who have international expertise," he stated. "This is crucial in meeting the current competitive market demands."

TPA has already implemented various measures to enhance operational efficiency at its ports. Recently, members of the Tanzania Traders Association visited the Dar es Salaam port to witness investments being made and praised TPA for its efforts.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR RELEASE OF RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM IN IMT BAND (3600-3800 MHz)

Pursuant to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act Chapter 172 and the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, (EPOCA) Chapter 306 of the laws of Tanzania, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is vested with powers to allocate, assign, issue, distribute, retrieve, suspend, cancel or otherwise modify distribution among users or licensees of any radio communication frequencies or frequency channels.

On 18th December 2024, TCRA notified the General Public and stakeholders that it has planned to assign 3600-3800 MHz band in four (4) Blocks of 1x50 MHz allocated for IMT services through a competitive process.

Prior to commencement of the Assignment Process, TCRA hereby invites Telecommunications stakeholders and the General Public to provide written inputs and comments on the Draft Information Memorandum (IM) for release of radio frequency spectrum in IMT band (3600-3800 MHz). The IM provides details of the award process and sets out fundamental practical issues such as Qualification Criteria, Applicant's Eligibility, Spectrum Cap, Reserve Price and other rules, to guide stakeholders who wish to participate in the Spectrum Award Process.

The draft IM document can be accessed in the TCRA web page at www.tcra.go.tz.

The written inputs and comments should be sent to TCRA before **04:00 pm EAT on Wednesday 23rd April 2025**, through email address spectrum.auction@tcra.go.tz or by post to Director General, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, 8th Floor Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, P.O Box 474, 14414 Dar es Salaam.

Issued on 03rd February, 2025.

Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
DIRECTOR GENERAL

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Chamwino MP Deogratius Ndejemi (R), who also the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister, greets delegates at the constituency's CCM general meeting at Manchali village in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Security cameras worth 1bn/- to enable 24-hour operations soon

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, has said security cameras costing 1bn/- will soon be installed across various parts of the region to enable 24-hour business operations starting next month.

Speaking to journalists following conclusion of the energy summit held in Dar es Salaam recently which brought together leaders from various African nations, Chalamila said the procurement process for the cameras is underway. The initial installation will focus on the busy commercial hub of Kariakoo, with plans to expand to other areas.

Chalamila highlighted that the region has collaborated with insti-

tutions such as the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) to support infrastructure development, including street lighting, to facilitate round-the-clock business.

"We will not wait for all the lights and cameras to be installed in every area. We will begin operations as installation continues. By February 22, many areas will be equipped," he said.

Regarding city cleanliness, Chalamila noted that Dar es Salaam maintained clean environment during the three-day energy conference by temporarily banning motorcycles and three-wheelers from entering the city centre.

"Developed countries have tak-

en serious measures to maintain cleanliness. We need to stop politicising these issues and start enforcing regulations. For instance, people should willingly pay the small cleanliness fee required to maintain our city's hygiene," he said. He urged municipal directors to enforce laws against waste dumping, drawing parallels with successful measures against illegal parking.

Chalamila also expressed gratitude to the government for enabling the energy meeting to be hosted in Tanzania for the first time. He reiterated the region's commitment to transitioning to 24-hour business operations starting February 22, with formal launch planned at the Regional Commissioner's office and extending to Kariakoo.

UNICEF commends Tanzania's achievements in gender equality

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

TANZANIA has made significant steps in advancing gender equality through sound policies and dedicated programmes that empower girls and women, a notable achievement recognised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Dr. Lauren Rumble, associate director for gender equality at UNICEF headquarters, made the remarks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during a media briefing on her visit to Tanzania. Her visit aimed to gain insights into the country's progress and challenges in advancing gender equality and adolescent girls' empowerment.

She noted significant advancements at the pivotal time, as the country is under first female leader, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has striven to foster a more equitable society.

"My first key observation is that, as many have noted, Tanzania is a highly progressive country in terms of gender equality, especially now with President Samia serving as the first female leader in Tanzania and East Africa," she said.

She added, "We are very proud at UNICEF to recognise Tanzania as a spearhead country for adolescent girls, meaning our country office has prioritised this vulnerable group as a key focus. Every sector from health, nutrition, and education to child protection is working alongside the government of Tanzania, CSOs, and the private sector to drive meaningful support for this initiative."

On the policy reform aspect, she praised the 'Back to School initiative,' which ensures adolescent mothers have the opportunity to continue with their education and build a better future.

"What I saw in Songwe was a dedicated programme for adolescent girls such as the integrated programme for out-of-school adolescents (IPOSA), designed to help them catch up on their education. Through this initiative, girls develop literacy, financial, and vocational skills, enabling them to earn a livelihood and become productive members of society," she noted.

She further highlighted the adolescent-friendly health services provided at Wwawa District Hospital, including the human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation and community health worker interactions.

"As you know, cervical cancer is the top killer of women, so starting early with the cervical cancer vaccine is helping to save lives. Tanzania has gone a step further by collaborating with UNICEF to offer nutritional support," she stressed.

Reflecting on the 1995 Beijing Conference and its focus on the girl child agenda, she said: "We need to see more women presidents. One is not enough in East Africa; we need many more Mama Samias."

Weighing in on the upcoming National Development Vision 2050, she expressed hope to see girls clearly budgeted for, with dedicated programmes ranging from economic empowerment to peace and financial literacy. She stressed that their inclusion would enable them to contribute meaningfully to Tanzania's growth and prosperity.

However, persistent challenges remain, including high rates of teenage pregnancy (22 percent) and child marriage. Adolescent girls often lack access to comprehensive health, education, and protection services.

UNICEF addresses the challenges through multi-sectoral initiatives aimed at dismantling harmful social norms and creating an enabling environment for adolescent girls.

World Bank cautions Zimbabwe on climate-linked economic woes

HARARE

THE World Bank has warned that climate change could erode up to 12 percent of Zimbabwe's gross domestic product (GDP) annually if the country does not implement robust measures to tackle the phenomenon.

In its latest Zimbabwe economic update report launched on Friday in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital, the WB urged Zimbabwe to bolster resilience against climate-related shocks, focusing on agriculture as a critical pillar of the economy.

Statistics from the Zimbabwean government show agriculture contributes from 11 percent to 14 percent of GDP and provides employment for some 70 percent of the population and about 60 percent of all raw materials for the industry.

The country's heavy reliance on rainfed systems and maize production, however, leaves it vulnerable to increasingly severe climate events, the WB noted.

In the 2023/2024 farming season, Zimbabwe experienced a severe El Niño-induced drought, resulting in a 60 percent decline in maize yield compared to the five-year average. The significant reduction in rainfall, coupled with high temperatures, has led to widespread food insecurity and economic hardship.

The WB observed that the government's ambitious target to boost agricultural output to 12.5 billion U.S. dollars by 2025 is under threat due to climate-induced challenges.

"Climate shocks disrupt GDP, trade balances, and fiscal stability. The 2023/2024 El Niño-induced drought alone caused approximately 363 million U.S. dollars in damage losses," the WB said.

"This cycle of drought and recovery undermines sustainable development and exacerbates poverty levels, making it imperative to enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector," said Easter Chigumira, World Bank senior agriculture specialist and co-author of the report.



THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF WOMEN FUND TANZANIA (WFT TRUST)

CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S, GIRLS' AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN TANZANIA FOR 2025

The Registered Trustees of Women Fund Tanzania (WFT Trust) is the first national feminist Fund and the only funding support mechanism, started by women, for women, girls and children. As Tanzania's first and only women's rights fund, our overall goal is to contribute towards women's rights and empowerment, and to women's and feminist movement building through implementing a functional and empowering funding mechanism for women in Tanzania.

The Fund seeks to achieve lasting feminist gains by addressing the root causes of unequal power relations, including gender-based violence, disempowering attitudes, and social norms that perpetuate disenfranchisement and exclusion of women political and social leadership spaces.

We do this through funding women rights organisations, women's, girls', children's rights organisations and movement(s), and other social justice movements to be able to amplify voices and organise for collective transformative action to achieve progressive social change in their contexts.

Our main focus is to resource grassroots Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) and movements, especially at the local level, because we believe that they are the experts of their own realities to be able to organise and mobilise into credible collective voices and actions that transform the disempowering contexts they live in to realise their full potential and rights.

WFT Trust believes and invests in harnessing the immense power of the feminist women's movement(s) that arises from combining engagement platforms, experiences, and collaborative strategies and processes that harness the insights, knowledge, skills, and ingenuity of organisations, groups, individuals and activists working in Tanzania.

Who can apply

WFT Trust is accepting applications from Women's, girls' and children's, rights organisations and initiatives led by and for women, community-based organisations, groups, institutions, legal entities and transformative/progressive men-led organisations working on a feminist agenda that are based and operating in Tanzania. For more information kindly visit our website: www.wftrust.or.tz

Key thematic area for funding in 2025:

1. Women's Political Participation and Leadership

In 2025, WFT-T will focus on strengthening women's political participation and leadership through provision of grants to women's rights organizations working on the broad spectrum of interventions that support women political participation and leadership to enhance and prepare women both as aspirants and voters.

Background to the call:

Women's leadership and political participation are restricted. Women are underrepresented as voters, as well as in leading positions, whether in elected office, the civil service, the private sector or academia. This occurs despite their proven abilities as leaders and agents of change, and their right to participate equally in democratic governance.

Women face several obstacles to participating in political life. Structural barriers through discriminatory laws and institutions still limit women's options to run for elected office. Capacity gaps mean women are less likely than men to have the education, contacts and resources needed to become effective leaders. Women continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often because of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women.

In line with the Draft SADC Framework for Achieving Gender Parity in Politics and Decision-Making Positions (2025 – 2035), This call for proposals seeks to address the multiple challenges to women's participation outlined through advocacy, capacity enhancement, networking, and transformative social norms change. These grants are expected to support women rights organizations, women organizations, women aspirants and other mission aligned civic actors to leverage collective action, forge partnerships, enhance coordination, share skills and knowledge, and enhance overall capacity of women through implementing interventions outlined below and similar others:

- Increase women's participation, election, and appointment in the 2025 electoral cycle and beyond, with a focus on young women in Tanzania.
- Support women aspirants in engaging directly in politics and enhance coordination among key stakeholders.
- Engage multiple stakeholders to create a more supportive environment for women's political representation, including preventing and responding to violence against women in politics.
- Advocacy & Networking: Strengthen women's leadership through coordinated advocacy, intergenerational networking, and access to knowledge and resources.
- Knowledge and Skills Sharing: Generate and share knowledge on women's political participation to inform policymakers and capacity-building initiatives.
- Social Norms Change: Promote transformative gender social norms through evidence-based advocacy and capacity building.
- Support women aspirants in preparing and competing effectively in elections.

Underpinning this call is the goal to ensure that women are perceived as equally legitimate political actors as men in decision-making processes and institutions. To accomplish these goals requires countering entrenched social norms which limit women's rights and participation, and necessitates raising awareness and sensitizing community leaders, men and boys, as well as the public at large through specific and deliberate actions. Women's rights organizations and civic rights organizations are fundamental in carrying out social norms change through demand driven approaches.

Grant Application Windows:

1. SMALL WINDOW

The Small Window funding is the core of WFT Trust's focus as it targets community-based women rights groups, feminist WROs and WOs as well as individuals that are looking for funding to ignite initiative with potential within communities through transformative and empowering approaches and/or ideas. The

Grant can be used for capacity building, awareness raising, and for galvanising social action in their communities and others, as well as Ignite and Prepare Women and Youth as voters and Aspirants.

- The duration of the intervention/project to be implemented is between 1 and 3 months
- The intervention is aimed at giving voice and visibility to women's and girls' issues, particularly marginalised women, special groups, and vulnerable populations in local communities
- Mainly for first time applicants from community-based levels

2. MEDIUM WINDOW

Projects under this Window should focus on initiatives for supporting women's, girls' and children's rights organisations to build/strengthen relevant conceptual and organisational capacities, and expertise for networking and knowledge sharing with the women's and girls' movements.

- The grant period should be between 6 months and 1 year
- Must aim at giving voice and visibility to marginalised women, girls and children on issues as stipulated in the call for a proposal
- The window is open to women and girls' initiatives at the local and national levels, which need funds for organising and mobilising women and girls to strengthen strategic alliances and networks in the women's movement at different levels.

3. STRATEGIC WINDOW

The Strategic Window is meant for funding longer term projects/interventions of up to 2 years in duration and for activities that target feminist movement/platform/coalition building efforts. The window can also be used to support WROs that are growing and that need support with core funding to building institutional and organisational capacity. In particular graduating middle window recipients and National level WROs (National level Women's Rights Organizations, Women Organizations with a potential for movement building that includes reach, agenda setting and constituent base - building interventions) are more suited to this window because of their relative growth and mandate in movement or coalition/platform building work.

The grant in this window can also be sought to support cross movement work within the various women, girls and children's movements. Feminist WROs possessing relevant institutional capacity, expertise, networking, and local knowledge to work with other partners (both local and national) to strengthen women's movement building strategies across sectors are encouraged to apply. Within this frame, we are accepting proposals aimed at initiating and scaling up interventions that promote collective/joint advocacy actions, cross border platforms, collective networking and learning within the various sectors of women and girls' and children's movement/s in the country.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Applicants should strive to reflect in their proposals key guiding principles outlined below:

I. MISSION ALIGNED

Partners who share our aspiration of contributing towards the elimination of gender inequalities, discriminatory, practices, and processes through capacity enhancement and women's movement building, and whose work fits within our identified thematic areas.

II. CLARITY ON THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PROJECT

- The proposal should ensure a strong link between the problem to be addressed and the strategies and measurable results anticipated from the project
- The proposal should reflect multi-stakeholder participation (within the women's movements and across other movements) in formulation and implementation of forming/strengthening functional networks, coalitions, and platforms
- The proposal should use models that demonstrate sustainability, innovation, replicability, and scaling up potential
- Your proposals should include strategic use of local, regional, and international days as opportunities and platforms to amplify your projects goals for instance the International Day of the African Child, International Day of Rural Women, and 16 Days of Activism etc.
- The organization applying must not be affiliated with any political party.

Specific Requirements:

Application for these Grants will follow this process:
Visit WFT Trust's website (www.wftrust.or.tz) to download the proposal form
Fill in the proposal form (8 pages max) describing the proposed idea or initiative
Upon submission of concept note kindly attach Copies of the following

- Organization's registration
- Organization constitution
- TIN Certificate (If Available)

And then send them via email to grants@wftrust.or.tz

OR,

Complete the application then either submit it in person at the office or mail it to the following address:

The Executive Director
Women Fund Tanzania Trust,
P.O. Box 79235,
Dar es Salaam

Any enquiries should be made through mobile phone: +255 753 912 130

Please note:

No offer, payment, gift, consideration, or benefits of any kind, which constitutes or could be construed as an illegal or fraudulent practice, will be made, either directly or indirectly, as an inducement or reward for the success of an application.

The deadline for submission shall be on Friday, February 28th, 2025 at 4:00 pm local time. Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified before 31st May, 2025.

MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2025

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

SADC better placed to assist global actors on DRC matter

LEADERS of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) gathered at an extraordinary summit that strongly condemned escalating hostilities in eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

A briefing conducted by the body's executive secretary reiterated the often invoked commitment to collective security in working to maintain regional peace. It is a modality that can be reactivated if the need arises.

Meeting in the Zimbabwe capital of Harare to address the deepening humanitarian crisis and growing insecurity in the wake of intensification of rebel advances in the region, the leaders stressed the urgent need for intensified peace building efforts and dialogue to resolve the crisis. This aspect of things provides a background to intensification of combat situation there, as both Luanda and Nairobi processes were being pursued in the months and weeks before the escalation. It simply failed.

The tone of the leaders' meeting was to reaffirm the community's dedication to regional peace and security, pledging to redouble efforts to protect civilians caught up in worsening instability. They attributed these responsibilities to the SADC mutual defence pact, implying that they are automatically on the DRC side as it is part of SADC. The EAC process has no such provision as mutual defence engagements, and sending troops to DRC or anywhere from the EAC zone is entirely bilateral in character.

It was unclear if the SADC

group has the reserves for strengthening political will across the region to create a clear, actionable roadmap to accelerate peace initiatives in eastern DRC. That is what the Luanda process was intended to achieve, in which case 'accelerating' it in the current circumstances boils down to intervention, in line with an old adage that 'war is politics by other means'. Only a different balance on the ground permits diplomacy to take a renewed intensity, to foster dialogue.

It isn't just the neighbouring states or regional partners that are seeking to find solutions for the DRC crisis, and even the SADC high level meet acknowledged the valuable support of international partners. It is true that most outsiders who have spoken on the issue have criticized Rwanda for its alleged intervention and persistent engagement in eastern DRC. But the SADC beefing showed an acute observation of the rule of not naming anyone.

What this amounts to in practical terms is that there is a strong possibility of other countries sending contingents to join South African troops who are already on the ground, and had apparently suffered several casualties. Tanzania has been involved in peacekeeping, but even units of the United Nations mission there have engaged in battle with advancing M23 units. No peace can be kept at the moment but as SADC intimated, peace first needs to be restored via the mutual defence pact, to negotiate.

More private sector role in waste management needed

REPORTS that a waste management strategy for the next half decade is being drawn up by environmental experts in the Vice-President's Office (VPO) raised interest in various quarters towards the end of the week. A plan to this effect was being mooted at a stakeholders' meeting on an intricate issue, plastic waste, where the overall issue was tabled. There was however a proviso to what VPO suggested, not waste use per se that is being outlined but strengthening wide waste management infrastructure.

There was preliminary data review of urban and rural waste generation, where it was aired that garden products or food wastes contribute more than half of total wastes. Additionally, it was noticed that up to 70 percent of the solid waste produced can be recycled, which implies the potential of business activity with waste products is quite high. Interestingly enough, specific wastes like cesspits and sewage systems can routinely be used for localized electricity generation, if the regulatory environment was relaxed.

What was unclear is how the country moves from five to 10 percent use of recycling waste, and who indeed can do the work. Environment officers went to lengths to explain how a significant portion of recycling activity is tied to plastic, paper, scrap metal, aluminum, glass, electronic waste, lead-acid batteries, and used oils. The 3Rs concept (reduce, reuse, recycle) was aired at the meeting, but at an earlier instance VPO officials issued an appeal to households to separate wastes to facilitate recycling.

This sort of appeal is not something that could conceivably come from the private sector, though it ap-

pears that VPO is inching up to enable collective effort in that direction. It was said that eight beverage companies have partnered to promote sustainable waste management through the producer responsibility scheme to control waste from their products. An auxiliary note talks of the Plastic Waste Recycling Organisation to coordinate the effort, where VPO seems to be in the lead, along with city council roles.

There is all the same a problem of overly focusing on plastic waste as some people see openings for a credible business engagement, whereas what is needed is overall strategy on waste collection, disposal and where relevant, recycling. The trouble is that in whatever sphere of waste management one thinks of, there is a modicum of business or gain by public agencies that motivate the regulators to only marginally engage the private sector. Were it that the breadth of waste management was handed to the private sector by usable contracts with city authorities, not just plastic waste recycling but biogas production would be initiated, by shifting from current monopoly.

The public sector waste management prerogative involves unnecessary efforts like providing public education through radio and television programmes, workshops and meetings. VPO experts at the meeting talked of having developed a model plastic waste recycling project in the capital, even as such facilities are not new. There are active participants in these efforts among NGOs that also seek waste collection, recycling etc from a public sector point of view. With most opposition experts confined to discussing constitutional issues, deplorable waste piles will predominate.

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Gaza humanitarian aid: How lack of political will ruined resolution 2720

By Dawn Clancy

BEFORE the three-phased ceasefire deal-proposed by President Joe Biden and dragged over the finish line by the then-incoming Donald Trump administration-silenced the bombs and drones over Gaza and allowed for humanitarian aid to flow into the strip, there was United Nations Security Council Resolution 2720.

Adopted on December 22, 2023, and tabled by the United Arab Emirates, the resolution was created to streamline and accelerate the delivery and distribution of much-needed humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza. However, critics of the resolution say that a lack of political will and cooperation from the Israeli government and COGAT, the aid coordination arm of Israel's military-identified by UN bodies and aid organizations on the ground in Gaza as the primary obstruction to aid delivery and distribution-paralyzed the implementation of the resolution's mandate, unnecessarily prolonging the suffering of Palestinian civilians in the battered and bloodied enclave.

COGAT did not respond to a request for comment.

The resolution also tasked Secretary-General António Guterres to appoint a senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator to expedite the mandate and to "establish a UN mechanism for accelerating the provision of humanitarian relief." For that role, he chose Sigrid Kaag of the Netherlands. She officially started the job on January 8, 2024.

"There are thousands of trucks [with humanitarian aid] trying and failing" to enter Gaza, said Lana Nusseibeh, the UAE's ambassador to the UN, in her remarks to the Council before the vote in December 2023. "Unless we take drastic action, there will be famine in Gaza." The situation for Palestinians, she added, is "desperate" and "unbearable."

In the name of self-defence and security, Israeli Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Jonathan Miller, told Council members after resolution 2720 was adopted that Israel "will not change" its approach to the delivery and distribution of aid. In stark contrast to Nusseibeh's warning of a looming famine in the strip, Miller said, "Hundreds of truckloads of aid enter Gaza every day... the only roadblock for aid entry is the UN's ability to accept them."

But Kaag chipped away at Miller's claim in her first public briefing to the Security Council on April 24, 2024-her first official briefing was a closed session with Security Council members on January 30, 2024-which followed an Israeli airstrike on a World Central Kitchen (WCK) aid convoy in Gaza that killed seven aid

workers on April 1.

Notably, before the WCK strike, leadership at the highest levels of the UN recognized the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Secretary-General Guterres described the humanitarian situation as "appalling." And Martin Griffiths, the former UN relief chief, told the Security Council that "providing humanitarian assistance across Gaza is almost impossible."

Jeremy Konyndyk, the president of Refugees International, in a televised interview, called out Israel for "actively blocking humanitarian groups" from getting into northern and southern Gaza. "What we need to see is the opening of border crossings," said Konyndyk. "We need to see Israel doing much more to facilitate humanitarian action."

Meanwhile, the "tragic" and unintentional WCK military strike-as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described it in a video statement-drew heaps of condemnation and criticism from the international community, prompting Netanyahu, after a call with Biden, to make commitments to improve Israel's approach to humanitarian aid in Gaza, which Kaag noted in her remarks on April 24. Some of these steps included an increase in the volume of aid crossing into Gaza, the temporary opening of the Erez crossing and the opening of Ashdod port for humanitarian goods.

"There's still a lot of work to be done," Kaag told reporters after the council meeting. She added that her mandate "requires the full cooperation of the Israeli authorities."

However, three months after the WCK military strike, on July 29, 2024, while briefing reporters at UN headquarters in New York from Amman, Jordan, Kaag, who had just returned from a trip to Gaza, described the situation as "absolutely catastrophic" and the level of destruction as "almost incomprehensible." When Kaag returned to New York to brief the Council on September 16, her assessment grew darker.

"Effective humanitarian operations require the right quality, quantity and a broad range of goods to meet the daily needs of civilians in Gaza. That goal is not being met." She added that the breakdown of law and order and looting of supplies "are additional significant impediments to the UN operations in Gaza." "The operating conditions for humanitarian workers include denials, delays, a lack of safety and security and poor logistical infrastructure. This contin-

ues to hamper relief operations," she said.

Contrary to Kaag's briefing, Danny Danon, Israeli Ambassador to the UN, in his remarks to the council, described Israel's humanitarian efforts as "unparalleled" for a country that was forced to go to war.

"We have gone above and beyond our obligations, aiming to improve the well-being of a civilian population embedded within the enemy," he said. Less than a month later, on October 6, 2024, the Israeli military laid siege to north Gaza, complicating Resolution 2720's mandate by prohibiting aid deliveries, including food and other essential supplies and trapping upwards of 65,000 Palestinians.

"We have been collectively killing ourselves to establish systems, negotiate, to get dual-use items in, to assist children that are deaf, to get their hearing aids... we've established the systems, the teams, the mechanism, the database, we've organized the suppliers," Kaag told reporters in New York on December 10, 2024. "But there's no substitute for political will. You can't 'ask humanitarians to do more.'"

On January 17, 2025, the UN's press office announced the temporary appointment of Kaag as special coordinator for the Middle East peace process. According to the statement, her new role "will be concurrent" with her present mandate as Gaza's senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator.

Notably, as Kaag worked to implement her mandate to increase and streamline aid into the Gaza Strip, the International Court of Justice (ICJ)-the judicial body of the United Nations-ordered Israel on January 26, 2024, to take steps to prevent genocide in Gaza, including taking all measures within its power to provide adequate access to food, water, fuel, shelter and medical supplies to civilians in Gaza. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) issued reports of imminent famine in Gaza. Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report that detailed how Israeli authorities have "deliberately obstructed Palestinians' access to the adequate amount of water required for survival."

Amnesty International published a report on December 5, 2024, concluding that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza by "failing to facilitate meaningful access within Gaza so others, particularly humanitarian organizations, could deliver es-

sential services and life-saving supplies." And on November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for crimes against humanity and the "war crime of starvation as a method of warfare."

Additionally, a recent ProPublica investigation revealed that two humanitarian agencies within the US government had concluded last spring that "Israel had deliberately blocked deliveries of food and medicine into Gaza." The investigation claims that former US Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected the agency's findings.

Despite multiple attempts by IPS to interview a variety of humanitarian aid organizations on the implementation of resolution 2720 and its impact on the ground in Gaza-including whether Kaag has effectively executed her ongoing mandate and whether Israel played a primarily obstructive role in the process-some, due to the issue's sensitivity, declined to speak on the record.

A spokesperson for Islamic Relief did, however, provide IPS with an email statement.

"UN resolution 2720 did not deliver on its mandate to get more humanitarian aid to people in Gaza. It should have led to a massive surge in aid, but instead the amount of aid getting into Gaza decreased even further. Israel has continued to use starvation and denial of aid as a weapon of war, violating international law and UN resolutions with complete impunity."

A series of humanitarian access snapshot reports published by a group of international humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza also provides insight into the challenges aid workers face despite what Security Council Resolution 2020 has tried to accomplish. These include, according to available snapshots, denials and delays in the delivery of food, medical and building supplies, forced displacement of humanitarian staff and multiple incidents of the Israeli military targeting areas close to aid distribution sites.

After 15 months of war, President Biden, alongside the Trump administration, announced a three-phased ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas, the armed group that attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. The deal's first phase, which began on January 19, called for a surge in humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Rolling out revised 2014 education policy pegged to universal secondary schooling

By Guardian Correspondent

AS President Samia Suluhu Hassan officiated at the formal launch of the revised 2014 education policy, now said to be its 2023 version - and being out across publicly early 2025 says a lot on how tortured the journey to its formal launching has been.

The issue is how far the bottlenecks to adopting a new policy have been solved, whether there are winners and losers, or as it can be predicted, a level playing field. It is the latter situation that in a sense obtains, but just how this is the case is difficult to fully demonstrate.

A number of remarks at the launching ceremony especially extended remarks on the policy making backroom discussions, seeking audience with the president for the major outlines, extensive public consultations, etc profiled part of the issues.

Yet there were parameters the minister opted not to properly pursue, so presumably peppered over the issues in view of cost considerations, for instance why little or nothing occurred in the years after 2014. Only in issuing specific directions to cabinet ministers as the sixth phase moved to action in March 2021 did a flicker of life be noticed.

Significantly, the earlier policy draft or text was issued in September 2015 at a time when the legislature was being dissolved and election campaigns formally starting. What the minister did not say was that the fourth phase government never really promulgated the policy, as it was not done in a time frame where the government would be obligated to put it into action. That is why it now can be set out clearly enough how all this has changed.

Another parameter of issues the minister did not make clear enough in profiling the journey from the 2014 policy draft to its 2023 revision, and how it is being set out nearly two years from the moment of its proper revision is how stakeholders adjusted to the changes.

Were it that it is a policy that envelops all schools to follow, the same problems as earlier on would have surfaced but could now be obviated. The point is that over the past few years numerous secondary schools have been built, such that any pupil with interest in studies can find a place in a public secondary school.

At the same time, a good number of schools have been elevated from usual or normal secondary schools to more elevated positions, where some of the current unknowns are resolved. For instance



President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched the New Education and Training Policy (2023 edition) on January 31, 2025, a significant stride towards reshaping the country's education landscape.

when the standard VII exam is pushed to the back as an assessment test as pupils simply proceed into secondary school all the same, the issue of language shift comes, if they start learning in English or retain the teaching language applicable in most primary schools.

Parents can now seek places in English medium public outfits where there are significant fees to be paid, while the run of the mill schools are absorbed into new look curriculum, with a Swahili cloud above

The issue of language shift dominated the dispute in the 2014 policy thrust as experts at the University of Dar es Salaam along with their alumnae at the Tanzania Institute of Education had for decades issued a series of researches, backed by Scandinavian colleagues in particular, that pupils learn best when their mother language is the medium of instruction.

This thesis left aside the fact that only in recent decades are something like

a majority of urban secondary schools having pupils lacking a mother tongue that isn't the national language. The pupils of past generations didn't see Swahili as mother tongue, but researchers have always held it in that mood.

The reason for the 2014 education policy draft to have been proclaimed fairly late in the day and failed to take off even in the next government was that it was not to the liking of stakeholders but experts. As space for secondary school was still limited, avoiding the language shift trap and technical training outlook would demand obtaining study space in fairly expensive private schools taking up millions of shillings in fees, definitely.

In that sense it is the spread out of public secondary schools all over the country where the Education ministry along with local authorities use a 'force account' mechanism to meet their own needs as well as adapting to the situation.

They change a breadth of those schools, where the staffing situation or equipment is better to quasi-private schools, in like manner as religious organizations open quasi-public facilities where costs do not differ from public health centers. A breadth of parents is in a better position to place children in assured English medium schools - to be on the safe side.

It is clear that there has indeed been a change in education policy and in the curriculums taught in schools, but in 2014 it would have created havoc to have tried to push it down the throats of key stakeholders.

By 2023 it was clear that given the great strides in building secondary schools, a two-way street was possible as many of the bloc of disgruntled stakeholders seeking an academic orientation for their children and English medium assurance would know where to get admissions.

The rest would definitely be satisfied with their children attending necessary education and new model secondary school, even relieved over its practical orientation, etc.

There are already some civic stakeholders raising issues on the emerging situation, which is different from community

stakeholders. They appear to be worried that academic oriented secondary schools where parents pay substantial fees will get a better deal in comparison with the usual fee-free version of secondary schools, and predictably this can be objectionable to activists.

Yet if paying more than 500,000/- per year in fees to be assured that one's child is in the right sort of school isn't simply an act of charity, what is there to be surprised that they will be different? The issue here isn't that they will be different but that new look schools will do well enough.

inal justice institutions more effective.

The recommendations were presented in form of a summary to address the complaints Tanzanians have on the criminal justice system and criminal justice institutions in the country, taking into account good governance and civil rights.

The commission found that there were many issues in the chain of criminal justice from the prevention of crime, the identification of crime and the reporting to the police, the search and how the arrest of suspects was conducted, preparations for prosecution, court proceedings and the delivery of judgement, the imprisonment of convicts to the life of prisoners who have finished their jail term and their return to civilian life.

The scope of the summary of the report is to show the magnitude of the problems and challenges and how they affect the system and effectiveness of criminal justice institutions. The summary also contains the recommendations of the commission concerning the steps to be taken to address the problems and challenges and meet public expectations.

The recommendations are a result of research and in-depth discussions with senior retired leaders, retired leaders and those who are still in office in

Air Tanzania direct cargo flights to China: A game changer for fresh avocado exporters

By Adonis Byemelwa

IN a groundbreaking boost for Tanzania's agriculture and international trade, Air Tanzania has achieved a major milestone by securing approval from China's Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC) to launch direct cargo flights between Dar es Salaam and Guangzhou.

This pivotal decision opens a new chapter in the country's export capabilities, paving the way for Tanzanian goods to reach one of the world's largest markets with unprecedented efficiency.

The new route marks a significant step forward for local farmers and businesses, who will now have direct access to China's vast consumer base.

It is expected to greatly enhance the export of fresh produce, spices, and other Tanzanian goods, ensuring faster delivery times and reduced costs.

The move also highlights the strengthening ties between Tanzania and China, reflecting a shared commitment to bolstering trade and economic growth.

Industry experts have hailed this as a transformative moment for Tanzania's economy, noting that the direct flights will not only boost trade volumes but also enhance the competitiveness of Tanzanian products in the global market. With this approval, Air Tanzania is set to play a critical role in elevating the nation's position as a key player in international trade.

On another note, an inaugural container, laden with Tanzanian-grown organic avocados, made a historic arrival in China on 18 November 2024.

These two moments mark a key turning point for the industry, as experts expect it to become a financial bonanza for farmers and exporters alike.

The newly approved cargo plane boasts a capacity of 54 tonnes and can operate for up to 10 hours without refueling, providing an efficient and direct route to China.

"The first scheduled flight is poised to take off in the coming weeks," the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania said in a statement.

Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA)'s CEO Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, expressed her excitement at the news of Air Tanzania's direct flights to China.

This development comes two weeks after Beijing granted Tanzanian avocados access to China's expansive market.

Dr. Mkindi highlighted the mutual benefits for both nations: "The move will be beneficial to the butter fruit exporters as it will cut transport time for avocados to reach Chinese consumers with optimum quality. It's an advantage for both local farmers, who gain access to international markets, and Chinese consumers, who will enjoy fresh avocados."

She praised the governments of Tanzania and China for their commitment to the interests of their citizens, acknowledging that faster transportation significantly reduces the time it takes for avocados to reach their destination.



Previously, a sea shipment containing 24 metric tonnes of Hass avocados, valued at \$18,500, took 22 days to travel from Mombasa Port in Kenya to Hong Kong Port.

In contrast, the flight time from Dar es Salaam to Beijing is only around 12 hours and 12 minutes, dramatically reducing delivery time to just one day.

Dr. Mkindi also extended her gratitude to development partners like the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and TradeMark Africa (TMA) for their unwavering support in facilitating international market access.

"We are thankful to partners like Sida and TMA for their support in unlocking opportunities for farmers. Together, we are expanding horizons and creating a brighter future for Tanzania's agricultural sector," she noted. At an institutional level, this milestone marks a good point of celebration for TAHA as it commemorates its 20th anniversary since it was first registered in 2004.

This strategic move not only positions Tanzania as a key player in the global avocado market but also strengthens the economic bonds between Tanzania and China.

For Tanzanian farmers, this breakthrough represents a vital opportunity to capitalize on new markets, propelling local agriculture towards a prosperous future.

As anticipation builds for the maiden cargo flight, stakeholders across both countries are optimistic about the potential for sustained economic growth and cooperation.

Dr. Mkindi is grateful indeed to the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Hussein Bashe, who, she said, worked extremely

hard, courting the Tanzanian Embassy in China to ensure the local companies are audited to comply and eventually get sanitary and phytosanitary clearance.

The TAHA CEO also attributes China's move to grant market access for Tanzanian avocados to Beijing's elaborate plan to increase imports from Africa, as part of a trade rebalance aimed at cutting deficits between Beijing and the natural-resource-rich continent.

With a population of over 1.4 billion, China - which is the 10th leading importer of avocado globally - is now likely to become Tanzania's next leading destination for fresh avocados, which have traditionally been restricted to Europe and the Middle East.

Despite being the third-largest avocado producer in Africa after South Africa and Kenya, Tanzanian farmers have largely failed to access the export market for their produce, owing to a lack of SPS measures for the butter fruit to access some international markets, as was the case with the Sino market.

"I'm so thankful and proud of our President, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, for her fine diplomatic traits that saw the lucrative avocado market of the 1.4 billion population nation opened after six years of our struggles," Dr. Mkindi said.

The ambitious journey to penetrate the vast Chinese market began as early as 2018 when TAHA (Tanzania Horticultural Association) identified its untapped potential.

Recognizing the immense opportunities in one of the world's largest consumer markets, TAHA strategically

sought the Tanzanian government's support, urging it to use its diplomatic influence to facilitate entry for Tanzanian avocados.

This groundbreaking initiative marked a turning point for the horticultural sector in Tanzania, which had been looking for ways to expand its reach beyond traditional markets.

According to Dr. Jacqueline Mkindi, Chief Executive Officer of TAHA, this effort is perfectly aligned with the government's overarching vision for horticulture.

Under President Samia Suluhu Hassan's leadership, Tanzania is now firmly on track to achieve its ambitious goal of raising the annual export value of horticultural produce to \$2 billion by the year 2030.

This target represents a massive leap from the current figure of \$420 million and underscores the government's commitment to making agriculture a cornerstone of the national economy.

Dr. Mkindi emphasized that the export drive is not only about boosting economic numbers but also about uplifting the livelihoods of ordinary Tanzanians.

By fostering growth along the horticultural value chain, the initiative is expected to create thousands of meaningful employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women.

These groups, often underserved in traditional labor markets, stand to benefit significantly from roles in farming, processing, packaging, and distribution.

By 2030, the ripple effects of this strategy could transform entire communities, turning agriculture into a viable path out of poverty.

Furthermore, the Chinese market represents not just a new destination for Tanzanian avocados but a golden gateway for other horticultural products.

The demand for fresh, high-quality produce in China has been growing rapidly, fueled by an increasingly health-conscious middle class. Tanzania's strategic location and year-round agricultural production position it uniquely to meet this demand, presenting a win-win scenario for both nations.

By prioritizing quality standards, adhering to international trade protocols, and fostering public-private partnerships, Tanzania is setting a strong foundation for long-term success in this lucrative market.

The potential benefits go beyond monetary gains, as increased export activity will also encourage knowledge transfer, technological advancement, and the modernization of farming techniques across the country.

As the horticultural sector flourishes, its success could inspire other agricultural industries in Tanzania to explore international markets, further bolstering the nation's economic resilience.

Indeed, the story of Tanzanian avocados breaking into China is more than a tale of trade; it is a narrative of hope, ambition, and a united effort to secure a brighter future for generations to come.

By Yenys Laura Prieto

What's behind the cooking gas shortage in Cuba?

THEY Leave early in the morning, testing their luck. They carry the "gas canisters" on their shoulders as if it were a collective punishment, a reminder of what it means to survive in Cuba. The worst part is that the effort may be in vain. Since late 2024, images of endless lines reveal the ordeal of Cubans suffering from the shortage of liquefied gas on the island.

In January 2025, the problem continues. Several provinces halted the sale "until further notice," due to "low availability." In Las Tunas, a state source assured: "We have no inventory, we are waiting for the importation of this product." Authorities from the Cupet company in Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Camagüey, Isla de la Juventud, Matanzas, and Pinar del Río also announced the suspension of sales to the population.

What happened to the supplies? On January 21, 2025, it was revealed that the liquefied gas ship - which arrived in Santiago de Cuba a week ago - has not yet been unloaded "because the full payment has not been made," according to a post on the Cupet Camagüey Communication page on Facebook.

In this context, cooking with firewood or going hungry seems to be the dilemma for Cuban families who endure more than 15 hours of power outages daily. For example, a report from the Cuban Institute for Freedom of Expression and the Press reveals an increased presence of improvised stoves in the streets of Artemisa. Survival stories are repeated in other provinces.

Professor Alina Barbara Lopez, a resident of the Armando Mestre neighborhood in Matanzas, reflected on the complexity of the problem: "Right now, those of us who live here have no options to prepare food: neither gas nor electricity. A sack of charcoal costs over 1,500 pesos, and it's not easily found. Additionally, that price is the monthly pension of a retiree, and if they bought it, they wouldn't have money left for food."

The Cuban government has publicly acknowledged the seriousness of the crisis, although its explanations have failed to calm public outrage. In November 2024, it was reported that more than 99,000 customers in Havana, Artemisa, and Mayabeque were left without access to gas. In the rest of the country, about 735,000 users faced the same problem, according to official figures.

In response to each announcement, users' comments on social media have been similar to that of internet user Jose Luis Marañón, caught between mocking and indignation: "We thank you for the information, and we'll cook with it. Someone, call for creativity. Cooking with firewood isn't being creative, it's living in misery."

Firewood or hunger? This is how Cubans survive the gas shortage

The shortage of liquefied gas has led thousands of families to rely on alternative, archaic methods to cook. The use of firewood, once relegated to rural areas, has become a common practice even in urban environments. This not only represents a setback in living conditions but also a health risk due to the emission of smoke and contaminating particles.

In Matanzas, more than 100,000 households have been affected, according to a local report from January 10, 2025. Long lines to acquire gas cylinders, which often last for days, are a daily scene generating desperation. Social media has shown images of people waiting for hours under the sun or in the middle of the night, with no guarantee that there will be enough fuel available.

But not everyone can improvise a firewood stove. Internet user Walberto Loriga Peña says the situation is desperate for those living in apartment buildings



Cooking with firewood or going hungry seems to be the dilemma for many Cuban families who endure more than 15 hours of power outages daily.

because "they have it much worse" and may suffer asphyxiation.

User Arnaldo Aleman also asks: "How does the family in Las Tunas cook? There's no kerosene, and the price of charcoal is like gold. Firewood is as rare as milk for children. Now they tell us we must cook with our own efforts, applying creative resistance."

In January 2025, the state-owned company Union Cuba Petróleo (CUPET), responsible for the national distribution of liquefied gas (LPG), announced the extension of the gas purchase cycle to two months in Ciego de Avila. According to the official media Invasor, this measure responds to the critical deficit in inventories affecting the entire island, worsened by the irregular supply since late 2024.

Although the measure was meant to be "temporary," authorities admit the situation remains "unpromising." The extension of the purchase cycle is compounded by the suspension of sales on electronic platforms Ticket and Tienda Virtual, according to the local newspaper Invasor.

Daniilo Tejera Sanchez, head of the LPG team at the Territorial Division of Fuel Marketing in Ciego de Avila, explained that setting a minimum of 60 days for acquiring the product is a measure aimed at "prioritizing" those who have been without supplies for the longest time.

For those who can't acquire LPG, the alternative of using electricity is also not viable due to the recurring power cuts the country faces. This leaves many families in a situation of extreme vulnerability, forced to improvise solutions to prepare their daily meals. In some communities, neighbours organize to share resources, but the emotional impact of the crisis is evident.

The population's desperation has led to an increase in public complaints and protests on social media. However, local and national authorities have responded with statements many consider insufficient. Meanwhile, gas remains a luxury for those who manage to obtain it, while the majority face an uncertain future.

Patches on a broken system

In the face of the magnitude of the problem, the Cuban government has tried to implement measures to mitigate the crisis. In December 2024, the arrival of a tanker ship with liquefied gas was announced to resume distribution in some provinces. However, these deliveries have been insufficient to meet the national demand, which far exceeds the current supply capacity.

One of the most discussed strategies has been the use of the "Mi Turno" app, designed to organize virtual lines and facilitate LPG purchases. Although this initiative is theoretically meant to alleviate consumer frustration, in practice it has proven inefficient. Technical failures and lack of connectivity have made it difficult for many users to access the platform, leaving many outside the system.

In a context where demand is so high, these measures have proven to be only temporary band-aids. The authorities' rhetoric often focuses on justifying the situation with the impact of US sanctions, but they offer no concrete short-term solutions. Meanwhile, the population continues to endure long waits, uncertainty, and the need to find alternatives to replace the lack of gas.

Marlene Rodríguez, an internet user, claimed that in the municipality of Jesus Menendez, in Las Tunas, the sales have not been completed for those who turn was in June 2024. In a Facebook post, the user commented: "This situation is concerning because it does not meet the high demand. I hope that when the distribution begins in Las Tunas, they pay a little more attention to the municipalities that are most affected by the power cuts; not everything bad should happen to us."

Informal market and growing inequalities

In the midst of the crisis, the informal liquefied gas market has found fertile ground to expand. Gas cylinders can be sold for 35,000 pesos (around \$100 USD), as seen in an advertisement from January 6, 2025.

In another post from January 14, the price hovers around 40,000 pesos, although there are also ads with a relatively lower figure, yet still disproportionate compared to the average monthly Cuban salary (4,648 pesos, according to the National Office of Statistics and Information).

Informal intermediaries have become the last hope for many families desperate to get cooking gas, as the lack of state alternatives worsens. The existence of this parallel market is not only an economic problem but also an ethical one. The exorbitant costs deepen social inequalities in a country already struck by widespread poverty.

On social media, some citizens have denounced corruption within official distribution systems, accusing employees of diverting cylinders to sell them at inflated prices. These accusations reflect a general distrust

of the institutions responsible for ensuring access to gas.

Internet user Roberto Carlos Bermudez Tamayo commented on a post announcing the suspension of sales: "So there's no gas until further notice, and outside they asked me for 4,000 pesos and filled it up in a second. Who's the bigger bandit, the one who sells it on the side or the one who should control it and doesn't?"

The rise of the informal market and illegal activities is not only a symptom of the shortage but also a reflection of fractures in the social fabric. While some manage to access gas through excessive payments, the majority are relegated to long waits and makeshift solutions, accentuating the inequalities in a society that, in theory, aspires to equity. Perhaps that's why, in one of the ads on Revolico, it reads: "The liquid from a gas canister for sale. It's not cheap so don't ask just for fun."

An uncertain future and a population on the brink

Despite the authorities' promises, there are no clear signs that the liquefied gas crisis will be resolved in the short term. Structural problems, from the shortage of cylinders to difficulties in importing fuel, persist and worsen the situation. Cubans, accustomed to adapting to adversity, now face one of the greatest challenges of recent years.

The impact of this crisis goes beyond extinguished stoves. The lack of gas affects the quality of life, increases the emotional burden on families, and exposes the limitations of a system unable to meet the basic needs of its population. For many, firewood and makeshift stoves have ceased to be a temporary solution and have become part of their daily routine.

In rural communities, where access to gas has always been more limited, the situation is even bleaker.

There, the dependence on firewood and charcoal is not only a necessity but also a risk to environmental sustainability. The cutting down of trees and the indiscriminate use of natural resources exacerbate the ecological problems the country already faces.

The flame of liquefied gas, a symbol of progress and modernity, is slowly fading in Cuba. Meanwhile, the stories of families struggling to survive reflect a nation at a crossroads. Without long-term structural solutions, the crisis could be just the prelude to even greater challenges for the island.

The global plant trade is spreading invasive species to Europe

By Special Correspondents

BACK in 2016, one of us (Silviu Petrovan) was asked to identify a live frog found in a shipment of roses in Sheffield, England. It certainly wasn't any species found in Europe: Silviu thought he had been pranked.

But with help from Ecuadorian and Colombian scientists, he was soon able to identify it as a North Andean tree frog. This species is found only in a few areas in the highlands of Colombia including, crucially, a region known for its flower-growing.

This sudden realisation that cut flowers are being shipped from Colombia via Ecuador to Britain, potentially with hitchhiking animals in tow, sparked a collaborative project to investigate the complexities in this increasingly global trade.

Initially, we explored the risks that invasive species will establish themselves. For instance, the recent fashion for old potted olive trees in restaurants, typically imported from farms in Italy and Spain, is a risk because these trees can serve as vehicles for species like the Italian wall lizard.

Sometimes called the Italian ruin lizard (scientists call

it *Podarcis siculus*), the lizard is spreading throughout Europe, with introductions often linked to the ornamental olive tree trade.

But the global trade in cut flowers, pot plants, bulbs and foliage was worth around US\$25 billion (£20 billion) in 2022, and it has many other environmental and social risks.

As well as the spread of pests and invasive species, these include wild plants harvested illegally, and a range of effects on people including threats to food security or access to clean water. In our new paper, published in the journal *Bioscience*, we examined these risks and how we can mitigate them.

We combined a review of published research on risks related to the ornamental plant trade with analysis of data on illegal trade and the prevalence of pests and hitchhiking vertebrates in plant shipments.

That included two databases of customs interceptions of organisms such as insects, slugs and snails in imports into the UK and the Netherlands, and two databases of records of amphibians and reptiles linked to UK and Netherlands imports of ornamental plants.

Despite repeated attempts



The Italian wall lizard likes to stowaway on olive trees

and contacts, it was impossible to secure official data on contaminant interceptions from other major ornamental plant importer countries. Nonetheless, the available data provided an important snapshot of what might be occurring more widely.

Growing and changing

Our analysis shows that the ornamental plant trade is

rapidly changing, doubling in value in recent decades. More and more cut flowers are being imported from tropical areas such as east Africa and South America, where the industry can play an essential economic role. Despite the risks we identify, these industries can and do bring significant benefits to people, and we are not calling for a

halt to the trade.

However, even with only two years of interception data it is clear that ornamental plant shipments contain considerable volumes of pests and potentially invasive organisms. Furthermore, while a range of species were found, taxonomic identification was not always possible, with around 20% of contami-

nants not being identified to species level.

In some cases data named a contaminant only as "Coleoptera", the scientific name for beetles and the largest insect group comprising over 300,000 species, or as "Lepidoptera" (butterflies and moths). These uncertainties make it harder to accurately assess invasive species risks.

The reports of amphibians and reptiles imported into the UK and Netherlands are relatively small in number, dozens annually. But this is most likely a substantial underestimate given that these are not records systematically collected by authorities but rather mainly chance discoveries in airports, shops, depots and private homes, which then get collated because they are re-homed by specialist exotic wildlife centres.

The problem is probably underreported

The numbers of illegal plant seizures were generally small, even though there is likely to be a large illegal trade in plants such as orchids or cacti.

This suggests that this is an underreported aspect of the illegal wildlife trade, due to less awareness and attention paid to plants. It's hard for the layperson to tell a legal cactus from an endangered one, whereas it's pretty obvious a rather colourful lizard found on a pot plant in Britain should not be there.

Importantly, we also highlight growing concerns about the allocation of resources, in particular water and land, including the loss of indigenous grazing land to ornamental plants.

African nations called upon to strengthen data collection

BULAWAYO

AFRICA'S lack of robust application of statistical research has been flagged as slowing the use of evidence-based data to drive development.

The continent is home to a mix of socioeconomic challenges where data collection continues to present a problem for authorities, but experts warn that this is stalling Africa's development agenda.

National budgets and expertise have been found lacking in ensuring data and statistics drive planning towards the improvement of millions of lives in a continent projected to reach the one billion mark in the next decade.

This emerged during the recent Forum on Statistical Development in Africa (FASDev) where experts met in Addis Ababa under the theme: "Strengthening the Mobilization of Technical and Financial Resources to Support Innovation in Statistical Development in Africa."

The forum was set up in 2004 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), whose brief is to prioritise "disadvantaged statistical systems in least developed, low-income, fragile, and small island developing states to deliver quality data and statistics for sustainable development."

The forum brings together representatives of national statistical offices, statistical training centres, international, regional and subregional institutions, bilateral agencies and international donors to deliberate on supporting statistical development in Africa.

Data collection is seen as a vital driver of sustainable development as it seeks to give a face to the continent's challenges.

Experts say while African governments have made strides in professionalising the collection of data and statistics, there is still more to be done for the timely and accurate delivery of results collected from such research.

"There is a need to expedite the provision of robust data and statistics to assist governments in accelerating the achievement of the agenda for sustainable



Vendors in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, dispute government unemployment data with unions.

development and Agenda 2063 through their national development plans," said Oliver Chinganya, Director of the Africa Centre for Statistics at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

These comments come at a time when many African governments

are struggling to adequately fund their national statistical agency, resulting in unreliable data in areas that include the overall country population in national censuses.

"Africa should urgently invest in robust data and statistical systems to accelerate sustainable develop-

ment," Chinganya said.

Data science is being touted globally as integral to understanding challenges that range from sectors such as agriculture, health, education and migration and will play a pivotal role in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The declaration was followed by the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008, which sets out to monitor progress on aid effectiveness whereby recipient countries "have more say over their development process."

Experts say this can only be possible through the collection of reliable data and efficient statistical centres.

"The status of data collection in Africa is important for improving data quality and crucial for decision-making and development. Actors must work hard to produce credible statistics," said Adoum Gagoloum, Chief Economic Statistics at the African Union Commission, who also serves as Acting Director of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC).

Gagoloum says there is an urgent need for governments to pool more resources towards setting up departments that will ensure that sustainable resources are allocated based on reliable data.

This is as some countries are yet to fully go digital in their data collection methods, further compromising the allocation of critical development resources.

"We need to explore new financing partnerships and resources to prioritize statistical development projects in Africa," said Babatunde Omotosho, Director of the Statistics Department at the African Development Bank.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union and the African Development Bank have partnered to roll out the modernisation of the continent's data collection and statistical models as part of broader efforts towards realising targets set under Agenda 2063.

According to the ECA, the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM) is already collaborating with the Food and Agriculture Organisation and regional agencies to exploit big data sources through training and capacity building on agricultural statistics.

"Transformation is essential to close the data gaps and in achieving the Africa Agenda 2063 and SDGs," Omotosho said.

"However, this vision calls for skilled personnel and robust infrastructure, and it is here where stakeholders and donors can make an impact, not only to supply resources but to develop technical expertise," he added.

The Forum on Statistical Development in Africa, with collaboration from national statistical centres, is banking on this new approach to bring a better understanding of the continent's challenges at a time of competing development priorities.

Greed, cynicism fuel ongoing war in DRC

By Frederic Mousseau, Oakland

THE fresh offensive by the M23 rebels in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) coincides with the first anniversary of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the European Union (EU) and Rwanda to cooperate on the supply of "critical minerals."

The agreement could not be more appalling given its total disregard of Rwanda's role in driving the violent conflict raging in Eastern DRC for the last thirty years, either directly through its own forces, or by supporting armed groups to fight on its behalf. The consequence has been deaths of millions, along with massive displacement and immense suffering for the Congolese.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda justifies the war, citing concerns for peace and security for the Tutsi ethnic group, the main target of the 1994 genocide. It is, however, Rwanda's illicit extraction of eastern Congo's highly lucrative minerals, including gold and the world's largest reserves of cobalt (used in batteries) and coltan (used in modern technological devices), that is fueling this devastation.

Rwanda's support of the rebel group M23 has allowed it to take over much of eastern Congo, capture many mines, and perpetrate massacres and egregious human rights abuses.

While it is wrong and immoral for the EU to strike a deal with a country responsible for so much suffering,

the very terms of the February 2024 agreement make it worse as they overlook the role of Rwanda in illicit extraction.

Over the past decade, Rwanda has exported far higher quantities of coltan than its own mines produce. It is estimated that up to 90 percent of Rwanda's coltan exports are illegally sourced from eastern DRC, through what the NGO Global Witness has dubbed as a massive "Laundromat."

Yet, the European bureaucrats who worded the agreement stated that "Rwanda is a major player on the world's tantalum extraction. It also produces tin, tungsten, gold and niobium, and has potential for lithium and rare earth elements."

In addition, Rwanda with its favourable investment climate and rule of law can become a hub for value addition in the mineral sector. One gold refinery already exists, while a tantalum refinery will soon be operational."

The EU - like the US - has legislation in place that is supposed to prevent the use of conflict minerals from DRC, but the MoU's more than favourable terms to describe Rwanda and its business climate suggest a deliberate choice not to enforce European laws despite the country's well documented egregious records.

Losing hope with Western regulators, last month, DRC filed criminal complaints against subsidiaries of Apple in France and Belgium, accusing the tech firm of using conflict minerals in its supply



People displaced by the fighting in Goma flee the city.

chain. Lawyers for the DRC government claim that Apple is responsible for "covering up war crimes and the laundering of tainted minerals, handling stolen goods, and carrying out deceptive commercial practices to assure consumers supply chains are clean."

This complaint speaks to the blatant failure of the traceability schemes that have supposedly been put in place to address the issue of "conflict minerals. Since 2010, the International Tin Supply Chain Initiative is supposed to ensure upstream traceability in the African

Great Lakes Region. It operates at over 2,000 mines and has been endorsed by the Responsible Minerals Initiative and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Unfortunately, instead of restricting the entry of conflict minerals into global supply chains, the scheme has been used to illegally launder conflict-minerals from DRC or smuggled into neighboring countries. This has allowed illegally tagged minerals to ultimately end up in the products of brands such as Apple, Intel, Samsung, Nokia, Motorola, and Tesla.

The horrors unleashed due to conflict minerals in Eastern DRC are well known to governments, corporations and their shareholders. For years, the United Nations has sounded the alarm over Rwanda's continued assistance to the M23, documenting the direct involvement of its armed forces in the conflict and the supply of weapons and ammunitions to the rebels.

Yet, Western countries remain long-time supporters. From 2001 to 2022, the US alone provided over \$3.9 billion in economic aid to Rwanda and waited until October

2023 to place Rwanda on a blacklist for military aid for violating the Child Soldiers Prevention Act due to Rwandan support for M23, which recruits child soldiers.

The UK has been hesitant to criticize Rwanda, let alone cut off military aid, as it was negotiating a migrant deportation pact with the country. While France and the EU have publicly denounced Rwanda, neither has cut off military aid, but continue co-operation as demonstrated by the critical minerals deal.

In a March 2023 press conference with President Felix Tshisekedi, when asked if

France would pursue sanctions against Rwanda, President Emmanuel Macron's response blamed the Congolese government for the country's instability.

In addition to the violence, the ongoing war and exploitation of DRC's mineral resources has a dire impact on the country's economy, draining its financial resources and preventing revenue from mineral extraction to reach its coffers. Poverty and hunger are widespread whereas access to basic services such as health and education are greatly underfunded.

The situation of countries not benefiting economically from their own natural resources has been labelled as a "resource curse." However, looking at the forces driving and profiting from the exploitation and violence, it is not the curse but rather the greed and cynical attitude of governments and corporate actors that is responsible.

On January 25, 2025, the EU said that "Rwanda must cease its support for the M23 and withdraw," and warned that it "will consider all the tools at its disposal in order to hold accountable those responsible for sustaining armed conflict, instability and insecurity in the DRC." Sanctions on Rwanda are obviously long overdue.

An easy first step for European countries will be to end the agreement that should have never been signed in the first place. The next step must be enforcement of conflict minerals regulations and laws they have conveniently failed to apply so far.

Tanzania exceeds tourist arrivals target for 2024

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA hosted 5.36 million tourists in 2024, a record high and breaking its target of attracting 5 million tourists by 2025, said Dr Pindi Chana, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism has unveiled.

Dr Chana unveiled this in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when speaking at a meeting of stakeholders in the tourism industry, including investors, travel companies, and government officials.

She said that out of the total

tourists that visited the country's attractions, 3.22 million were domestic tourists and 2.14 million were international visitors.

The tourism sector generated approximately \$4 billion in revenue last year, falling short of the ambitious

target set by the government of raking in \$6 billion by December 2025.

The official attributed the impressive number of tourists to the government's strategic efforts to promote the industry after challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years.

"These efforts have effectively showcased Tanzania's breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, positioning the nation as a desirable travel destination," said Dr Chana.

The meeting also served

as a platform for discussing future strategies, with Dr Chana emphasizing the necessity of continued collaboration among stakeholders to enhance Tanzania's tourism offerings.

Tanzania seeks to achieve the target of notching an in-

come of \$6 billion (14tr/-) from 5 million tourists by this year as stipulated in the Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III of 2020/2021 to 2025/2026) and the ruling party CCM Election Manifesto of 2020-2025.

BUSINESS



OPEC+ unlikely to change oil output policy

DUBAI

OPEC+ is unlikely to alter existing plans to raise output gradually when it meets today, delegates from the producer group told Reuters, despite US President Donald Trump urging OPEC and its de facto leader Saudi Arabia to bring down prices.

The meeting of top ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, or OPEC+, is scheduled for 1300 GMT on Monday, days after Trump called on OPEC and Saudi Arabia to pump more oil.

Four OPEC+ sources said Monday's meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee was unlikely to recommend that OPEC+ increase output more than already planned. Two others said it was too early to say. All sources declined to be identified by name.

The Saudi government communications office and OPEC did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

Kazakhstan, an OPEC+ member, said on Wednesday the group will discuss Trump's efforts to raise U.S. oil production and take a joint stance on the matter.

Earlier this week Saudi Arabia's energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and several of his OPEC+ counterparts held talks. One source said these took place on the sidelines of the Arab Energy Fund's 50th anniversary celebration in Riyadh, and were not a planned OPEC meeting.

Oil prices have risen this year, with Brent crude reaching almost \$83 a barrel on Jan. 15 and settling at its highest since August, supported by concern about the supply impact of U.S. sanctions on Russia announced in January.

Prices had fallen to below \$77 on Friday, with analysts citing the potential negative economic impact of Trump's threatened tariffs against Canada and Mexico from Saturday.

OPEC+ members are currently hold-

ing back 5.85 million barrels per day of output, equivalent to about 5.7 percent of global supply, in a series of steps agreed since 2022 to support the market.

In December OPEC+ extended its latest layer of output cuts through the first quarter of 2025, pushing back a plan to begin raising output to April. The extension was the latest in several delays because of weak demand and rising supply outside the group.

Based on that plan, the unwinding of 2.2 million barrels per day of cuts - the most recent layer - and the start of an increase for the United Arab Emirates will begin in April with a monthly increase of 138,000 bpd, according to Reuters calculations. The hikes will last until September 2026.

One OPEC+ delegate and some analysts said that keeping the plan to start increasing output in April - rather than another delay - would be a suitable way to answer Trump's call.

"The group probably needs only to rubber stamp an intention to keep with the programme of bringing back shuttered barrels in April to keep favour," said John Evans of oil broker PVM.

Based on OPEC+'s previous practice, a final decision to go ahead with the April hike is expected around early March.

Meanwhile, Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) will focus on raising its output and transparency, new acting chairman Massoud Suleman told Reuters, as Africa's second-largest oil producer looks to recover from years of instability.

The state firm oversees oil and gas production that since the 2011 ousting of leader Muammar Gaddafi has been disrupted by violent factionalism and labour disputes.

Production plummeted several times last year amid wrangling between rival groups, including over leadership of the central bank which controls Libya's oil revenue.

University students shine in EU debate contest, three winners to visit Poland

By Guardian Reporter

Three Tanzanian university students have been named winners of the European Union (EU) Youth Debate Contest, earning a fully sponsored trip to Poland, courtesy of the Embassy of Poland in Tanzania.

Careen Ndika from the University of Dar es Salaam emerged as the overall best speaker, while Diana Shabani from Dar es Salaam Tumaini University and Kijafaraja Maduhu from the University of Dar es Salaam were named runners-up.

The three will travel to Poland later this year to participate in an educational and cultural study visit.

"Winning this competition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of every participant. This contest has shown us the power of structured debate and the impact of well-articulated ideas. I am honored to be among the winners and look forward to the journey ahead," said Ndika, reflecting on the significance of the experience.

The live debate, held on January 30 and 31, 2025, at the University of Dar es Salaam Library Auditorium,



The best three speakers of the EU Debate Contest, from left Careen Ndika, Diana Shabani and Kijafaraja Maduhu

gathered 20 finalists to discuss the motion: "Having your own business guarantees a more sustainable income than a regular job".

Dr. Baruani Mshale, Director of Learning and Planning at Twaweza and the Chief Judge of the contest, praised the participants' strong arguments and historical awareness.

"This debate shattered the myth that Tanzanians cannot communicate effectively. The students skillfully connected history with present challenges, demonstrating critical thinking that is crucial for shaping the future," he said.

The EU Youth Debate Contest 2025 was launched on November 18, 2024, as part of the European Union's youth engagement efforts to involve young Tanzanians in discussions on socio-economic development.

The competition attracted over 400 applicants, with 100 participants selected for a Social Media Debate Challenge, which ran from December 15 to 30, 2024.

Speaking at the event, the EU Ambassador to Tanzania Christine Grau emphasized the importance of fostering critical thinking among young

people.

"The European Union is proud to support initiatives like this. Young people form the majority in Tanzania and globally, and we are impressed by their talent and fresh ideas. We hope to make this an annual event, reaching even more students and fostering a culture of debate in Tanzania," she said.

The Polish Embassy, a key partner in the initiative, expressed its commitment to supporting youth development and empowerment in Tanzania.

"We believe in building people-to-people connections, as networking often

leads to new opportunities. As the Embassy of Poland, we are delighted to offer the top three winners an educational and cultural trip to Poland this summer," said Acting Polish Ambassador to Tanzania Katarzyna Sobiecka.

"We will ensure that their experience is both enjoyable and enriching." The Youth Debate Contest, the first of its kind organized by the European Union for university students under 25, was attended by representatives from secondary and university students, civil society, academia, media and the private sector.

The contest is set to become an annual event, equipping Tanzanian students with essential skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and leadership.

The European Union Youth Debate Contest is an initiative targeting university students in Tanzania. It aims to foster a positive and constructive debating environment while enhancing critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills.

The contest focuses on contemporary socio-economic issues relevant to Tanzania's development agenda, encouraging youth to lead impactful discussions.

Indian investors gather in Dar to explore opportunities

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Over 100 Indian investors and business leaders attended a Working Business Meet in Dar es Salaam on January 31st, convened by the Indian High Commission to Tanzania to explore ways to enhance business and investment opportunities between Tanzania and India.

According to a report from the High Commission of India, the event took place at the New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

With a long history of diplomatic ties and shared aspirations for economic prosperity, India and Tanzania have significant potential to deepen trade relations and foster mutually beneficial investments.

The event served as a platform for Indian investors, business representatives, and stakeholders to network and discuss opportunities in Tanzania. It also provided a chance to engage with the Indian



High Commissioner of India to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey (C) listens to the proceeding of the business meeting attended by Indian Investors and business leaders at the New Africa Hotel

High Commissioner and other members of the High Commission to promote bilateral trade and investment.

The Working Business Meet facilitated discussions on emerging business opportunities, market trends, and potential avenues for collaboration. It also offered Indian investors an institutional plat-

form to assess prospects within Tanzania's growing economy while enabling Tanzanian enterprises to connect with Indian counterparts.

Such structured engagements are crucial for advancing bilateral economic cooperation, fostering sustainable growth, and reinforcing the strategic partnership between the

two nations.

India is currently Tanzania's second-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching USD 7.91 billion in 2023-24, up from USD 6.48 billion in 2022-23.

Tanzania is also India's second-largest trading partner in Africa. Indian investments in Tanzania amount to over USD 4.08

billion across 750 companies employing 65,593 Tanzanians. Tanzanian investments in India total USD 3.58 million.

To sustain this momentum, both nations recognize the need to further promote trade and investment for mutual growth and prosperity. The Government of Tanzania is working to create a business-friendly environment by offering strategic advantages, including access to regional markets and rich natural resources.

Challenges remain, and the event provided a platform for Indian investors to share their experiences of doing business in Tanzania.

Bilateral relations have reached new heights following the state visit of Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan to India in October 2023, which elevated relations to a strategic partnership and yielded numerous positive outcomes.

Black Rhino attracts more visitors in Mkomazi



The world-famous female black rhino, 'Faru Kisima,' captured by The Guardian camera at Mkomazi National Park. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo.

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Kilimanjaro

Mkomazi National Park in Kilimanjaro Region is rapidly becoming a popular tourist destination within the Northern Circuit, attracting an average of 1,000 visitors per month.

The park, renowned for its black rhino breeding site, recorded approximately 7,900 tourists between July 2024 and January 2025.

This surge in tourist numbers is attributed to government efforts to invest in the park's development.

Dr. Emmanuel Macha, Acting Chief Park Warden, shared these achievements during an interview, emphasizing that the park is on track to meet its target of 11,764 visitors for the year.

"We launched the black rhino tourism package in July 2021 and have seen steady growth in visitor numbers annually," Dr. Macha stated.

To support this growth, the government allocated over 4.6 billion shillings through the National COVID-19 Response Plan (NCRP). The funds were used to improve park infrastructure, including road upgrades, the construction of three entrance gates, the rehabilitation of two airstrips, and the procurement of a vehicle.

Dr. Macha praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her support of the park and the broader tourism sector. He noted that the rising number of visitors underscores the need for expanded accommodation, better roads, and additional pro-

fessional staff.

Geoffrey Kyando, Mkomazi Park's Conservation Officer for Business Development, highlighted that tourists come from countries such as Germany, the USA, the UK, India, and France, alongside local visitors.

Operating under the brand 'Home of Black Rhinos,' the 3,234-square-kilometer national park is divided into three major zones. While the black rhinos remain the primary attraction, Kyando noted that the park's security, captivating ecology, and the welcoming culture of the Same people also contribute to its growing popularity.

Edward Kimaro, Conservation Ranger I at the Mkomazi Black Rhino Tourism Sanctuary, explained that the park provides visitors a unique opportunity

to closely observe black rhinos within just one hour.

"The government established this center in July 2021 to ensure effective preservation and development of black rhinos," he said.

The initiative was prompted by a significant decline in black rhino numbers due to illegal poaching. Previously, these animals could only be found in Ngorongoro and Tarangire National Parks, where visitors had to spend several days to see them.

Mkomazi National Park, situated on the Kenyan border, spans Same District in Kilimanjaro Region and parts of Lushoto and Mkinga districts in Tanga Region. Originally established as a game reserve in 1951, it was upgraded to a national park in 2006.

Climate change affects pupils' attendance

By Correspondent
Beatrice Philemon

School pupils in six wards of Nyamagana and Ilmela Districts in Mwanza Region are struggling to find food and work on farms, as many parents have moved to different islands in search of fish due to the effects of climate change.

Nuru Masanja, Project Coordinator for Climate Resilient Development for Children and Youth

in Mwanza, revealed that a survey by the Mwanza Youth and Children Network (MYCN) covering 17 wards in Nyamagana and Ilmela Districts found that some students are reluctant to attend school due to water shortages.

Many children are now vulnerable, caring for themselves, and some have joined bad groups or ended up as street children due to their inability to attend school.

Lwanhima, Luchebele, Kishiri, Shibula, Sanga-

buye, and Bugogwa wards are particularly affected. School pupils in these areas face difficulties accessing meals and learning in an environment conducive to their future development.

Masanja explained that drought, high winds, water shortages, floods, and damaged roads caused by heavy rainfall have disrupted children's education.

"In Shibula, Sangabuye, and Bugogwa wards, where most people rely on

fishing, many families have moved to different islands to find fish due to diminishing resources," Masanja said. "This economic hardship has forced children to fend for themselves."

In Lwanhima ward, strong winds have damaged roofs, prompting some parents to relocate to other villages. This displacement contributes to school absenteeism.

Water scarcity is a significant issue. In Kishiri ward, students are required to fetch water from rivers

before beginning their lessons. "Some students give up and stop attending school due to this demanding routine," Masanja noted.

In Shibula ward, children face severe drought and water shortages. Pupils are forced to carry gallons of water to school daily. "This burden has led some to drop out of school," she added.

Children who drop out often resort to child labor, working on farms to earn money for basic necessities

because their parents have abandoned them without support.

Climate change education remains limited. During floods, children in Lwanhima ward are unable to attend school due to impassable roads.

Masanja emphasized that children are rarely involved in decision-making about climate change. "Parents and village leaders often overlook children's voices and opinions," she said.

She commended the

Denmark-based organization Sustainable Energy for supporting MYCN in conducting research. "This research will help develop new projects to assist children in coping with climate change and achieving their educational aspirations," Masanja explained.

The research aimed to identify vulnerabilities and assess the impact of climate change on youth and children in these areas. It also sought to develop strategies for engag-

ing youth and children in climate change adaptation and establishing a comprehensive benchmark database.

The Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) was conducted in Kayenze, Sangabuye, Kahama, Bugogwa, Busweru, and Shibula in Ilmela District, and Igoma, Luchebele, Mbugani, Mirongo, Mkuyuni, Nyegezi, Mabatini, Mahina, Kishiri, Lwanhima, and Mandu in Nyamagana District.

Trump tariffs bring more fear for businesses

By Natalie Sherman

Donald Trump's talk of applying new tariffs to goods from America's biggest trade partners has sparked months of uncertainty for business owners.

On Saturday, the president made good on his threats, ordering a new 25 percent tax on shipments from Mexico and Canada and raising existing tariffs on goods from China by 10 percent.

But that has not stopped the questions.

"Is it for a day, is it a political flex or is it something that will last for four years?" asked Nicolas Palazzi, the founder of Brooklyn-based PM Spirits. He runs a 21-person business that imports and sells wine and spirits, about 20 percent of which come from Mexico.

Trump's orders set in motion threats that the president has discussed for months, striking at shipments from America's top three trade partners, which together account for more than 40 percent of the roughly \$3tn goods the US imports each year.

Canadian oil and other "energy resources" will face a lower 10 percent rate. But otherwise, there will be no exceptions, the White House said.

Trump said the tariffs were intended to hold Canada and Mexico accountable for promises to address illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

The measures go into effect on 4 February and are to remain in place "until the crisis is alleviated," according to the orders.

If the plans were not a surprise, they still presented a potentially stunning blow to many businesses, especially for those in North America. The three countries have become tightly linked economically after decades of

free trade under a treaty signed in the 1990s, known then as Nafta and updated and renamed under the Trump administration to USMCA.

The growth of mezcal in the US, brought in by businesses like Palazzi's, has been part of this shift.

Since 2003, consumption of tequila and mezcal has roughly tripled, increasing at a rate of more than 7 percent each year, according to Distilled Spirits Council, a trade group.

Overall since the 1990s, trade in spirits between the US and Mexico has surged by more than 4,000 percent, said the organisation, which issued a statement after the president's announcement warning that the tariffs would "significantly harm all three countries".

For months, Palazzi has been fielding nervous questions from his suppliers in Mexico, who are typically small, family owned businesses and may not

survive if the tariffs are prolonged.

If it sticks, he said the 25 percent tax on the bottles of mezcal, tequila and rum he brings in will push up prices - and sales will drop.

"Definitely this is going to impact the business negatively. But can you really plan? No," he said. "Our strategy is roll-with-the-punches, wait and see and adapt to whatever craziness is going to unfold."

Economists say the hit from the tariffs could push the economies of Mexico and Canada into recession.

Ahead of the announcement, Dan Kelly, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses, described the looming tariffs from the US, and expected retaliation, as "existential" for many of his members.

"Look, we get that the government has got to respond in some fashion ... But at the same time we urge the government to use caution," he said, com-

paring tariffs on imports to chemotherapy: "It poisons your own people in order to try and fight the disease."

"It's going to have an effect everywhere," said Sophie Averin, director of De Grandes Vifedros de Francia in Mexico, noting that many Americans own Mexican alcohol brands and Modelo beer is actually owned by a Belgian company.

Trump, who has embraced tariffs as a tool to address issues far removed from trade, has dismissed concerns about any collateral damage to the economy in the US.

But analysts have warned the measures will weigh on growth, raise prices and cost the economy jobs - roughly 286,000, according to estimates by the Tax Foundation, not including retaliation.

Those in the alcohol business said the industry had already been struggling to emerge from the

shadow of the pandemic and its after-shocks, including inflation, which has prompted many Americans to cut back on dining out and drinking.

Smaller firms, who typically have less financial cushion and ability to swallow a sudden 25% jump in cost, will bear the brunt of the disruption.

"I'm pretty frustrated," said California-based importer Ben Scott, whose nine-person business Pueblo de Sabor brings in brands from Mexico such as Mal Bien and Lalocura.

"There's just a huge cost that's going to affect so many people in ways other than they're paying a couple bucks more for a cocktail, which doesn't sound like a tragedy."

Bad Hombre Importing Fred Sanchez, left with Felix Monterrosa from Agua del Sol and Reyna Rodriguez, a maestro maescaleraBad Hombre Importing



Trump tariffs push safe-haven gold to record high

LONDON

Safe-haven demand due to geopolitical uncertainties and concerns over global economic growth amid US President Donald Trump's tariff plans have hoisted gold prices to a record high, once again bringing the key \$3 000 threshold onto investors' radar.

Spot gold climbed to a record high of \$2 798.40 a troy ounce at the end of last week, starting 2025 with fresh vigour after logging its strongest annual performance since 2010 last year.

"There's concerns that some of the (economic) growth may come down because of the policies and tariffs that the current administration is looking to implement," said Phillip Streible, chief market strategist at Blue Line Futures.

"So when you've got higher inflation and lower growth, stagflation becomes the economic theme. Gold tends to work very well in that particular environment."

Trump's tariff plans are widely perceived as inflationary and with potential to trigger trade wars, driving up safe-haven demand for bullion as it is traditionally seen as a hedge against price pressures and geopolitical uncertainty.

"I can see (gold) trying to reach up to that \$2 900 level at some point during the first quarter, after we breach that, we'll set new levels," said Bob Haberkorn, senior market strategist at RJO Futures.

"At some point this year, gold could ultimately trade north of \$3 000."

Amid concerns about the US import tariff plans, the US gold futures GCc1 have been trading at a premium to the spot price for several months and widened the price spread again on Thursday.

In a sign of these concerns, 12.9-million troy ounces of gold were delivered to COMEX-approved warehouses GC-STX-COMEX since late November, raising stocks there by 73.5 percent to 30.4-million ounces, the highest since July 2022.

The deliveries came from London, Switzerland and other major gold-trading hubs.

The London Bullion Market Association said on Thursday that it was monitoring the situation and liaising with CME Group CME.O and US authorities.

London gold market stocks and liquidity remain strong with the average daily trade volume since the start of January is 471-million ounces, the association added.

Gold hit multiple record peaks last year, bolstered by the Federal Reserve's rate-cutting cycle, safe-haven demand and robust central bank buying.

The Fed, in its January meeting kept benchmark interest rates unchanged as widely expected, after easing a full basis point in 2024. This marks the first pause since the start of its easing cycle in September.

The non-yielding bullion tends to thrive in a low-interest rate environment.

As to purchases by central banks, the People's Bank of China has been a key driver of gold demand as it kept on adding bullion to its reserves over the past year despite the price growth - in what analysts see as the PBOC's broader strategy to diversify the reserves.

Analysts suggest that continued purchases by China's central bank could provide further support to gold prices in the coming months.



TASAF beneficiaries commend govt's support

Pangani District TASAF Coordinator, Asnath Mtei (2nd L), wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans, listens attentively to TASAF beneficiaries after a site visit to inspect the construction of a public toilet at the Kwakibuyu bus stand. The project was funded under the TASAF program for the 2023/2024 financial year. Photo by Correspondent Cheji Bakari.



By Correspondent
Cheji Bakari, Pangani

Beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) under the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) project have expressed gratitude to the government for empowering them and improving their household incomes.

The beneficiaries shared their appreciation during a visit from Pangani District TASAF Coordinator, Asnath Mtei, on Wednesday. Mtei inspected the

construction of a public toilet at the Kwakibuyu bus stand, built under the TASAF project for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Speaking about their achievements, some beneficiaries noted that they had previously lived in poverty but experienced significant improvements since joining the TASAF program.

They highlighted gains such as temporary employment, skill development, the ability to send their children to school, and the

launch of various development initiatives.

Through the PSSN, beneficiaries participated in construction projects that generated income and fostered a sense of community pride. The village now boasts sustainable infrastructure contributing to its overall development.

After inspecting the project, Asnath Mtei emphasized that the Kwakibuyu bus stand toilet construction is part of the government's broader strategy to enhance com-

munity infrastructure. She encouraged beneficiaries to maintain the infrastructure to maximize its benefits and support further community development.

Mtei expressed gratitude to the government, under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, for its continued commitment to supporting vulnerable households. She acknowledged that some families still require assistance to fully benefit from the program.

Foreign investment in developing economies fall

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing countries fell 2 percent in 2024, marking a second consecutive annual decline, according to UN Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) latest Global Investment Trends Monitor.

The drop in international project finance was particularly sharp, plummeting 31 percent. Africa and Asia were hit hard, with nearly 200 fewer announced projects in Africa and almost 150 fewer in Asia.

This downturn jeopardizes progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), many of which rely heavily on international finance.

Globally, investments in SDG-related sectors fell 11 percent in 2024, with fewer projects in agrifood systems, infrastructure, and water and sanitation than in 2015, when the goals were adopted.

The decline in the Global South came as global FDI rose 11 percent to \$1.4 trillion. However, UN Trade and Development noted that global FDI actually fell 8 percent

when excluding some European conduit economies, which often serve as transfer points for investment before they reach their final destination.

FDI to developing Asia, the world's largest recipient region, dropped 7 percent. China saw a 29 percent decline, with inflows now 40 percent below their 2022 peak.

India, by contrast, posted a 13 percent increase, driven by a rise in greenfield projects. The ASEAN bloc (Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) recorded a modest 2 percent gain, reaching a record \$235 billion.

In Africa, FDI surged 84 percent to \$94 billion, largely due to a megaproject in Egypt's Ras El-Hekma peninsula. Without this project, the continent's inflows rose by 23 percent but remained modest at \$50 billion.

Latin America and the Caribbean saw FDI fall 9 percent, with flows to Brazil down 5 percent. However, greenfield investment picked up in Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, hinting at a potential



rebound. Mexico stood out in Central America, posting an 11 percent increase despite weaker regional project announcements.

Global FDI is expected to grow moderately in 2025, supported by improved financing conditions and a revival in mergers and acquisitions.

But the continued slide in greenfield investments and international project finance underscores the need for countries to diversify strategies to attract and sustain investment, particularly in sectors critical for sustainable development.

Geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty remain key risks for both developed and developing economies navigating a shifting investment landscape.

According to Nan Li Collins, senior director in the Division on Investment and Enterprise at UNCTAD, key factors that are impacting FDI flows include macroeconomic trends, technological innovation, sectoral shifts, and geopolitical and trade risks.

In addition, regional disparities and economic fragmentation, debt distress, regulatory shifts, and the growing influence of private equity and sovereign wealth investors are also having an impact.

"Sovereign wealth funds and public pension funds, for example, have been increasingly active in emerging markets," she says.

Andreas Dressler, managing director of Germany-based advisory firm FDI Center, agrees that ASEAN countries are likely winners of these realignments.

"ASEAN will continue to attract more FDI based on market growth, regional integration and cost advantages," Dressler says. This investment will become increasingly sophisticated, such as that involving semiconductor production, he notes.

French embassy presents CSR awards to companies

By Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

THE French Embassy in Tanzania has presented the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards to French investors with companies operating in the country that contribute to community welfare and environmental protection.

The event, held recently in Dar es Salaam, brought together businesspeople from France, Tanzania, and other countries, providing an opportunity to recognize and celebrate companies that have invested in environmental sustainability and community development.

Speaking at the CSR Awards ceremony for 2024, French Ambassador to Tanzania, Anne Sophie Ave, emphasized the importance of acknowledging businesses that are making significant changes in society.

She highlighted the critical value of preserving both the environment and social welfare, particularly in a nation where tourism is a key pillar of the economy and environmental protection is essential for broader interests.

Additionally, Ambassador

Ave noted that the embassy is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Tanzanian government and French tax authorities regarding a double taxation agreement. "If signed, this agreement will greatly benefit investment and business relations between the two countries," she stated.

During the ceremony, the embassy awarded two companies, AfriCraft and Twiga Cement, for their commitment to environmental conservation, social development, and good governance.

AfriCraft, led by Kelvin Nicholas, was recognized for its collaboration with local communities in environmental management and its innovative approach to transforming waste into products. Twiga Cement, on the other hand, showcased its efforts to reduce environmental impact in cement production and its initiatives to plant trees in various regions across the country.

"Every company, whether small or large, has a role to play in building a sustainable future," Ambassador Ave emphasized.

SA reforms set to lift growth to 3.5 percent by 2029

CAPE TOWN

Existing economic reforms now in motion have the potential to lift South Africa's economic growth rate to 3.5 percent a year by 2029. South Africa Presidency Project Management Office director Sikhulekile (Khule) Duma told the McCloskey twentieth annual Southern African Coal Conference last week.

Delivering the keynote address during the opening session chaired by McCloskey OPIS senior VP John Howland, Duma outlined that independent modelling by the Bureau for Economic Research found that implementing the Phase 1 reforms could boost real GDP growth by 1.5 percent above the 2 percent baseline.

The largest driver of this improvement is fixed investment, which is projected to be 4 percent higher by 2029.

The government and business partnership report back to President Cyril Ramaphosa every six to eight weeks provides the joint strategic oversight committee to assess progress, provide direction, unblock issues and elevate opportunities across energy, logistics and crime.

Given improved energy availability and access to ports and railways, exports are projected to be significantly better, attaining the nigh-5 percent growth rate in 2029.

In the reform scenario, real GDP is 7.7 percent higher at R399.6-billion by 2029, and investment a 22.3 percent higher R196.7-billion.

Duma highlighted that headline initiatives underway through the collaborative efforts between Transnet, government, the National Logistics Crisis Committee and industry to improve the network and rolling stock availability, as well as operational efficiency, included 2024's independent technical assessment of the Richards Bay coal line in KwaZulu-Natal leading to the start this year of multi-year public-private coal line improvement initiatives.

"Our government is committed to our energy mix and coal will continue to have a role," Duma told the conference covered by Mining Weekly.

The Operational Breakthrough Project has a strong focus on operational efficiency and volume ramp-up, with partnerships with the private sector through the Richards Bay Coal Terminal procuring locomotive batteries and compressors for the maintenance of coal export locomotives.

"The involvement of the private sector in rail and ports is the biggest reform we've seen in 100 years," Duma stated during questions time.

On the energy front, the launch of National Energy Crisis Committee 2.0 (NECOM 2.0) was bringing greater focus to the strengthening of the national electricity transmission grid along with market reform.

Targeted under NCOM 2.0 are improving the availability of existing electricity supply, accelerating private-sector investment in generation capacity, fast-tracking procurement of new power generation capacity, unleashing investment in rooftop solar, and fundamentally transforming the electricity sector to achieve long-term energy security.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program	Time	Program
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mapishi	12:00	Out & About Extra rpt
6:00	HABARI	10:00	Watoto wetu	18:30	Jagina	12:30	Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
6:40	Kumekucha	10:05	Habari za saa	19:00	Usafiri wako	13:00	Our Earth
7:00	Habari	11:00	ITV Top Ten rpt	19:30	Soap: Laws of love	13:30	Telenovela Destiny ep
7:00	Art and Lifestyle	11:05	Habari za saa	20:00	Habari	14:00	Capchat
7:00	Art and Lifestyle	12:00	Al Jazeera	20:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	15:00	Out & About rpt
7:00	Watoto wetu	12:30	Jungu Kuu	21:00	HABARI	15:30	Special Pgm : Culinary
7:00	Shika Bamba 5	12:35	Habari za saa	21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	16:00	Tourism rpt
10:05	Shika Bamba 5	12:55	Habari za saa	21:45	Kipindi maalum: Mchezo	16:30	Business Edition Rpt
10:35	Hawavumi lakini wamo	13:00	Mjue Zaidi	22:50	Supa Jackpot	17:00	Monday Agenda Rpt
11:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:00	Art and Lifestyle	23:00	Jiji letu	17:30	Capchat
12:15	Art and Lifestyle	13:05	Habari za saa	23:00	Music: The Base	18:00	Capchat rpt
12:15	ITV Top 10 rpt	13:55	Habari za saa	23:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Telenovela: Destiny ep
13:50	Soap rpt: Laws of love	14:00	Hapa na Pale	23:00	Doc: Beyond Narrative	21:30	Capital Prime News
15:45	Igizo: Bongo DSM	14:00	Meza huru	23:00	Doc: Beyond Narrative	22:00	Dakika 45:
16:10	Igizo: Haikufuma	14:00	Watoto Wetu	23:00	Bundesliga	22:45	The Decor
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	14:00	ITV Top 10 rpt	23:00	Habari za saa	23:15	Al Jazeera
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WORLD

Soldier identified in DC plane crash, data shows helicopter may have been too high

THE US Army on Saturday released the name of the third soldier who died on a Black Hawk helicopter that collided with an American Airlines passenger jet near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport this week, killing 67 people in all.

The soldier was identified as Captain Rebecca Lobach, of Durham, North Carolina. She was an aviation officer in the regular Army since 2019 and assigned to the 12th Aviation Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The Army had initially declined to identify Lobach, an unusual decision that the agency said was made at the request of the family.

But on Saturday the Army said in a statement that Lobach's family had agreed to release her name to the public.

"She was a bright star in all our lives," her family said in a statement, noting that she worked as an advocate for

victims of sexual assault and planned to become a doctor after her military service. "No one dreamed bigger or worked harder to achieve her goals."

Meanwhile, investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board have determined the CRJ700 airplane was at 325 feet (91 meters), plus or minus 25 feet, at the time of impact, officials said at a Saturday evening news briefing.

The information was based on data recovered from the jet's flight data recorder - the "black box" that tracks the aircraft's movements, speed and other parameters.

The new detail suggests the Army helicopter was flying above 200 feet (61 meters), the maximum altitude for the route it was using.

Preliminary data indicates the control tower's radar showed the helicopter at 200 feet at the time of the accident, though officials said the in-



A Jet Blue flight flies over law enforcement boats and the partially submerged fuselage of American Airlines Flight 5342 in the Potomac River on Saturday in Washington, DC. AFP

formation has not been confirmed.

"That's what our job is, to figure that out," NTSB board member Todd Inman told reporters when asked what could explain the discrepancy.

Inman also said at Saturday's briefing that the helicopter's training flight would typically include the use of night-vision goggles.

"We do not know at this time if the night-vision goggles were actually being worn, nor what the setting may be," he said. "Further investigation should be able to let us know if that occurred and what factor it may play in the overall accident."

Data confirms that the air traffic controller alerted the helicopter to the presence of the CRJ700 about two minutes before the crash.

One second before impact, the crew aboard the American flight had a "verbal reaction," according to the plane's cockpit voice recorder, and

flight data shows the plane's nose began to rise, officials said.

The official said an automated radio transmission alerted "traffic, traffic, traffic," was heard on the voice recorder and then sounds of the collision were heard before the recording ends.

The Army previously identified the other two soldiers killed in Wednesday's crash as Staff Sergeant Ryan Austin O'Hara, 28, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd Eaves, 39. The names of the 60 passengers and four crew members who died on the jet have not been officially released, although many have been identified through family and social media.

Crews are preparing to remove the wreckage of the aircraft from the Potomac River starting on Sunday. Forty-two bodies have been recovered thus far, the Washington, DC, fire department said on Saturday.

Russia outraged at UN chief not mentioning Soviet losses in WWII in his Holocaust speeches

MOSCOW



RUSSIA finds it outrageous that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres did not mention the multi-million casualties of the Soviet people in WWII in his recent remarks, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a comment.

"We view as inadequate the emphasis laid by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in the context of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust," the Russian diplomat said, referring to Guterres' remarks at an event at the UN General Assembly on January 27 and at Park East Synagogue Memorial Service in Honor of the Victims of the Holocaust on January 25.

"We also consider it outrageous that Antonio Guterres did not say a word about the multi-million casualties sustained in WWII by the Soviet Union whose peoples made a decisive contribution to the Victory over Nazi Germany and whose feat put an end to the Holocaust," she added.

Zakharova noted that Russia views such historical and political exercises, bordering on outright falsification and revision of the results of World War II, as unacceptable. "For our part, we continue to make every effort toward preserving historical truth," she emphasized.

The diplomat recalled that Russia commemorates two significant dates on January 27: the anniversary of the Lifting of the Siege of Leningrad and the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, established by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/7. "The latter date was chosen by the international community in recognition of the feat of the Red Army troops who liberated the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau on this day in 1945," she stressed.

Spring Festival holiday sees cultural delights for everyone

BEIJING

BEYOND festive foods and goods, during the ongoing Spring Festival holiday, people in China can also immerse themselves in delightful experiences featuring more cultural elements.

The holiday film lineup may leave Chinese moviegoers spoiled for choice. Six domestic movies debuted during the period, covering a diverse range of genres, such as Chinese mythology, comedy, fantasy, animation and drama.

Statistics showed that China's daily box office hit an impressive record of over 1.8 billion yuan (about 249 million U.S. dollars) in earnings on Wednesday. The total holiday box office so far has topped 5 billion yuan.

"Ne Zha 2," a sequel to the 2019 animated blockbuster "Ne Zha," led the charts with total box office revenue of over 1.9 billion yuan as of Saturday morning.

The second and third highest-grossing films on the leaderboard are "Detective Chinatown 1900," the newest installment of the "Detective Chinatown" franchise that debuted in 2015, and "Creation of the Gods II: Demon Force," the second episode of the Chinese myth trilogy.

"We brought our kid to watch 'Ne Zha 2' and were informed that all tickets for afternoon screenings were sold out, and there were only seats available for the shows after 7 p.m.," said Xu Yiwei, a resident in the city of Hohhot, north China's Inner Mongolia, noting that the box office during this year's Spring Festival looks more prosperous than in previous years.

For those who prefer to sit comfortably on their sofas and feast on entertainment programs on TV, the annual Spring Festival gala on Chinese New Year's Eve is undoubtedly something not to be missed. The gala, featuring significant intangible cultural heritage content, garnered 16.8 billion views across all media platforms.

More people could enjoy the festive atmosphere of the gala this year. The 2025 gala featured its first-ever accessible broadcast for visually and hearing-impaired audiences. Sign language performers attended the broadcast, and audio programs provided narratives and background interpretations of the gala for relevant groups.

Chinese museums and cultural facilities also offer options for those wishing to spend an entertaining and educational festival.

The Natural History Museum of China has launched a special exhibition featuring snake-themed cultural relics to celebrate the Year of the Snake. In addition to natural science knowledge about snakes, the exhibition also explores the development and evolution of zodiac culture, offering a comprehensive display of the rich and diverse symbolism of snakes in traditional Chinese culture.

The 3,300-year-old Yin Ruins, confirmed as the capital site of the late Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BC), is also the historical era depicted in the "Creation of the Gods" series. Anyang City in central China's Henan Province has seized the opportunity of the latest movie's release to launch a series of activities promoting the culture of the ancient period.

"Watching the Chinese mythology and experiencing the rejuvenated appeal of traditional classics, this Spring Festival is truly extraordinary," said Anyang resident Lyu Tianyu after watching the film.

Xinhua

China firmly opposes US tariff move, vows countermeasures

BEIJING/WASHINGTON

CHINA is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes the US decision to impose an additional 10 percent tariff on goods imported from China, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said yesterday.

In response to the erroneous action by the United States, China will file a complaint at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and take corresponding countermeasures to firmly safeguard its rights and interests, an MOC spokesperson said in a statement.

The US unilateral imposition of extra tariff seriously violates WTO rules, the spokesperson said, noting that this move would not only fail to resolve its own problems but also disrupt normal economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

China urges the US side to view and address its fentanyl and related issues objectively and rationally, rather than frequently using tariffs to threaten other countries, according to the statement.

The US side should correct its mistakes and work with China to meet each other halfway, the spokesperson noted, calling on the United States to face problems directly, engage in candid dialogues, strengthen cooperation, and manage differences on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and



A container ship leaves Qingdao Port, Shandong province.

mutual respect.

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Saturday to impose a 10 percent tariff on goods imported from China, the latest US trade protectionist measure which has drawn widespread opposition both domestically and internationally.

The White House said the 10 percent tariff is on all imports from China on top of existing tariffs. Trump says the tariffs dovetail with his embrace of protectionist measures.

According to the executive order, the United States also imposed a 25 percent tariff on goods from Mexico and Canada. For energy products from

Canada, the administration imposed a 10 percent tariff.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Sunday said China firmly deplores and opposes the US decision and will take necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests.

"China's position is firm and consistent. There is no winner in trade and tariff wars," the spokesperson stressed, adding that the US unilateral tariff hikes severely violate WTO rules. This move cannot solve the US problems at home and more importantly, does not benefit either side, still less the world.

According to the spokesperson, China is one of the world's toughest countries on counternarcotics both in terms of policy and its implementation. Fentanyl is an issue for the United States. In the spirit of humanity and goodwill, China has given support to the United States in its response to this issue.

At the request of the US side, China announced back in 2019 the decision to officially schedule fentanyl-related substances as a class. China is the first country in the world to do so, the spokesperson said, adding that China has engaged in extensive counternarcotics cooperation with the US side. "The achievements we have made are there for all to see."

The United States needs to view and solve its own fentanyl issue in an objective and rational way instead of threatening other countries with arbitrary tariff hikes. Additional tariffs are not constructive and are bound to affect and harm the counternarcotics cooperation between the two sides in the future, the spokesperson said.

"China calls on the United States to correct its wrongdoings, maintain the hard-won positive dynamics in the counternarcotics cooperation, and promote a steady, sound and sustainable development of China-US relationship," the spokesperson said.

Xinhua

Morocco reaffirms commitment to the sovereignty, unity, and good neighbourliness

ADDIS ABABA

MOROCCO has reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to respecting the sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of all African states, with particular focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), according to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.

Speaking through Morocco's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the AU and UNECA, Mohamed Ar-

rouchi, Bourita reiterated Morocco's consistent opposition to separatism and condemned the destabilizing actions of armed groups that threaten national unity. "The Kingdom emphasizes its unwavering commitment to the principles of good neighborliness, mutual respect, non-interference, and constructive dialogue," he said. "Beyond immediate interests, the future of the region is at stake, and history will remember those who chose the path of wisdom."

Bourita emphasized Morocco's ongo-

ing support for UN and continental efforts to restore peace, stability, and promote development in the region. He also called for unified support for the mediation process led by Angolan President João Lourenço under the Luanda Agreement, which remains the key framework for resolving the crisis.

The minister praised regional organizations, including the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the East African Community, SADC, and ECCAS, for their contributions to resolv-

ing the crisis. Bourita underscored the importance of supporting these political efforts, alongside continued AU and UN support, including peacekeeping missions, where Moroccan troops are sacrificing to maintain peace and stability in the DRC.

The situation in eastern DRC remains dire, with rising numbers of internally displaced persons. Morocco condemned the human rights violations and urged all parties to cease hostilities and de-escalate tensions.

Agencies

Hamas releases 3 Israeli hostages; Egypt receives 50 patients from Gaza

GAZA

HAMAS on Saturday released three Israeli hostages in the fourth batch of the first phase of the prisoner exchange and ceasefire deal. In return, Israel freed 183 Palestinian detainees and allowed 50 wounded and sick Palestinians to leave Gaza for medical treatment abroad.

The handover of hostages took place at two locations:

Khan Younis in southern Gaza and the Gaza City in the north.

Hamas' armed wing, Al-Qassam Brigades, transferred 65-year-old Keith Shmonsel Segal, an Israeli-American citizen, to the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Gaza.

Segal, dressed in dark clothing and carrying two envelopes containing gifts for him and his wife, waved to onlookers before being escorted to

Israel.

Earlier in the day, al-Qassam fighters led Ofer Calderon, an Israeli-French citizen, and Yarden Bibas to a platform built on the ruins of a destroyed house, where images of Hamas leaders were displayed.

They were then handed over individually to the ICRC representatives.

The process unfolded under strict organizational con-

trol, accompanied by a military parade of armed Hamas militants.

Unlike the chaotic scenes of previous releases, the exchange was tightly managed, with heavy gunmen securing the area to prevent a repeat of the large crowds that had gathered in the previous transfer, raising concerns from the Israeli side.

The release is part of a broader ceasefire and prison-

er exchange agreement brokered by Egypt, Qatar, and the United States on Jan 15.

Under the deal, the first phase -- lasting 42 days -- will see 33 Israeli hostages freed in exchange for 1,890 Palestinian prisoners.

In a press statement, Hamas claimed it had provided medical care to the hostages despite "harsh conditions," contrasting its treatment of prisoners with what it de-

scribed as Israel's "violations against Palestinian detainees."

It also cast the large turnout of Palestinians during the handover as a "referendum on resistance."

In return, Israel released 183 Palestinian prisoners.

According to Palestinian sources, 150 prisoners were transferred to Gaza, including those serving life and long-term sentences, while 32 others were sent to the West

Bank.

An additional Egyptian detainee was also freed, according to Palestinian sources.

West Bank prisoners were freed from Ofer Prison near Ramallah, while those from Gaza were transferred from Ketziot Prison in the Negev to the Kerem Shalom crossing.

Seven of the released detainees are set to be deported abroad.

Agencies

Arab nations reject plan to displace Palestinians from Gaza, West Bank

CAIRO / RAMALLAH

EGYPT, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Palestinian Authority (PA), and the Arab League (AL) stressed in a joint statement on Saturday the rejection of any attempt to displace Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank.

The statement was issued after a meeting in Egypt's capital Cairo attended by top diplomats from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, as well as high-ranking officials from the PA and AL.

Participants of the meeting expressed their commitment to working with US President Donald Trump's administration "to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the two-state solution," according to the statement.

They also voiced full support for the Palestinians and their legitimate rights, rejecting any attempt to displace the Palestinian people, whether by eviction or efforts to transfer or remove them from their land under any circumstances.

The statement also urged the international community to coordinate efforts for planning and implementing a comprehensive process for the

reconstruction of Gaza to improve the Palestinians' daily lives and address the problem of internal displacement.

On Jan 25, Trump proposed a controversial plan to displace Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt and Jordan, which was strongly rejected by both countries.

Dozens of Palestinians took to the streets in Gaza on Saturday, protesting against Trump's proposal to relocate the Strip's population to Egypt and Jordan and praising Egypt for rejecting the plan.

Protesters gathered at Al-Saraya Square in central Gaza City and Deir al-Balah in the middle of the Strip, waving Palestinian and Egyptian flags.

Large banners with images of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi displayed slogans that read, "Egypt will always stand as a true supporter and defender of the Palestinian cause and will never accept the displacement of its people."

In a statement on behalf of families and clan leaders, protesters strongly rejected any plan or measures aimed at displacing Palestinians from their land. "Palestine is our rightful homeland, and we will not allow anyone to undermine that," the statement read.

Also on Saturday, Sisi received a phone call from Trump, having "a



Displaced Palestinian children sit in the back of a truck as people make their way from the south to the northern parts of the Gaza Strip, on Salah al-Din road in Nuseirat in central Gaza, on Jan 29, 2025. AFP

positive discussion" on the ongoing Israel-Hamas ceasefire in the Gaza Strip brokered by the two countries and Qatar, said the Egyptian presidency.

"The call fostered a positive discussion between the two presidents, underscoring the critical importance of advancing the implementation of the first and second phases of the ceasefire agreement, and ensuring the stabilization of the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip," said the Egyptian presidency in a statement.

The two leaders also addressed "the urgent need to increase the delivery of humanitarian aid and relief to the residents of Gaza." The talks came after Sisi expressed on Wednesday that the displacement of Palestinians is an act of "injustice," in which Egypt will not participate.

West Bank

Meanwhile, four Palestinians were

killed on Saturday in two separate Israeli airstrikes on Jenin city in the northern West Bank, according to Palestinian sources.

Local sources and witnesses reported that an Israeli drone targeted a vehicle in the center of Qabatiya town south of Jenin.

Two Palestinian youths were killed in the strike on the vehicle, the Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed.

In response, the Israeli military said one of its air force drones, directed by the Shin Bet security service, targeted a vehicle carrying "terrorists" in Qabatiya as part of an operation in the northern West Bank.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said its teams transported the bodies of two victims and one injury from the eastern neighborhood of Jenin to the hospital following a bombardment in the area.

Palestinian security sources reported that the simultaneous Israeli airstrikes also targeted a motorcycle, leading to the deaths of another two young men.

The Israeli military did not issue an immediate comment on the bombing, which was the third strike on the city within a few hours.

These developments come as the Israeli military continues its operation in Jenin and its refugee camp for the 12th consecutive day, with explosions and destruction of residents' homes in the camp.

Agencies

With calm being restored in DRC's Goma, risk of disease outbreaks increases: UN

UNITED NATIONS

WHILE calm is being restored in Goma, the key eastern city in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the risk of disease outbreaks, including cholera and Mpox, increases on the outskirts, according to the United Nations officials.

"In Goma, currently, the situation remains tense and volatile, with occasional shooting continuing within the city, but I would say that overall, calm has been gradually restored," said Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix at a press briefing on Friday.

"Water and electricity have been restored in much of the city, but we continue to grapple with the challenge of unexploded ordnance ... a very serious obstacle to freedom of movement," he said. Runways

at the city's airport sustained significant damage in the recent fighting and are unusable.

Aid cannot be flown in as only roads into neighboring Rwanda are open, and the domestic arteries are closed. Lacroix said the M23 rebels and the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) continued their march on Bukavu City, the capital of South Kivu province. "That is, of course, a matter of concern," he said.

Reminded of threats the DRC's enemies made to march on the capital of Kinshasa, in the country's west, Lacroix said, "The loss of life and devastation would be very concerning."

He also expressed fear the current conflict could expand. "We are concerned, not only as far as the eastern DRC is concerned, but this has, if you look at the past, this has the potential of triggering a wider

regional conflict," he said.

"And therefore, it is of the utmost importance that all diplomatic efforts should be geared toward avoiding this and bringing about the cessation of hostilities."

As for diplomatic efforts, the UN peacekeeping chief mentioned regional and African Union engagement, leadership of the UN mission, known as MONUSCO, and UN Security Council meetings but no cessation of hostilities.

However, he said a joint government-MONUSCO working group was established to coordinate on various issues such as security, human rights, humanitarian communication and the legal status of the territories that are under the control of the M23 rebels and the RDF.

Lacroix said the priority of UN peacekeepers is the protection of its personnel and assets,

as well as the civilians sheltering within its premises, including civilian and disarmed combatants, by international humanitarian law.

MONUSCO infrastructure is stretched, if not overwhelmed, with all those in the bases and under significant pressure to sustain people with water, rations and sanitation. He also emphasized that UN premises must be respected.

"They are inviolable," Lacroix said. "We cannot stress this enough in the current circumstances where MONUSCO bases are under threat, but also in some cases, they have been under threat in terms of the presence of disarmed FARDC (Federal Armed DRC) soldiers." Despite the challenge, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said relief workers are surveying the damage.

The World Health Organiza-

tion (WHO) reported the government, local and international Red Cross organizations removed 700 dead bodies from Goma's streets between Sunday and Thursday, and that 2,800 people were treated for injuries.

Humanitarian partners report visiting sites for internally displaced people in the areas of Bulengo, Lushagala, on the outskirts of Goma.

They found that water and healthcare services are still operational, but conditions remain dire. Cholera cases have been reported, and there are risks of a Mpox outbreak among displaced people. OCHA said where access to safe drinking water in Goma remains cut off, forcing people to rely on untreated water from Lake Kivu, the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks will continue to increase.

Xinhua

Canada, Mexico hit back at Trump tariffs

OTTAWA / MEXICO CITY

THE leaders of Canada and Mexico ordered retaliatory tariffs in response to US President Donald Trump's decision to slap 25 percent levies on Canadian and Mexican imports.

Canada will retaliate with 25 percent tariffs on a raft of US imports, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Saturday, warning Americans that Trump's actions would have real consequences for them.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Saturday her government sought dialogue rather than confrontation with its northern neighbor, but that Mexico had been forced to respond in kind.

Trudeau told a news conference he was slapping tariffs on C\$155 billion (\$107 billion) of US goods. Those on C\$30 billion will take effect on Tuesday, the same day as Trump's tariffs, and duties on the re-

maining C\$125 billion in 21 days, he said.

Trump had said that he would also impose 10 percent tariff on all energy imports from Canada.

The Canadian leader said tariffs would include American beer, wine and bourbon, as well as fruits and fruit juices, including orange juice from Trump's home state of Florida. Canada would also target goods including clothing, sports equipment and household appliances.

Trudeau said the coming weeks would be difficult for Canadians but that Americans would also suffer from Trump's actions.

"Tariffs against Canada will put your jobs at risk, potentially shutting down American auto assembly plants and other manufacturing facilities," Trudeau said, addressing US citizens during a press conference in Ottawa.



President Donald Trump departs the White House on Friday, in Washington, en route to Florida. AP

"They will raise costs for you, including food at the grocery store and gas at the pump."

Canada is considering non-tariff measures, potentially relating to critical minerals, energy procurement and other

partnerships, Trudeau said. The 9,000-km (5,600-mile) US-Canada border handles over \$2.5 billion in trade a day,

especially in energy and manufacturing, according to Canadian government data from 2023.

In 2023, Canada exported close to C\$550 billion worth of goods and services to the US, or more than three-fourths of its total exports. Energy accounted for 30 percent and manufacturing contributed around 15 percent to exports south of the border.

Exports to the US accounts for roughly 178 percent of Canadian gross domestic product and more than 2.4 million jobs in Canada.

Mexico

Sheinbaum also rejected as "slander" the allegation by the White House that drug cartels have an alliance with the Mexican government, a point used by the Trump administration to explain why it had imposed the tariffs.

"I've instructed my economy minister to implement the plan B we've been working

on, which includes tariff and non-tariff measures in defense of Mexico's interests," Sheinbaum posted on social media platform X, without going into detail on what US goods her government will target.

US exports to Mexico accounted for more than \$322 billion in 2023, Census Bureau data showed, while the US imported more than \$475 billion worth of Mexican products.

Trump said the tariffs against Mexico were due to the country's failure to stop fentanyl getting into the United States as well as what he describes as uncontrolled migration.

Sheinbaum also touted her government's record since she took office in October - seizing 20 million doses of deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl, in addition to detaining over 10,000 individuals tied to drug trafficking.

Agencies

Russian gas exports to Europe via TurkStream hit record high in January

MOSCOW

RUSSIA increased gas exports to Europe via the TurkStream pipeline in January to a record high since its launch in 2020 - 1.56 bln cubic meters, according to TASS calculations based on data from the European Network of Gas Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-G).

Supplies via the TurkStream gas pipeline to European countries in January increased by 2% compared to December 2024 and jumped by 27% compared to January 2024 to 1.56 bln cubic meters.

This is an absolute record for deliveries in one month since the launch of the gas pipeline in January 2020. The previous record was reported for August 2023 at 1.53 bln cubic meters.

The TurkStream gas pipeline, with a capacity of 31.5 bln cubic meters of gas, runs from Russia through the Black Sea to Turkey and is designed to supply gas to Turkey and the countries of southern and southeastern Europe.

Today, it remains the last active route for Russian gas supplies to Europe after the transit through Ukraine was shut down. The starting point of TurkStream is the Russkaya compressor station built near Anapa.

Russia also increased pipeline gas supplies to Turkey by 2.6% to just over 21 bcm at the end of 2024. Russia supplies gas to Turkey through two pipelines across the Black Sea - Blue Stream and TurkStream.

Yemen reaffirms support for Morocco's territorial integrity, development efforts

RABAT

YEMEN has reaffirmed its longstanding support for Morocco's territorial integrity and its stance on the issue of the Western Sahara. The country reiterated its position today during the sixth session of the Moroccan-Yemeni Joint Committee held in Rabat.

Yemen's Minister of Foreign Affairs Shai'a Mohsen Al-Zindani commended Morocco's efforts to achieve a realistic political solution for the regional dispute, based on consensus and in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He also welcomed the growing international support for Morocco's autonomy plan as a reliable and serious solution to the long-standing regional dispute.

Morocco's position has enjoyed international momentum in recent years, with several countries expressing support for the country's territorial integrity. This includes several African countries, many of which opened consulates in the southern cities of Laayoune and Dakhla.

In addition, a growing number of countries, including Panama, have distanced themselves from Polisario and cut ties with the self-styled Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

The Yemeni minister also commended Morocco's ongoing development initiatives in the Southern Provinces, particularly the economic and social advancements in the region, in light of the new development model King Mohammed VI launched.

In addition, Al-Zindani praised the leadership role King Mohammed VI plays in promoting sustainable development across Africa.

He noted the King's commitment to peace, security, and stability on the continent, in line with the aspirations of African nations for progress and growth.

The Yemeni Foreign Minister also commended the country's dedication to strengthening African partnerships.

He specifically praised three major initiatives launched by King Mohammed VI to support the continent and its people, including the initiative to help Sahel countries access the Atlantic Ocean, the process involving Atlantic-facing African nations, and the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline project.

The meeting concluded with the signing of several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) in various sectors. These include mutual recognition of driving licenses, cooperation in water resources, technical collaboration in road and port infrastructure, and enhanced meteorology and climatology cooperation.

Agencies



Tanzania's cricketers ready for ICC Men's CWC Challenge League B second leg

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA's senior national cricket squad will be zealously battling for a successful campaign when it features in the 2025 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B in Hong Kong this month.

The showpiece, scheduled for February 6-16, will witness Tanzania locking horns with Bahrain, Italy, Singapore, Uganda, and host Hong Kong.

A Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) officer said a special flag-off ceremony was held at the TCA grounds in Dar es Salaam last weekend to send the cricketers off with pride and motivation.

TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar led the ceremony, graced by National Sports Council (NSC) Sports Officer Charles Maguzu as the guest of honour.

In a symbolic gesture, Maguzu handed over the national flag to the team's skipper Kassim Nassoro, marking the cricketers' official send-off.

According to the TCA officer, the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B is more than just a tournament, stressing it is a continuation of Tanzania's mission towards the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup qualification.

He was adamant that with the backing of the entire nation, the men's national team was ready to take on the challenge and make Tanzania proud.

The official appealed to crick-



Tanzania's senior national cricketers pose for a picture with National Sports Council (NSC) Sports Officer Charles Maguzu (in a dark suit) during a ceremony for handing over the national flag to the squad in Dar es Salaam last weekend. The team will feature in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B in Hong Kong from February 6-16. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

et followers and the remaining Tanzanians to unite in support of the men's national team as they represent the country on the global stage.

The farewell ceremony, the officer said, turned out to be a day full of positive energy, excitement, and brotherhood as the association saw the senior national team off.

In the heartwarming send-off at the TCA Office, TCA Chairman Sreekumar surprised the team with a special cake, making the moment even more memorable.

Laughter, good vibes, and strong team spirit filled the room as players, officials, and well-wishers came together to celebrate the moment.

The senior national cricket squad has Ally Mpeka, Akhil Anil, Amal Rajeevan, Arshaan Jassani, Ivan Ismail, Khalid Amiri, and Laksh Snehal.

Mohamed Simba, Mohamed Omary, Mohamed Yunus, Maker Mukesh, Rajendra Asuri, Sivaraj Selvaraj, and skipper Kassim Nassoro complete the travelling senior national cricketers' list.

Pushpa Kumar is the senior national cricket squad's head coach, and Adil Kassam is the team manager.

The 2024-2026 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League is the second edition of the ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League and a cricket tournament which forms part of the 2027 Men's Cricket World Cup qualification process.

The league features 12 teams - those finishing second-fourth in their respective league in the 2019-2022 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League, the top-four finishers from the 2024 ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League Play-off and two

teams from the 2023 Cricket World Cup Qualifier Play-off.

That tournament saw Canada, winner of League A in the previous Challenge League being promoted to League 2 status, while Papua New Guinea was relegated.

The other Challenge League winner, Jersey, was not successful in obtaining promotion.

The top two teams from both groups, A and B, will secure a spot at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier Play-off.

Each group is scheduled to play three times in a single round-robin tournament format, once each year from 2024 to 2026.

This amounts to 15 matches per team and a total of 90 matches.

In the six-team 2024 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Challenge League B in Uganda, Tanzania ended fifth.

Medo blames defensive errors, officiating for Kagera Sugar's 4-0 defeat

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KAGERA Sugar head coach Melis Medo attributed his team's 4-0 defeat to Young Africans in the Premier League to defensive mistakes and controversial refereeing decisions in their match on Saturday.

Medo's side struggled to contain Young Africans' relentless attacking play, conceding three goals in the second half after trailing 1-0 at the break.

Their poor defensive display, coupled with what Medo (pictured) perceived as questionable officiating, left Kagera Sugar without answers against the reigning champions.

Having gone five matches without a win before the game, Kagera Sugar arrived at KMC Mwenge Complex low on confidence.

Medo admitted that his team was already facing an uphill battle, and the early setback made their task even more difficult.

"The first goal - we shouldn't have conceded that. Everything was going

according to plan until that moment. These are the mistakes I was talking about earlier. That goal changed the game," Medo said after the match.

He also raised concerns about two penalties awarded to Young Africans by referee Nassoro Mwinchui, hinting at officiating inconsistencies.

"Two unnecessary penalties. I don't want to talk too much because if I do, I might say the wrong things. But congratulations to Young Africans."

With the loss, Kagera Sugar remain in a precarious position, sitting second from bottom in the league table, six points away from safety.

Their season continues to be a struggle, with just 14 games left to turn things around.

The team now shifts its focus to another crucial fixture, a tough away match against fourth-placed Singida Black Stars on Friday.

Medo and his players will need a strong response if they are to keep their survival hopes alive in the Premier League.

Chaneta launches initiatives to strengthen netball development

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE local netball association (Chaneta) has outlined plans aimed at reviving the sport and restoring its past glory both nationally and internationally.

Chaneta chairperson Devotha Marwa emphasized that one of the association's key objectives is to rebuild the national team, Taifa Queens, to reclaim its position among the continent's and the world's netball powerhouses.

Currently, Taifa Queens are ranked ninth in Africa and 49th

globally after playing 15 matches. The ranking is based on games played up to November 24 of last year.

Marwa highlighted several strategic initiatives that will drive the association toward achieving its goals.

"We have lined up a number of activities set to take place this year, starting in February. We will introduce Division Three tournaments in all regions of the country."

"Teams that perform well in these tournaments will earn promotion to League Two, and the best-performing teams will advance to Di-

vision One, which is the elite netball league," she said.

She further revealed that young talent identification would be a key focus, with selections for Under-17 and Under-20 players taking place during this year's Inter-Secondary and Primary School Games (Umiseta and Umitashumta).

"Our aim is to identify and nurture young players who can become future national team stars," she added.

Chaneta also plans to strengthen the technical capacity of coaches and umpires, recognizing them as vital com-

ponents for the success of teams at all levels, including Under-17, Under-20, Under-21, and the senior national team.

"We will conduct training courses in February, April, June, August, October, and December for beginners and those looking to upgrade their skills. These courses will be facilitated by instructors certified by the International Netball Federation," Marwa stated.

She noted that coaches and umpires attending the February course would be assessed during the East Africa Netball Club Championships, scheduled for

March in Zanzibar, in order to obtain International Netball Federation certification and badges.

With these plans in place, Chaneta is confident that Taifa Queens will field a strong squad for this year's Africa Netball Championships, set to take place in Malawi between November and December.

Taifa Queens missed the previous edition of the Africa Netball Championships, which was held in Botswana, but the association is determined to ensure the team's participation and competitiveness in the upcoming tournament.



Dar es Salaam Secondary School students pictured over the weekend during a hockey training session at the Jakaya M. Kikwete Youth Park grounds in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Hockey association now hosts FIH umpiring course

By Correspondent Japheth Kazenga

TANZANIA Hockey Association (THA) has sought to bolster the game's development domestically through the hosting of the Level 1 umpiring course.

The association's chairman, Kaushik Doshi, confirmed that Dar es Salaam's JMK Youth Park would be the venue for the training scheduled to start today and culminate on Thursday.

Doshi pointed out that the FIH official, Muhammad Faiz from Pakistan, would be the course's instructor.

The THA boss noted the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has footed the costs for the course instructor's

trip and accommodation.

He said the rest of the expenses for hosting the training will be met by THA.

According to the THA leader, the course has attracted 20 participants of both genders.

The THA leader disclosed the participating members would, during the training, feature in morning and afternoon sessions, adding there will moreover be breaks and a bit of practice.

Doshi added that Faiz was expected in Tanzania yesterday ahead of the course, which commences today.

Everything pertaining to the training's arrangements, Doshi revealed, is in place and the would-be partici-

pants are looking forward to it.

Most of the course' attendants are prominent senior hockey players who have had success in various domestic tournaments.

Attendants of the umpiring course are Hussein Mdee, Castor Nkya, Prisca Mwita, Leah Shani, Amos Ngambala, Abdallah Katundu, Zuwena Hassan, Wambema Shadidi, Elieza Mwanemwa, and Ally Nshoro.

Edfonc Msemwa, Alice Onogoro, Mark Fernandes, Onenchan David, Joseph Steven, Alarico Fernandes, Kassim Haji, Ravi Visram, Osman Bairu, and Haji Selemani are the other senior hockey players set to feature in the training.

DR Congo asks clubs to end Visit Rwanda sponsorship

KISHANSA

THE Democratic Republic of Congo's foreign minister Therese Kayikwamba Wagner has urged soccer clubs Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain to end their "blood-stained" sponsorship agreements with "Visit Rwanda" following the worsening humanitarian crisis in the country.

The DR Congo health ministry said on Saturday there were almost 800 bodies in hospital morgues around Goma following the offensive by Rwanda-backed M23 rebels to seize east Congo's largest city, home to lucrative gold, coltan and tin mines.

The latest escalation has worsened a long-standing humanitarian crisis that has driven hundreds of thousands to seek shelter in Goma after fleeing fighting between M23 and Congolese troops.

The fighting has led to human rights violations including summary executions, the bombing of displacement camps, reports of gang rape and other sexual violence, according to the United Nations.

Wagner wrote to the three clubs this week and questioned the morality of their sponsorship deals, citing a U.N. report that suggested there were 4,000 Rwandan troops active in DR Congo.

"Thousands are currently trapped in the city of Goma with restricted access to food, water, and security," Wagner said in her letters to the clubs, according to a media statement from her ministry on Sunday.

"Countless lives have been lost; rape, murder and theft prevail. Your sponsor is directly responsible for this misery. If not for your own consciences, then the clubs should do it (end their sponsorship agreement) for the victims of Rwandan aggression."

Rwanda says it is defending itself, accusing Congo's military of joining forces with ethnic Hutu-led militias bent on slaughtering Tutsis in Congo and threatening Rwanda, where Hutus targeted Tutsis in a 1994 genocide and some later fled to Congo.

Congo denies this and accuses Rwanda of using M23 to pillage valuable minerals from Congolese territory.

"Visit Rwanda" began their sponsorship of Arsenal in 2018, with the latest deal reported to be worth more than 10 million pounds (\$12.39 million) per year.

Bayern Munich signed a five-year football development and tourism promotion partnership with Rwanda in 2023, while "Visit Rwanda" has been a sponsor of PSG since 2019.

Reuters has contacted the three clubs and "Visit Rwanda" for comment.

British foreign minister David Lammy told parliament on Tuesday Rwanda received over \$1 billion in global aid every year, including around 32 million pounds of bilateral UK assistance, but "all of that is under threat when you attack your neighbours."

(\$1 = 0.8071 pounds)

REUTERS

Forest's Espirito Santo delighted with response in 7-0 Brighton rout

NOTTINGHAM, England

NOTTINGHAM Forest manager Nuno Espirito Santo was thrilled with his team's wholehearted response after last weekend's humbling defeat as they ran roughshod over Brighton & Hove Albion in a 7-0 rout on Saturday and hoped they could push on from the win.

A week after a 5-0 loss to Bournemouth, Chris Wood bagged a hat-trick and Morgan Gibbs-White, Neco Williams and Jota Silva also scored to consolidate third spot as they chase what would be their first Champions League qualification in 45 years.

"The response on the pitch from the players was beyond our expectations," a smiling Espirito Santo told the BBC.

"We were concerned, we wanted to put it right because last week wasn't good enough and they were aware of that and the response was great."

The Portuguese manager had high praise for the 33-year-old Wood, who has found the back of the net 17 times in the league this season, including seven in his last six games.

The New Zealander became the first Forest player to score a hat-trick at the City Ground since Nigel Clough in 1987.

"Amazing, amazing," Espirito Santo said. "More than anything, the way he works for the team, the way he helps. Three assists from Anthony (Elanga) also, so a hat-trick of assists. More delight."

Brighton, meanwhile, staggered to their worst loss since a 9-0 defeat at Middlesbrough on the opening day of the 1958-59 season in the second tier. "Bad performance, bad result, very disappointed," said Brighton boss Fabian Hürzeler.

"I want to see a reaction from the team, but we win together and we lose together so that's also a test for the individual characters and for the group, how we deal with it because games like this, they are bad but maybe it is a signal for us to show a reaction."

Hürzeler picked up his fifth yellow card in the league this season.

REUTERS

Real Madrid still up for title fight despite shock loss, says Ancelotti

MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said his side are still in the driving seat in the LaLiga title race despite a shock 1-0 defeat by Espanyol on Saturday.

Real lead the Spanish top flight on 49 points, one ahead of Atletico Madrid, who beat Mallorca 2-0, with the city rivals set to meet next weekend.

"We had chances and could have scored, but despite the defeat we are still in the fight. We have to focus on the next game," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"We could have done better, the result was deserved," he added.

The Italian manager also criticised the decision not to show a red card to eventual goalscorer Carlos Romero for a foul on Kylian Mbappe, who was running up the field on a breakaway attack.

"It was a clear foul, a



Real Madrid's Luka Modric looks dejected as Espanyol's Carlos Romero celebrates scoring their first goal with teammates during their LaLiga match at RCDE Stadium, in Cornellà de Llobregat, Spain on Saturday. REUTERS

very ugly tackle, but fortunately nothing happened," Ancelotti added.

Defender Antonio Rudiger left the pitch with a muscle problem and Ancelotti said it was too early to tell for how long the German may be out.

"He had an injury and we will have to assess it. It's too early to talk about it. I can't tell you anything yet," he said.

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone took time to reflect happily on his time at the club on Saturday after his side's 2-0 home win over Mallorca in LaLiga, the Argentine's

500th league game in charge of the team.

Simeone, who became Atletico coach more than 13 years ago, saw his team put in a solid display as a first-half goal by winger Samuel Lino and a stoppage-time stunner from forward Antoine Griezmann secured the three points.

"I am very happy with this journey, without a doubt," Simeone told a press conference.

"Many people in the coaching staff who are no longer here helped us get to this point, many footballers who shared

an idea and represented it on the pitch, leaders who are no longer here and accompanied us... It makes me very happy.

"I'll make a special section for my family... Without their support and company, this would be impossible. It has been many years giving all the love and responsibility to a club that I love very much, but we take a lot of time away from the family."

Atletico continued their impressive defensive record, having conceded a league-low 14 goals this season and keeping clean sheets in half of their 22 LaLiga games.

"The teams that end up fighting for important things are the ones that concede the fewest goals," Simeone said.

"Our goal is to maintain this solidity and continue to grow in the offensive part. The team competes very well. We needed this victory, we were coming off a defeat (and a draw), a bad moment, and we had to win.

"We could have (wrapped up the points) earlier, both in the first half and in the second. These are games in which, with a 1-0, any situation can lead to a draw. Luckily, it ended with a brilliant move, a delight from Antoine to secure the victory."

The French forward has struggled with form, scoring in the league for the first time in almost two months.

"It is impossible not to continue saying more positive things about Griezmann," Simeone added.

"He continues to age, working in the same way (he did before) and is forceful in the way he plays.

"We have to help him so that he does not stray from this line. People have become accustomed to having him and always want to see his best version. We need the best Antoine to compete for the highest goals."

REUTERS

Super Salah at the double as Liverpool go nine clear

BOURNEMOUTH, England

LIVERPOOL opened up a nine-point lead in the Premier League title race as Mohamed Salah continued his sensational season with both goals in a 2-0 win at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Arne Slot's side rode their luck at times against a side unbeaten in 11 league games but Salah once again proved the difference as he took his league tally to 21 this season.

Salah rifled home a penalty after half an hour and then curled home an exquisite second in the 75th minute and has now topped 20 goals in a Premier League season five times.

"It feels good to be fair, scoring goals, the team winning, it's an incredible feeling," Salah said.

"But I said many times before, the main target is winning the Premier League. We are going in the right direction."

Bournemouth, who remain seventh, hit the woodwork twice -- through Antoine Semenyo when it was 0-0 and then Marcus Tavernier shortly before Salah wrapped up the points.

Liverpool have 56 points from 23 games, with second-placed Arsenal and Nottingham Forest on 47. Arsenal host Manchester City, who are fourth with 41, on Sunday.

Andoni Iraola's Bournemouth had beaten the other three members of the top four at home this season and there was huge expectation that they might slow Liverpool's march.

But Liverpool showed the clinical edge that allows them to keep accumulating points even when not in top gear and with 15 games remaining, they look indestructible.

Salah's second goal, a nonchalant left-footed curler from the right side



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores their second goal against AFC Bournemouth during their Premier League match at Vitality Stadium, in Bournemouth, Britain on Saturday. Reuters

of the penalty area, lifted the Egyptian into sixth place on the all-time Premier League scoring list with 178 goals, ahead of former Chelsea player Frank Lampard.

It was a cruel blow for Bournemouth who moments earlier had seen substitute Tavernier's left-footed thud against the post with Justin Kluivert firing the rebound wide of a gaping goal.

Bournemouth had begun full of energy and visiting keeper Alisson was called into action after 15 seconds to save a shot by the dangerous Semenyo.

Semenyo then thumped an effort from tight-angle against the frame of the goal with Alisson beaten for pace.

But Liverpool, with captain Virgil van Dijk his usual calming influence in defence, gradually began to exert some authority and went ahead when Bournemouth's Lewis Cook inadvertently clipped Cody Gakpo in a sprint inside the area and Salah dispatched his penalty in ruthless fashion.

Bournemouth thought they had levelled in the 37th minute as Semenyo played in the overlapping Milos Kerkez down the left and his cross found David Brooks to fire home.

However, VAR confirmed that Kerkez had been fractionally offside before his assist.

Bournemouth were always a danger while it was 1-0, but Salah condemned them to a first league loss since late November.

"We had to play on top of our abilities and we needed a bit of luck to win this game," said Slot, whose side are unbeaten in 19 league games. "They were constantly trying to do things. I didn't think we controlled the game."

Meanwhile, Mohamed Salah delivered the points for Liverpool but manager Arne Slot was most impressed with his team's grit as they survive one of their toughest tests of the season

in a 2-0 victory at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Egyptian Salah tucked away a first-half penalty to edge his side in front and then gave them some much-needed breathing space with an exquisite second goal to go sixth on the all-time Premier League scoring charts ahead of Frank Lampard with 178.

Before, in between and even after Salah's goals, however, Liverpool had to do the hard yards against a Bournemouth side who had not been beaten for 11 games in the league.

The hosts twice hit the woodwork and had a goal disallowed and Liverpool were forced to dig deep to extend their unbeaten league run to 19 and move nine points

clear at the top.

"It was a battle, but I knew it would be. After our home game when we were 3-0 up, they came at us with a great mentality and quality," Slot told reporters, referring to his side's home win when Bournemouth had 19 goal attempts.

"They have picked up wins against so many good teams and it's not by luck. They are intense, they have quality and it was always going to be very hard.

"Only a few (opponents) have been as tough as this. When it comes to running, they are so high up and if you want to have any chance you have to compete in terms of running, fighting, winning duels and that's what the players did."

Slot picked out Salah and goalkeeper Alisson as players who lead by example.

"If you want to win here against a team that is so competitive then you need a team performance and work-rate. That's what we have and you need some quality individuals that make the difference for you," the Dutchman said.

"That goal of Mo was absolute quality and the saves Alisson made as well. But it was not only them, the way our centre backs were defend-

ing again today was also impressive."

With 15 games left, Liverpool are closing in on the title but Slot refuses to think too far ahead.

"What I want from them and what they want from each other is that they fight in every single game from the first until the last second to get the maximum result and that's what the fans expect from them playing for this club," he said.

The only worry for Slot was an injury to Trent Alexander-Arnold that looks like ruling him out of Thursday's League Cup semi-final second leg at home to Tottenham Hotspur when Liverpool will try to recover from a 1-0 deficit.

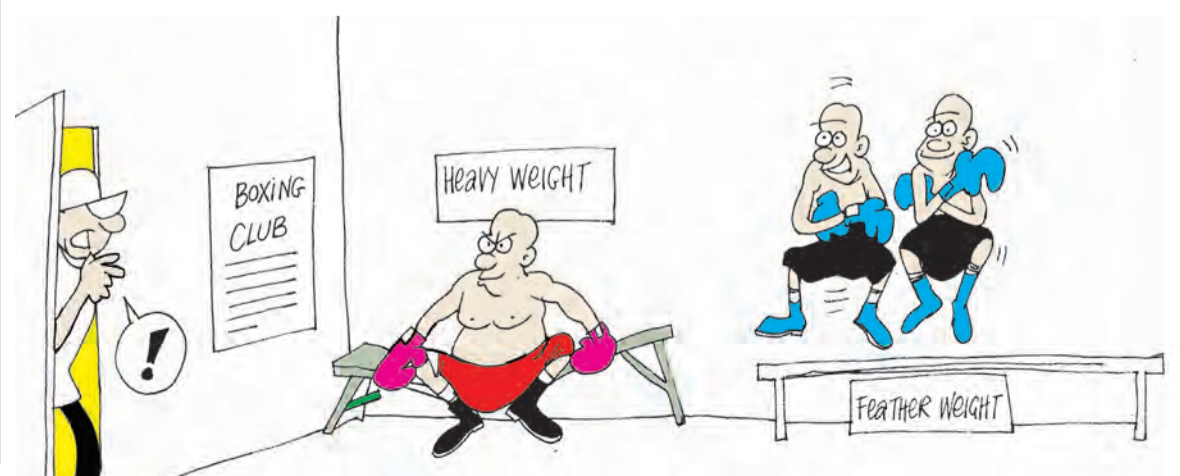
The full-back was replaced after 70 minutes with a knock.

"The situation was that he said to me, 'You have to take me off' and he sat on the floor and we took him off. He felt something, I can't tell you exactly what and how bad it is of course because we are one hour after the game, but it is never a good sign if a player is asking for a substitution.

"I would be surprised if he plays on Thursday, but let's hope he is back with us as soon as possible."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Real Madrid still up for title fight despite shock loss, says Ancelotti

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Kilimanjaro International Marathon extends race number collection hours

By Guardian Correspondent

THE organizers of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager International Marathon 2025 have announced an extension of hours in the race number and running shirt collection exercise which starts in two weeks time in Dar es Salaam.

This comes after closure of the registration as the entries' capacity had already been reached for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42 Km and YAS 21 Km races way before the deadline of February 3, 2025.

"We have extended our hours into the evening to ensure that you can collect your numbers after work and try to ensure less queuing," read the statement in part, adding that it will be much easier for participants to collect numbers at the Dar es Salaam and Arusha venues to avoid last minute rush in Moshi.

According to a statement issued by the organizers, the collection exercise will begin on Friday February 14, 2025 at the Mlimani City Mall (in front of Samaki Samaki) from 4pm - 7pm, on Saturday February 15 from 10am - 6pm, and Sunday February 16 from 10am - 6pm.

After Dar es Salaam, the exercise will move to Arusha on Tuesday February 18 and Wednesday February 19 from 2pm - 7pm at the Kibo Palace Hotel.

The last collection point will be Moshi on Thursday February 20 from 12pm - 5pm, Friday February 21 from 10am - 6pm, and Saturday February 22 from 10am to 5pm at the Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU) Stadium.

According to the organizers, numbers for the CRDB 5Km Run are still open and on sale.

Participants can register through Mixx by YAS (formerly Tigopesa) by dialing *150*01#, then press 5 LKS, then press 6 (Ticket) and follow instructions to complete their registration or online through www.kilimanjaramarathon.com.

According to the organizers, there are limited numbers in this race too and the event is 60% sold out already, and there is first come - first serve on these entries too.

The organizers called on the participants to observe the announced times to avoid inconveniences and also called on those collecting numbers for their friends or relatives to ensure they have copies of their identity cards and consent letters allowing the representatives to collect on their behalf.

The organizers also issued stern warning against those selling numbers online illegally, saying that legal action will be applied against them.

"This is illegal and we will apply legal action against them," said the organizers.

Also targeted are those intending to run with fake numbers as they will be withdrawn from the races, their results nullified and banned from participating in Kilimanjaro International Marathon.

The organisers also stated that the marathon is a zero-tolerance event for any form of ambush marketing, both on route, during the event and via any other marketing, promotions and brand association means.

They added that they will take legal action against any corporates or participants seen to be disrespectful towards their headline sponsors in The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, The Yas Kili Half Marathon and the CRDB Bank Fun Run and well as their official supporting sponsors.

This year's sponsors include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km (main sponsor), YAS - 21km Half Marathon, CRDB Bank - 5Km Fun Run, water table sponsors Simba Cement, Kilimanjaro Water, TotalEnergies and TPC Sugar, as well as official partners - GardaWorld Security, CMC Automobiles, Salinero Hotels -Kilimanjaro and suppliers - Kibo Palace Hotel and Keys Hotel.

Kili Marathon is organised by the Kilimanjaro Marathon Company Limited and nationally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Simba reclaim top spot with commanding 3-0 win over Tabora United FC



Tabora United goalkeeper Jean Amonome fails to stop a long-distance shot from Simba striker Leonel Ateba (not in picture) to register his first goal during their Premier League match at Ali Hussein Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora. Photo: Courtesy of SSC.

By Guardian Correspondent

SIMBA cemented their place at the top of the Premier League standings with a commanding 3-0 victory over Tabora United yesterday.

A first-half brace from Leonel Ateba and a second-half goal from Shomari Kapombe ensured Simba leapfrogged Young Africans to reclaim the top spot in the league.

The Msimbazi Street-based outfit took the lead in the 12th minute when Ateba unleashed a powerful low shot from outside the 18-yard box, leaving Tabora United goalkeeper Jean Amonome Noel with no chance.

Ateba was set up by Jean Charles Ahoua, whose assist created the opening goal.

Simba doubled their lead in the 32nd minute from the penalty spot after Ateba was fouled inside the box. The Cameroonian forward confidently stepped up and converted the

spot-kick to complete his brace.

The visitors sealed the victory in the 65th minute when attacking full-back Kapombe calmly slotted home a pass from Ateba inside the six-yard box, capping off a dominant performance.

The win propelled Simba to the top of the league standings with 43 points, having scored 34 goals and conceded only five in 16 matches.

Simba were determined to maintain their top spot

after their arch-rivals Young Africans temporarily moved ahead with a win on Saturday, taking them to 42 points.

Simba remain unbeaten in away league matches this season, a record they were keen to extend against Tabora United.

They have conceded only two goals in away matches this season, both coming in a 5-2 victory against Kagera Sugar on December 21.

The match against Tabora United marked the beginning of the sec-

ond round of the Premier League for Simba and was a rescheduled fixture from matchday 16, postponed last month due to their CAF Confederation Cup commitments.

Simba now face a demanding February schedule, with five crucial league matches that could define their title ambitions.

Next, Simba will travel to Manyara to face Fountain Gate FC on February 6 at Kwaraa Stadium.

They will then return to Dar es Salaam for two back-

to-back home matches against Tanzania Prisons on February 11 and Dodoma Jiji on February 15, both at the KMC Complex.

On February 19, Simba will travel to Ruangwa for a clash against Namungo FC before wrapping up the month with a high-profile fixture against Azam FC at home on February 24.

Of these five matches, two will be played away, while the other three will take place at the KMC Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Ramovic praises Yanga after dominant 4-0 win over Kagera Sugar

By Correspondents Michael Mwebe &

Seth Mapoli

YOUNG Africans SC head coach Sead Ramovic praised his team's discipline and tactical execution following their dominant 4-0 victory over Kagera Sugar in the Premier League at KMC Mwenge Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Goals from Clement Francis Mzize (32'), Mudathir Yahya Abbas (60'), Pacome Zouzoua Peodoh (78' penalty), and Kennedy Musonda (86') sealed a convincing win.

The scoreline could have been even greater, but Burkina Faso midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki missed a first-half penalty, saved by goalkeeper Ramadhan Chalamanda.

"First of all, I would like to congratulate our opponents for a fair game," Ramovic (pictured) said post-match. "We dominated from the first half and could have scored more before the break. I also congratulate my players for their disciplined performance; they didn't allow Kagera Sugar to control the game. We pressed well and attacked spaces effectively."



Ramovic revealed that Young Africans had anticipated Kagera Sugar's defensive approach and had prepared accordingly.

"We expected them to play a low block, so we worked on breaking it down the entire week. Fortunately, we have quality players who can make a difference and decide matches."

Before kickoff, Ramovic

received his NBC Premier League Coach of the Month award for November, having guided Young Africans to four consecutive victories, scoring 16 goals and conceding just twice.

"I dedicate this award to our fans. The prize money will go to charity for those in need," he said.

Young Africans started the match with attacking intent,

controlling possession and looking for an early lead. Kagera Sugar defended resolutely, relying on counter-attacks.

Their midfield, led by Nasoro Kapama, played a key role in intercepting passes and frustrating Young Africans' forward play.

Despite Kagera's resistance, Young Africans broke the deadlock in the 32nd minute when Mzize capitalized on a rebound inside the box, smashing the ball into the net.

Three minutes later, Young Africans earned a penalty when Mudathir Yahya was fouled, but Chalamanda denied Aziz Ki from the spot.

At the start of the second half, Ramovic introduced Ivorian winger Pacome Zouzoua for Israel Mwenda to add more attacking impetus. The substitution paid off, with Young Africans intensifying their offensive efforts.

Ramovic explained: "Pacome is a different player from Israel, and we wanted more fluidity in our rotations. The players adapted well, and it worked perfectly."

The second goal arrived in the 60th minute when Yahya finished off a well-executed

play inside the box, assisted by Prince Dube. Zouzoua extended the lead in the 78th minute, converting a penalty after Maxi Nzengeli was fouled.

Nzengeli, lively throughout the match, then set up the final goal in the 87th minute, delivering a pinpoint cross from a short corner routine for Musonda to powerfully head home.

Kagera Sugar failed to create meaningful chances, ending the match without a single shot on target in the second half.

The defeat leaves Kagera Sugar in 15th place in the Premier League table with just 11 points from 16 matches (2 wins, 5 draws, 9 losses).

Meanwhile, Young Africans extended their lead at the top, reaching 42 points after 16 matches (14 wins, two losses). They have now scored 36 goals while conceding only six.

Looking ahead, Young Africans will host KenGold on February 5, while Kagera Sugar faces Singida Black Stars on February 6 as the league action continues.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

