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**Guardian BUSINESS**

**World Bank boosts Tanzania with \$50m for public finance, procurement revamp**

**IFAD launches multi-donor fund to tackle triple crisis**

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Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Doto Biteko (3rd-L, background), Water minister Jumaa Aweso (2nd-L, background) and Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), Dr Selemani Jafo (4th-L, background) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday witnessing the signing of a groundwater research agreement by Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority executive director Aron Joseph (R) and China Railway Seventh Group director Xu Xuanyan. This was at the climax of Water Week and World Water Day celebrations. World Water Day is an annual United Nations observance day held each March 22 to highlight the importance of fresh water and root for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

## DPM raises stakes on water projects, funds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko has directed the Ministry of Water to ensure that all the funds issued to implement various projects are properly spent in order to achieve the government's goals of ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all. Officiating at the commemoration of the World Water Day and climax of the Water Week nationally here yesterday, he asked the ministry and its countrywide agencies to work on innovative strategies involving the private sector in implementing water projects. He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan works tirelessly to bring development in the sector, so executives have to ensure that they back up the efforts with proper supervision of the various projects.

Welcoming stakeholder and citizen views on water sector in drafting the Development Vision 2050, he said the water basin boards need to work closely with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to fight pollution in the environment and on water sources. The ministry needs to put in place robust strategies to control water losses, he said, while the Water minister, Jumaa Aweso said the various agencies will implement the directives issued by the government to improve the sector. He said the Mwanga-Korogwe water supply project with its main site at Kiria village in Mwanga District, Kilimanjaro Region has reached 86 percent of implementation and once completed it will benefit over 400,000 people. On Thursday, Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango hinted at resigning if the Mwanga-

Korogwe water supply project is not completed on schedule. The project costing \$300m is financed by the government along with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It was launched in 2014 and scheduled to be completed in 2017 but faced a number of challenges, delaying implementation of access to clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. This objective is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6, top officials assert. Currently, nearly 703 million people lack access to water - approximately 1 in 10 people on the planet - and over 2 billion do not have safe drinking water services. The United Nations predicts that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity. With the existing climate change scenario, almost half the world's population will be living in areas of high water stress by 2030.

## World Bank issues \$50m in Treasury operations booster

It is commendable that the government acknowledges the vital role of robust ...

By Guardian Correspondent

THE World Bank soft loans window, the International Development Agency (IDA) has a \$50m (127bn/-) new credit for revenue management strengthening, modernizing the public procurement processes, along with improving resource allocation and audit effectiveness. Nathan Belete, the World Bank country director, said in a statement yesterday that the programme will strengthen the capacity of both governments to mobilize and manage public resources through strengthening institutional capacity, efficiency, transparency and accountability. "It is commendable that the government acknowledges the vital role of robust public financial management and procurement systems in driving Tanzania's development agenda, and that is why they initiated this program," he stated. "While there has been important progress in this area over the past few years, it is important to con-

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## Govt cancels 2,648 mining sector unused, stale licences

Nothing is being developed despite the demand in the country for large mining areas especially for artisanal miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has directed the suspension of 2,648 mining exploration licences as the license holders have failed to develop the areas as required by law. Anthony Mavunde, the Minerals minister, issued this directive here yesterday in the wake of a report by the Mining Commission that potential mineral areas totaling 13.5m hectares are held by six individuals who aren't developing them. He thus directed the commission's executive secretary to work on the relevant procedures to revoke the licences, saying license holders were flouting regulations by failing in their responsibilities in holding the licenses as stipulated in the Mining Act. Holders of online application accounts and license management displaying bad use of the management system in submitting application with intent to hold areas without finalizing application procedures must stop at once, he said. Alternatively those accounts

will be shut down, he said, citing the case of six individuals holding a 13m acre stretch of land, which he qualified as being four times the size of Kili-manjaro Region. "Nothing is being developed despite the demand in the country for large mining areas especially for artisanal miners," he said, commending the latter for making a major contribution to mining sector growth. License holders often fail to commence development of the areas, skip paying the required license fees, submit relevant documents such as the public inclusion plan for mining activities, the corporate social responsibility plan and financial reports showing expenditures and supporting documents, the minister explained. The removal of licenses will be maintained until committed individuals take up relevant potential mining areas, he said, pointing at the large group of artisanal miners struggling to find areas to conduct such work. There is also a group of investors ready to invest but fail to find areas, while a few indi-

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## Activists hail three years of gender policy, empowerment

By Carlos Banda

GENDER activists and other stakeholders have hailed the three years of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, advocating gender equality, advancing the transition to clean cooking energy and creating efforts to realize a generation based on equality.

Bengi Issa, the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) executive secretary, said in an interview in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the three years of the sixth phase presidency have demonstrated commitment to address women's challenges in the political and socio-economic arena.

Efforts have been made to provide the necessary leadership, resources and support needed to ensure there is more visibility on issues pertaining to women, she said, noting that this effort is synonymous with creating the national advisory and coordinating committee for Generation Equality Forum (GEF).

It is tasked with advising the president on gender issues as a champion of generation equality focused on women's economic justice and rights. President Samia also created various forums for women economic empowerment, starting from 2017 when she was vice president, being part of the

women economic empowerment group working with UN Women, she said. There have been over 3500 women economic empowerment forums with upwards of 600,000 members formed since 2017, she

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## Activists hail three years of gender policy, empowerment and equality

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said, noting that these forums serve as important infrastructure to deliberate on economic issues involving women.

The platforms have capable leaders tasked to ensure women are helped, supported and helping to improve skills, she said, elaborating that it is through these forums that women have a chance to meet with various government agencies and development stakeholders.

Dr Mzuri Issa, the Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA Zanzibar) director, said that President Samia is devoted to addressing challenges to good governance by advancing gender equality.

As shortcomings exist in many areas, especially in the economy, to take on politics you need financial power, seeking quality life or access to social services, running a family, and demanding financial capability, she stated.

This is why the president has pushed to create many women economic empowerment forums and enact policies focused to help women grow economically, she stated.

Mwajuma Magwiza, a member of the GEF coordinating committee, lauded the clean cooking energy initiative, noting that it will not only decrease women's time to engage with home chores but widen women's exposure to income generation activities.

The initiative will shed the search for firewood, freeing women to engage in economic activities, she said, noting that women will also be less vulnerable to gender-based violence in frequenting the bush.

Domestic violence also comes up due to delayed completion of tasks such as cooking for the family which is tied to seeking firewood, she emphasised.

Launching a clear gender policy is another step towards promoting gender equality as the new policy has updated issues pertaining to gender equality and women empowerment via women's economic justice and rights, she added.



Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana opens a meeting of the ministry's workers' council in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

## World Bank issues \$50m in Treasury operations booster

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to assess and address persisting weaknesses in order to enhance the timely delivery of public services and development operations for the benefit of citizens," the director affirmed.

Ultimately this will result in an improvement in public service delivery, he said, noting that the new project is designed as a programme for results (PforR), linking disbursements with specific program results or outcomes.

The program is structured

around four key results areas topped by a revenue mobilisation agenda, chiefly by boosting e-filing and launching taxpayer awareness campaigns.

The second result area is efficiency and transparency of public procurement management especially by capacity development in the electronic government procurement system, he said.

This will be beefed up by adopting sustainable procurement practices, thus enabling the third result area, improving financial management through better budgeting processes, he

said.

The director even refers to the need for a citizens' budget and financial reporting at lower levels, whereas the fourth result area is intended to enhance accountability via external audits and parliamentary oversight.

Paul Welton, World Bank senior financial management specialist and co-task team leader said that delays in procurement create significant hindrances in the timely delivery of public services and the implementation of development operations.

"Considering that 70 percent of the country's annual budget,

or \$13bn is spent through public procurement, any improvement in the public procurement system will result in great economic benefits to the country," he stated.

Recent reforms have led to significant achievements in the sector, he said, pointing at the rollout of electronic revenue collection systems, leading to a 350 percent rise in non-tax revenues over the past five years.

Other important reforms include the adoption of a Treasury single account, the rollout of expenditure management systems, the introduction of elec-

tronic procurement systems, the development and rollout of the central budget management information system and the strengthening of parliamentary oversight functions.

Despite these gains, there are continuing weaknesses in core aspects of public finance management such as the lack of a reliable, credible annual budget, a weak control framework, inefficiencies in revenue collection and taxpayer compliance, and shortcomings in the financial reporting of public institutions, the specialist added.



Motorbike taxi rider and his passenger come together in ensuring their trip resumes shortly after the bike "protested" and they found themselves stuck. It was along the Buguruni Malapa stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt cancels 2,648 mining sector unused, stale licences

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viduals hold the lands while the government loses revenue, he elaborated, objecting to providing use of that land to artisanal miners temporarily, to find out the proper potential of an area.

He said the ministry wants real investors as that way the country will not lose revenues, but when they invest artisanal miners also enable the government to obtain revenues.

The ministry has started to clean up the licenses issuance system to focus on committed investors, he said, pointing at a number of regions with applications for mineral exploration that have not yet been considered.

In revoking licenses, one person was found to have accumulated 973 mining license applications for a 23,118 square kilometres area still undeveloped, he said.

The ministry has reached saturation point and proceeded with the measures, with intent to conduct the cleaning up until all the area is allocated to individuals clearly wishing to invest in mining activities, he declared.

The licenses were supposed to be revoked by last November, while those due for withdrawal by December and January this year are in line to be deleted, he added.

## Overcrowded refugee camps in Chad out of aid

N'DJAMENA

OVERCROWDED refugee camps in eastern Chad are set to run out of money soon, exacerbating a dire humanitarian crisis caused by the spill over from a deadly conflict in Sudan, the United Nations said.

More than a million people in Chad, including refugees, face losing access to life-saving aid unless more funding is raised to help, the U.N. World Food Programme said yesterday.

The devastating conflict between feuding generals in Sudan has killed more than 5,000 people there and displaced over 5 million, the United Nations said. In Chad,

refugee numbers are at a 20-year high. The U.N. has warned that the conflict is on course to become the world's worst hunger crisis, with a third of Sudan's 18 million people facing acute food insecurity already.

At refugee camps in eastern Chad, lack of clean drinking water and sanitation cause dangerous diseases to spread. Doctors Without Borders said it had recorded almost 1,000 cases of hepatitis E in the camps and several pregnant women had died.

"The situation is dire in all camps," said Erneau Mondesir, the group's medical coordinator in the region. "Without swift action to improve sanitation infrastructure and enhance people's access to clean water, we

risk witnessing a surge in preventable illnesses and unnecessary loss of life."

At the Metche Camp, which is sheltering some 40,000 refugees, people are in dire need of water, food, shelter and basic sanitation. Earlier this month an Associated Press reporter saw aid workers unload sacks of grain from trucks for distribution as fierce winds blew across the rocky, sandy terrain.

Aid workers used loudspeakers to explain the work and distribute tokens among refugees. "Here we do distribution in a targeted manner," Ahmat Absakine, an aid worker with Caritas, another aid group in the region.

Water shortages are causing diseases to

spread, and aid workers fear a catastrophe if supplies run out.

"The spillover from the crisis in Sudan is overwhelming an underfunded and overstretched humanitarian response in Chad. We need donors to prevent the situation from becoming an all-out catastrophe," said Pierre Honnorat, the World Food Programme's top representative in Chad.

Analysts also fear the humanitarian situation could cause Chad's own political tensions to erupt. In February, opposition leader Yaya Dillo was killed in the capital. He was the president's cousin and a strong contender in the presidential election scheduled for May.

Finances and aid supplies at humanitarian operations are critically low. This will increase competition over resources between refugees and host communities in eastern Chad, further fuelling local tensions and regional instability," said Andrew Smith, senior Africa analyst at Verisk Maplecroft.

Chad's interim President, Mahamat Deby Itno, seized power after his father who ran the country for more than three decades was killed fighting rebels in 2021.

Last year, the government announced it was extending the 18-month transition for two more years, which led to protests across the country.



# New PSSSF boss promises timely payment of pensions

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE new Director General of Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) Abdul-Razaq Badru on Wednesday pledged to perform his duties diligently and pay pensions on time.

Speaking at a special meeting to welcome and introduce him here, Badru said he is a believer in teamwork and promised not to let down pensioners through payment delays.

"We will continue to provide specific education to members for them to understand more about PSSSF. We will ensure that every stakeholder is reached and we promise to pay pensions on time," he said.

Badru said PSSSF plans to carry out its duties well and continue to provide better services to members aided by major investment in the information and communication technology for timely service provision.

"I am truly grateful to be part of this team; I promise you close cooperation so that together we can carry out our duties effectively," he said.

Speaking at the occasion, Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) urged institutions under the docket to tell the public what they do so that people can seek the services.

"Public education about all our institutions should be provided, especially social security education, I believe that if this is well understood, many people will not waste time in unproductive investments," he said.

He wanted staff to provide close cooperation to the new PSSSF DG to enable him perform his duties well to bring out positive outcomes.



Cyprian Luhemeja, Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), speaks at meeting in Dodoma city on Wednesday. It was called to welcome and introduce former Higher Education Students' Loans Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru, who was recently appointed Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) director general. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Samia sends greetings on Kuwait National Day

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has sent greetings and good wishes to the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah on the 63rd independence anniversary.

Every February 21st is the Kuwait's National Day.

Samia sent the greetings on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a function to commemorate the Kuwait's independence and 33 years of the gulf nation's liberation. The function was led by Ambassador of Kuwait to Tanzania Mubarak Mohammad Alsehaijan.

She commended the development feats achieved by Kuwait in various sectors, including science and technology, health services and economic development, which made Kuwait one of the countries with strongest economies in the world and a famous center for finance, capital and investment.

Samia expressed her satisfaction with strong ties between Tanzania and Kuwait and pledged that Tanzania will continue to cooperate with Kuwait to improve business, investment and community development for the welfare of the people of both countries.

Ummu Mwalimu, Health Minister thanked the government of Kuwait for its contribution to the development of health sector in Tanzania, including the provision of medical equipment for hospitals in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The minister said the government of Kuwait has been a major ally in development of health sector in the

country, saying it has provided machines for anesthesia to the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), medical equipment to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar, medical equipment to Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma and the construction of a hospital in Handeni District, Tanga Region under the sponsorship of Abdullah Al Nouri Charity institute of Kuwait.

Mwalimu added that in 2023, through the Kuwait Children Heart Association, Kuwait brought medical specialists who collaborated with experts at the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Dodoma and performed heart operations on 100 needy children.

"We thank Kuwait for immensely supporting our health sector," she said.

Alsehaijan said the cooperation between Tanzania and Kuwait has been growing stronger since 2015, pledging that his country will continue cooperating with Tanzania in social, political and economic development all the time.

"As we celebrate this important day, our nations are looking forward to cooperating in the sports sector through the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports in Tanzania and the Sports Authority in Kuwait," he said.

Tanzania and Kuwait are working together in the areas of education, health, water, agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, trade, and investment where they have both agreed to continue cooperating in order to reap benefits in the implementation of economic diplomacy.

# 'Humans need to learn to coexist with wild animals'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Bagamoyo

HUMANS need to learn to coexist with wild animals as complete separation is impossible in some environments, an expert has said.

According to John Noronha who is an expert in human-wildlife conflicts, negative reporting arising from misinformed sources have always been treating clashes between people and wild animals like some cases of serious emergency.

"Human-wildlife conflicts help people and authorities to hatch new initiatives to avert such cases and as a result, more advanced development projects are hatched," he said.

The expert was presenting a paper on 'Essential Consideration for Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts and Co-existence,' to reporters attending tailor-made training on mitigation of human wildlife conflicts.

The two-day training session was organized by the Journalists' Environment Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from German International Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region.

According to Noronha, human-wildlife conflicts have contrib-

uted to social dynamics and so far managed to bring together diverse types of people from different parts of the country for meetings and dialogues.

"Conflicts may never end, but eventually, people will learn to adapt to the situation and create new environments through which they can co-exist peacefully with wild animals," he said.

John Mapepele, head of communications department at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism who graced the occasion lauded both the GIZ and JET for creating mutual partnership with the government in supporting conservation efforts in Tanzania.

Mapepele revisited the Arusha Manifesto of 1961, through which the founding President Julius Nyerere recognized the continent's wildlife and consequently its parks as the rightful heritage of all mankind and urged the new African states to manage these resources accordingly.

"Conservation is also the basis for the country's tourism sector which so far contributes to 25 percent of Tanzania's foreign currency earnings," he said, adding that the country has managed to conserve over 30 percent of its total geographical area.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango unveils plaque to launch a water supply improvement system at the Mowe water treatment and distribution plant at Pande village in Tanga Region yesterday. Photo: VPO

# Alarm as women attend clinics but deliver at home

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya



**We are grateful that these statistics show that there is good progress in this area. We need to work together to ensure that this problem ends completely**

ALTHOUGH 90 percent of pregnant women in the Southern Highlands regions attend clinic, 17 percent give birth at home instead of health facilities, risking the lives mothers and children.

Elinzuu Nicodema, Chief Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said this when speaking to health experts from five regions in Southern Highlands here yesterday, adding that the figures are contained in the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey and Malaria Indicator Survey (TDHMS) 2022.

According to NBS date,

in the Southern Highlands Zone which consist of Mbeya, Rukwa, Songwe, Ruvuma and Katavi regions, 90 percent of pregnant women attend

clinic but during delivery they chose home instead of health facilities.

He said the problem has also been reflected in the national data although it differed zone by zone, saying there is need for experts to intensify awareness.

"The problem is as big as it is shown but there are areas where the percentages range from 15, 16, 17 and 20; we need to work together to address the matter," he said.

He called upon the experts to put in place strategies to address the matter so that all pregnant women deliver at health facilities.

Dr Bonface Kasululu, Songwe Regional Medical Officer, said the statistics

provided by NBS will help them to assess and set strategies to deal with the problem.

He said that although the statistics show that the situation is not good, there are still big changes, noting that in previous years, the situation was worse than now.

Dr Elizabeth Nyema, Mbeya Regional Medical Officer, said that the problem of pregnant women giving birth at home causes an increase in deaths of pregnant women and infants.

"We are grateful that these statistics show that there is good progress in this area. We need to work together to ensure that this problem ends completely," she said.

MITCHELL DRILLING TANZANIA LIMITED

Incorporation number 97193  
The Companies Act, 2002  
(Section 334 (i))

MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the General Public that at a duly convened meeting of Mitchell Drilling Tanzania Limited (the Company) company number 97193 which took place on 20 December 2023 the following special resolutions were passed:

1. That in accordance with section 333 (1) (b) of the Companies Act, 2002, the company should be wound up voluntary; and
2. That, the members have approved the appointment of Joseph Cynock Lyimo of PricewaterhouseCoopers Tanzania of P O Box 45, PEMBA HOUSE, 369, TOURE DRIVE, 3rd floor Tanzania as the Liquidator of the Company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days. Claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

Joseph Cynock Lyimo  
Liquidator  
For Mitchell Drilling Tanzania Limited



# BBT-YIA wins hearts of farmers in Njombe

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

AGRICULTURE stakeholders in Njombe District, Njombe Region have showered praise on Building a Better Tomorrow-Youth initiative for Agribusiness (BBT-YIA), saying since its implementation began last year, positive changes have been registered.

Speaking here yesterday, avocado grower in Njombe District Ferdinand Kivua commended the government for the initiative which he said was poised to transform agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries in the country.

"It is undisputable fact that BBT-YIA has come at the right time and youth have to grab this opportunity so that they can transform their lives through the programme and improve their livelihoods and national economy through improved productivity," he said.

He called on all Tanzanians to support the government's drive of attracting youth to venture into modern agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries.

Magreth Lwangili, Irish potato grower in Njombe's Kifanya area said the government's commitment towards implementing the BBT-YIA needs support to ensure the programme is successfully implemented and brings multiplier impact countrywide.

"We as stakeholders of the Southern Agricultural Growth

Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) support the sixth phase government for coming up with the programme which seeks to transform lives of youth," she said.

Razack Sanga, maize grower in Makete District described the programme as a golden opportunity for youth who are ready to make money in agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries.

"We have to appreciate efforts being made by the government in transforming agriculture and its allied sectors," he said.

Youth selected in BBT-YIA programme are offered training at selected centres across the country and each is allocated up to 10 acres, which they will end up owning.



**It is undisputable fact that BBT-YIA has come at the right time and youth have to grab this opportunity so that they can transform their lives through the programme and improve their livelihoods and national economy through improved productivity**



Emily Mkende (2nd-L), NMB Bank's Same Branch manager, pictured yesterday symbolically presenting to Same district commissioner Kasilda Mgeni 100 T-shirts the bank has issued alongside 5m/- for use in the ongoing Same Tourism Festival. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## AU launches campaign to boost girls' access to education

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE African Union (AU) has launched a campaign to expand opportunities for girls to access education on the continent.

Simone Yankey, acting coordinator of the AU International Center for the Edu-

cation of Girls and Women in Africa, announced on Tuesday evening that the year-long advocacy exercise aims to mobilize African nations to achieve 100 per cent enrolment of girls in schools.

"The campaign also calls on African governments to uphold their commitments to educational funding and

gender equality by ensuring that a minimum of 20 percent of national budgets is allocated to the education sector," Yankey said virtually during the launch in Nairobi, Kenya. She said that 2024 has been dedicated as the year of education in Africa by the AU, noting that the campaign has already identified champions in

each AU member to spearhead gender-responsive reforms of education sector to ensure that schools provide equal opportunities for boys and girls.

Yankey added that about 60 million girls are out of school in Africa due to various socio-cultural and gender-related challenges.

Ann Gachoya, deputy di-

rector of education at Kenya's Ministry of Education, said that the AU campaign aligns with the country's commitment to addressing educational inequities and ensuring that no girl is left behind, highlighting that Kenya already devotes more than 20 percent of its public budget toward education.



Bagamoyo District Police Commander Mushana Mujema speaks at a meeting meant to promote the health of drug addicts. Held in Bagamoyo on Wednesday, it was coordinated by local NGO Life & Hope Rehabilitation Organisation (LHRO) and jointly funded by US Ambassador's Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). He is with (R-L) Bagamoyo District Medical Officer Dr Kandi Lussingu, LHRO executive director Al-Karim Bhanji and Bagamoyo district social welfare officer Delvina Maleko. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Tamwa-Zanzibar seeks legal review to step up press freedom

By Carlos Banda

THE Media has been called on provide in-depth reports on the shortcomings of the articles found in Zanzibar's Media Law so that they can be changed and allow the public to access information without hindrance.

Dr Mzuri Issa, the Director of Tanzania Media Women's Association, Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) made the call on Wednesday during the launch of a report reviewing the provisions that hinder freedom of the press in Zanzibar.

"Journalists should voice out the shortcomings of the existing legal provisions so that they can be changed. This will grant people the joy and feeling that they

are part of this nation and they can express their opinions without fear," she said.

Dr Issa asserted that easy access to information and increase in accountability in various aspects can only be achieved if journalists have the ability to give their opinion without worry.

"Press freedom can help reduce the present weak points in the media sector by suppressing quacks who publish fake information. This will strengthen the media making it firm and capable of providing news that carry the fundamentals of journalism," she said.

Presenting the report, Said Suleiman, a Lecturer at Zanzibar University, said an analysis of the provisions led to the discovery of

several articles that acted as obstacles to press freedom.

Suleiman said the report has reviewed a total of 8 laws which include the law of the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books Act No. 5 of 1988 amended by Act No. 8 of 1997; and the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act No. 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No. 1 of 2010. The other is the penal code of 2004 (Act No. 6) amended in 2018, the law to repeal Election Act No. 11 of the 1984 and the enactment of the Elections Act of 2017 and other related matters as well as the House of Representatives Act No. 4 of 2007 which was amended in 2022.

He said that the Broadcasting

Commission Act number 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No 1 of 2010 needs to be amended noting that article 27(2) of the law grants leaders more authority.

"The broadcasting commission Act No. 7 of 1997 which was amended by Act No. 1 in of 2010 grants leaders too much power. For example in article 27 (2), the minister is bestowed with the high authority allowing him to make any decision," he said.

Suleiman advocated for articles that stipulate an environment that ensures the security and safety of journalists, activists and readers to be added against violation of the freedom of expression

Jabir Idrissa, a media stakeholder, said the presence of the laws that impede the press free-

dom have led to the absence of privately owned media outlets on the side of newspapers because of the existing bureaucracy in the implementation of such laws.

"There are no privately owned newspapers in Zanzibar today. Before the revolution, there were many newspapers. Journalism has a long history in Zanzibar but it is now dead because unfriendly laws," he said.

The meeting is part of the TAMWA-Zanzibar's continued efforts to collaborate with stakeholders and journalists to advocate and influence amendments for legal provisions that inhibit press freedom so that new laws that are at par with the modern times and free are enacted for the media in the country.

## OUT dons mull ways to ensure performance in academics rises

By Guardian Reporter

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Professors' Forum has expressed determination to increase efforts towards contributing more in academic activities, research and consultancy services.

According to the forum, one of its major roles is to improve quality and academic performance for the wider interest of the nation.

The forum's members reached the agreement during its two-day conference held at the Julius Nyerere Leadership School in Kibaha, Coast Region on Monday and Tuesday.

Prof Deus Ngaruko, OUT Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics, Research and Consultancy, said that the platform is the only place for scholars to sit and discuss their issues and devise strategies meant to bring positive outcomes for the institution and the nation.

"We have discussed and agreed on a lot of areas; what is needed now is increased cooperation with other institutions and our fellow academicians inside and outside the country in writing and supervising projects that will help boost development in the society," he said.

Prof Elifas Bisanda, OUT Vice Chancellor, appealed to fellow members to be good examples in academics in order to attract other scholars into the teaching profession.

"Let us make sure that we lead others in conducting quality research and giving productive lectures. We need to guide those who look at us to learn how to find projects and manage academic work professionally," he said.

Prof Modestus Varisanga, said that in addition to other duties, the forum brings together the university's dons and reminds them of their responsibilities to the society.

He said that scholars need to invest in research and come up with innovative solutions to address challenges facing society.

A number of topics ranging from legal affairs, information and communication technology as well as cyber security were presented during the conference, providing a platform for the participants to discuss and share experience on how to work in synergy to improve provision of quality education as well as address challenges facing people.



## Activists hail three years of gender policy, empowerment and equality

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This is why the president has pushed to create many women economic empowerment forums and enact policies focused to help women grow economically, she stated.

Mwajuma Magwiza, a member of the GEF coordinating committee, lauded the clean cooking energy initiative, noting that it will not only decrease women's time to engage with home chores but widen women's exposure to income generation activities.

The initiative will shed the search for firewood, freeing women to engage in economic activities, she said, noting that women will also be less vulnerable to gender-based violence in frequenting the bush.

Domestic violence also comes up due to delayed completion of tasks such as cooking for the family which is tied to seeking firewood, she emphasised.

Launching a clear gender policy is another step towards promoting gender equality as the new policy has updated issues pertaining to gender equality and women empowerment via women's economic justice and rights, she added.



Constitution and Legal Affairs minister Dr Pindi Chana opens a meeting of the ministry's workers' council in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

## World Bank issues \$50m in Treasury operations booster

FROM PAGE 1

continue to assess and address persisting weaknesses in order to enhance the timely delivery of public services and development operations for the benefit of citizens," the director affirmed.

Ultimately this will result in an improvement in public service delivery, he said, noting that the new project is designed as a programme for results (PforR), linking disbursements with specific program results or outcomes.

The program is structured

around four key results areas topped by a revenue mobilisation agenda, chiefly by boosting e-filing and launching taxpayer awareness campaigns.

The second result area is efficiency and transparency of public procurement management especially by capacity development in the electronic government procurement system, he said.

This will be beefed up by adopting sustainable procurement practices, thus enabling the third result area, improving financial management through better budgeting processes, he

said.

The director even refers to the need for a citizens' budget and financial reporting at lower levels, whereas the fourth result area is intended to enhance accountability via external audits and parliamentary oversight.

Paul Welton, World Bank senior financial management specialist and co-task team leader said that delays in procurement create significant hindrances in the timely delivery of public services and the implementation of development operations.

"Considering that 70 percent of the country's annual budget,

or \$13bn is spent through public procurement, any improvement in the public procurement system will result in great economic benefits to the country," he stated.

Recent reforms have led to significant achievements in the sector, he said, pointing at the rollout of electronic revenue collection systems, leading to a 350 percent rise in non-tax revenues over the past five years.

Other important reforms include the adoption of a Treasury single account, the rollout of expenditure management systems, the introduction of elec-

tronic procurement systems, the development and rollout of the central budget management information system and the strengthening of parliamentary oversight functions.

Despite these gains, there are continuing weaknesses in core aspects of public finance management such as the lack of a reliable, credible annual budget, a weak control framework, inefficiencies in revenue collection and taxpayer compliance, and shortcomings in the financial reporting of public institutions, the specialist added.



Motorbike taxi rider and his passenger come together in ensuring their trip resumes shortly after the bike "protested" and they found themselves stuck. It was along the Buguruni Malapa stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt cancels 2,648 mining sector unused, stale licences

FROM PAGE 1

viduals hold the lands while the government loses revenue, he elaborated, objecting to providing use of that land to artisanal miners temporarily, to find out the proper potential of an area.

He said the ministry wants real investors as that way the country will not lose revenues, but when they invest artisanal miners also enable the government to obtain revenues.

The ministry has started to clean up the licenses issuance system to focus on committed investors, he said, pointing at a number of regions with applications for mineral exploration that have not yet been considered.

In revoking licenses, one person was found to have accumulated 973 mining license applications for a 23,118 square kilometres area still undeveloped, he said.

The ministry has reached saturation point and proceeded with the measures, with intent to conduct the cleaning up until all the area is allocated to individuals clearly wishing to invest in mining activities, he declared.

The licenses were supposed to be revoked by last November, while those due for withdrawal by December and January this year are in line to be deleted, he added.

## Overcrowded refugee camps in Chad out of aid

N'DJAMENA

OVERCROWDED refugee camps in eastern Chad are set to run out of money soon, exacerbating a dire humanitarian crisis caused by the spill over from a deadly conflict in Sudan, the United Nations said.

More than a million people in Chad, including refugees, face losing access to life-saving aid unless more funding is raised to help, the U.N. World Food Programme said yesterday.

The devastating conflict between feuding generals in Sudan has killed more than 5,000 people there and displaced over 5 million, the United Nations said. In Chad,

refugee numbers are at a 20-year high. The U.N. has warned that the conflict is on course to become the world's worst hunger crisis, with a third of Sudan's 18 million people facing acute food insecurity already.

At refugee camps in eastern Chad, lack of clean drinking water and sanitation cause dangerous diseases to spread. Doctors Without Borders said it had recorded almost 1,000 cases of hepatitis E in the camps and several pregnant women had died.

"The situation is dire in all camps," said Erneau Mondesir, the group's medical coordinator in the region. "Without swift action to improve sanitation infrastructure and enhance people's access to clean water, we

risk witnessing a surge in preventable illnesses and unnecessary loss of life."

At the Metche Camp, which is sheltering some 40,000 refugees, people are in dire need of water, food, shelter and basic sanitation. Earlier this month an Associated Press reporter saw aid workers unload sacks of grain from trucks for distribution as fierce winds blew across the rocky, sandy terrain.

Aid workers used loudspeakers to explain the work and distribute tokens among refugees. "Here we do distribution in a targeted manner," Ahmat Absakine, an aid worker with Caritas, another aid group in the region.

Water shortages are causing diseases to

spread, and aid workers fear a catastrophe if supplies run out.

"The spillover from the crisis in Sudan is overwhelming an underfunded and overstretched humanitarian response in Chad. We need donors to prevent the situation from becoming an all-out catastrophe," said Pierre Honnorat, the World Food Programme's top representative in Chad.

Analysts also fear the humanitarian situation could cause Chad's own political tensions to erupt. In February, opposition leader Yaya Dillo was killed in the capital. He was the president's cousin and a strong contender in the presidential election scheduled for May.

Finances and aid supplies at humanitarian operations are critically low. This will increase competition over resources between refugees and host communities in eastern Chad, further fuelling local tensions and regional instability," said Andrew Smith, senior Africa analyst at Verisk Maplecroft.

Chad's interim President, Mahamat Deby Itno, seized power after his father who ran the country for more than three decades was killed fighting rebels in 2021.

Last year, the government announced it was extending the 18-month transition for two more years, which led to protests across the country.





Denmark's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Nørgaard Dissing-Spandet (L), admires an award in Dar es Salaam on Thursday shortly after it was presented to her by Foundation for Civil Society executive director Justice Rutenge (R). It was in recognition of the longstanding support the Danish International Development Agency (Danida) has been extending towards empowering civil society and advancing gender equality in Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## RC pleads for friendly connection costs as water project completed

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has directed the leadership in Gidagabara Village in Boay Ward in Babati District, Manyara Region, to set friendly water connection costs to enable many residents have piped water at home.

Queen Sendiga, Manyara Regional Commissioner gave the directive recently during the launch and hand over event of a clean water project implemented by World Vision in collaboration with Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA).

Sendiga lauded the government for working with stakeholders to improve water supply services to reduce the burden from people, especially women who walk long distances to fetch the precious liquid.

"Today, we have handed over this major water project which is capable of catering for all the hamlets within this ward. When the costs are friendly, people will install water in large numbers. I would like to thank World Vision for their major role in this to ensure water supply in all hamlets in this village," she said.

Simon Moikan, programme quality and strategy director at World Vision, said the project will benefit 2,498 villagers, adding that it is meant to ensure

that children from underprivileged families thrive through various development projects including health, environmental sanitation and household economy, sponsorship, protection of rights and education.

He said that through the projects, World Vision improved the economies of various households and completed the construction of irrigation infrastructures in Sangara and Ayasanda villages and empowered 71 groups farming in a 198-hectare farm.

"It is the joy of the World Vision to see children and people living in society live in areas with guaranteed access to water and relieve women from the burden of walking long distances to fetch water.

Also, a total of 610 pupils in Gidagabara Primary School are expected to benefit from clean water taps that will help protect their health," he said.

Khadija Mmasi, a resident of Gidagabara village said before the implementation of the project, they were used to hardships and were forced to drink water from a nearby dam which was unsafe for their health.

"We thank World Vision for this project. Our children will no longer go to school late or miss classes because of fetching water at long distances," she said.

## Denmark envoy impressed by Samia's reform agenda

By Getrude Mbogo

THE Embassy of Denmark in Tanzania has hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for addressing a number of barriers to inclusive democracy by promoting her reform agenda.

According to the embassy, President Samia has especially done a good job in spearheading gender equality through generation equality commitments.

Ambassador of Denmark to Tanzania Mette Nørgaard Dissing-Spandet made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during an event to celebrate results of a 12-year partnership between Denmark and the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

She said Tanzania made great strides recently in enhancing engagement with stakeholders as well as recognising the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The envoy said that Tanzania has been one of closest friends and most trusted partners for Denmark, assuring that the Scandinavian country will continue to fortify relations in various sectors.

"And it brings me immense joy

that our embassy will stay and that we will now embark on a new journey. Over the coming months, we will explore how the next chapter in the book on the Tanzania-Denmark partnership shall look," she said.

"Strong and inclusive civil society is a bridge between the state and communities. It builds on the foundation of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of assembly, association and speech as well as human rights. Civil society must be given the space to thrive. And all actors must be prepared to work towards consensus, accepting the

outcome of democratic processes."

Dissing-Spandet said Tanzania has been Denmark's first and largest bilateral development cooperation partner over the years whereby the latest country programme ended in 2023 had a budget of around \$300 million.

She underscored the need for increased collaborative efforts in order to ensure an enhanced and effective legal and policy framework for CSOs, as well as a complete inclusive democracy.

She said Denmark has been also a proud supporter of the FCS

since 2006 with a total support of \$21,460, 475 to support initiatives meant to strengthen the voice of civil society.

"Throughout our partnership, FCS has provided support to more than 6,000 local CSOs and ensured an even larger outreach for the civil society in Tanzania," she said.

She said FCS has been a key actor in harmonising CSO interests, focusing on key issues such as disability inclusion, youth empowerment, social accountability, peace building, social cohesion and gender equality and the fight against

gender-based violence.

Further, FCS has for years been a lead in the inclusion of marginalised groups - spearheading the SDG advocacy on 'leaving no one behind' playing an essential role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Tanzania.

"A civil society that is strong, active, diverse and independent can make demands to promote change and think innovatively 'local solutions for local problems'. A strong and independent civil society is a main pillar of democratic societies and an end in itself," she added.

Big Announcement

Countdown in Progress...







Tanzania Revenue Authority tax officer Semeni Mbeshi (R) has a word in Shinyanga Rural District earlier this week with trader Ellen Lameck as part of a door-to-door education and sensitisation campaign by the agency, the thrust being on tax payment and challenges members of the business community commonly encounter. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Train negotiators for beneficial contracts, government advised

By Beatrice Philemon

THE government has been advised to train more negotiation experts to assist the country in bargaining better deals before signing local and international contracts.

Deus Kibamba, a lecturer at Dr Salim Ahmed Salim Centre for Foreign Relations, made the call in Dar es Salaam recently when speaking to Indian diaspora in Tanzania who attended a seminar on the contribution of diaspora in development.

"We do not have a good number of negotiators; we need international negotiators who can impart knowledge to their Tanzanian counterparts. This will ensure a win-win situation when signing contracts for implementation of various projects," he said.

He however highlighted the need for exchange programmes between Tanzania and India especially in areas of academic research. He said research on various subjects can be conducted and later on published in both countries to help both governments push development agenda.

Manoj Verma, Chargé d'affaires at the High Commission of India, said the seminar was meant to dis-

cuss India's cultural and historical linkages with Tanzania, touching on the Tanzania-India bilateral relationship and the role of diaspora in development.

He said the insights shared and discussions held during the seminar will not only deepen participants' understanding of the Indian diaspora's contributions in Tanzania but also serve as an inspiration to explore new avenues for cooperation and collaboration.

The High Commission of India plans to continue conducting such dialogues with civil society organisations, diaspora and Tanzanian think tanks.

He said plans are also underway to publish a bilingual book compiling all information that highlights the importance of diaspora in the two countries' development.

"Tanzania with its vibrant culture, diverse landscapes and dynamic economy has been a key partner in India's engagement with Africa," he said.

The envoy said the Indian diaspora carries a rich legacy contributing to the development paths of countries worldwide and emerging as the living bridge connecting India to the world.

## Girls get sewing machines worth 178m/- in anti-HIV drive

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

HJF Medical Research International (HJFMRI) has donated sewing machines worth 178m/- to adolescents and young girls in Kyela District, Mbeya Region.

The young girls are beneficiaries of the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) who are expected to avoid risky behaviours that expose them to HIV/AIDS.

Speaking recently during the official handing over, Rungwe District Commissioner Jaffar Haniu who represented Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs & Coordination),

Jenista Mhagama, expressed appreciation to HJFMRI for mobilizing the economic empowerment tools meant to make them financially independent.

"I am happy to have handed over more than 120 industrial sewing and shoe-making machines worth more than 178mn/- that will help our girls make clothes and other garments as part of the income-generating activities that will provide financial independence to many girls," he said.

DREAMS is a programme that provides adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged between 15 and 24 years old with comprehensive evidence-based interventions and services to reduce HIV risk from

sexual partners, strengthen families and mobilize communities for change.

With support from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), through the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) of the US Department of Defense, HJFMRI Tanzania provides AGYW in the DREAMS programme with economic strengthening and income-generating opportunities, mentorship and coaching to the DREAMS beneficiaries in the Mbeya Region to support them reach their goals through economic dependence.

Earlier, highlighting the programme objective, HJFMRI execu-

tive director Sally Talike Chalamila, said that implementation of the interventions under the DREAMS initiatives mainly facilitates training on behaviour change communication, which focuses on safe sex practices, and the provision of HIV testing, condoms, family planning, and usage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) including gender-based violence among the aforementioned age group.

"This support is ideal for this age group as statistics indicate that many adolescent girls and young women are at high risk of contracting HIV and other STIs due to early sexual debut, engaging in age-disparate relationships that are associated

with inconsistent condom use, and transactional sex. But also financial insecurity and gender inequalities cause them to have minimal agency to negotiate sex and condom use to maintain relationship security and avoid violence from their sexual partners," added Chalamila.

HIV Prevention Advisor from WRAIR Dr Alick Kayange reiterated the US government's commitment to Tanzania, saying it will always work closely with the government to ensure quality and effective implementation of PEPFAR HIV care and treatment interventions in the southern highlands regions.

Since the launch of the DREAMS programme under HJFMRI in 2016,

the programme has reached over 130,000 beneficiaries in the southern highlands with various HIV interventions.

The programme offers various methods of family planning and teaches girls various entrepreneurial skills. Focus areas include electronic technician training, tailoring, hairdressing, soap making, shoe-making tie-dyeing, Cocoa product processing, and many more.

Beyond learning entrepreneurial skills, the AGYWs participate in money-saving and economic strengthening groups. Additionally, over 3,000 AGYW have been provided with Community Health Insurance Fund (CHIP) cards.

## SADC capacitates traders on food export standards

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has conducted a five-day capacity-building workshop in the Kingdom of Lesotho on sanitary requirements demanded when exporting food and agricultural products to the European Union (EU) market.

The EU and SADC signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) commonly known as EU SADC EPA, to preserve market access and preferences for Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Agriculture is one of the sectors that benefits immensely from the improved market access under the EU SADC EPA, particularly sugar, dairy products, canned fruits, flowers and fisheries. Speaking during the workshop which was held from March 4 to 8, 2024, Lebusetsa Pholosi, Programme Officer for EPA at the SADC Secretariat, said that EU grants are 100 percent duty-free.

Nthabeleng Maphike, Senior Trade Promotion Officer at the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Business Development in the Kingdom of Lesotho, said the country has entrepreneurs who established their presence in the EU market under the EPA partnership, adding the overall trade between Lesotho and the EU has not seen substantial growth because trading is currently based on products that offer

minimal value addition.

Maphike commended the SADC Secretariat for presenting entrepreneurs in Lesotho the opportunity to acquire knowledge and experience on the requisite conditions required for trading in the EU market under the EU SADC EPA. Non-compliance with Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) in the form of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, as well as inadequate knowledge about SPS principles, were identified as major impediments to the growth of exports in food products and agricultural commodities from SADC EPA member states to the EU market. High production, transportation and marketing costs along with inadequate testing facilities and conformity assessments, posed barriers to entry and trade in the EU market.

The SADC EPA member states are required to establish and enhance their technical capacity to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of SPS measures, including promoting greater use of international standards and other matters concerning SPS.

In response to the lack of capacity within the SADC EPA member states, the SADC Trade Facilitation Programme (TFP), which is funded by the EU, conducted a series of workshops in SADC EPA member states aimed at enhancing technical capacity, facilitating implementation, and monitoring of SPS measures.



Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary Dr Hashil Abdallah (L) pictured yesterday leading the Tanzanian delegation at the Joint Trade Committee meeting involving Tanzania and Kenya in progress in Kisumu, Kenya. He is with his Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry counterpart, Stephen Mbundi (C), Tanzania's High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr Bernard Kibesse. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## World Water Day: Momba District expects 87pct access next year

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE government has said that the availability of water services in Momba District, Songwe Region, is expected to increase from 51 percent this year to 87 percent by December 2025.

According to reports, 133,612

people, equal to 51 percent of the population in 30 villages in the district, access clean and safe water services from wells and piped water from various sources.

Deputy Minister for Water Maryprisca Mahundi made the remarks on Wednesday during a ceremony for official hand-

over of a well to Ipumpila Village residents. The event took place ahead of World Water Day which was yesterday.

Mahundi said the government spent 4m/- on the well, including construction of necessary infrastructure to supply water.

She said that during the sixth phase government, Momba Dis-

trict has carried out 17 projects worth approximately 5.1bn/-.

"These projects have improved availability of water in Momba District by 32.53 percent from 18.47 percent in 2020 and set to reach 51 percent in 2025," she said.

Beatus Katabazi, Manager of Momba Urban Water Supply

and Sanitation Authority, said the project is one of the small water infrastructure projects that being built in Momba District at a cost of 285m/-, out of 500m/- sent to the district by the government.

Mateo Chikoti, Momba District Council Chairman, commended the government for its

efforts to resolve water shortage in the district.

He said that while there were only six villages with access to water in 2019, a total of 133,612 individuals currently have access to safe and clean water services.

However, the government still implements projects in vari-

ous wards, including Msangano (8 villages), Kamsamba (two villages) and Isanga (two villages) that were budgeted for in the 2023/2024 financial year. Additionally, the government continues drilling deep wells in the wards whereby more than 13.7bn/- will be spent on the projects.





National Assembly Deputy Speaker and Ilala constituency legislator Mussa Hassan 'Zungu' (3rd-L), Dar es Salaam Regional CCM Chairman Abbas Mtemvu (2nd-R), Ilala district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (R), Kivukoni councillor Sharik Choughle (L) and the Oryx Gas Tanzania managing director Benoit Araman (2nd-L) come together in Dar es Salaam yesterday in presenting a cooking gas cylinder to food vendor Salma Mohammed at the city's Magogoni International Fish Market. The event saw each of a total of 700 male and female food vendors based at the market similarly gifted under the ongoing initiative. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Firm pledges to install LPG tank to serve Dar fish market

By Guardian Reporter

FOOD vendors and traders who fry fresh fish at the popular Ferry fish market in Dar es Salaam are likely to transit to clean energy after an LPG distributor pledged to install a tank and pipes in every kitchen.

The pledge was given yesterday by Oryx Gas Tanzania Limited (OGTL) after the traders asked the company to consider doing so that they stop using charcoal and firewood.

They made the plea at the market during handing over of a donation of 200 cooking gas cylinders, out of a total 700 cylinders for Ilala Constituency from OGTL.

Mussa Zungu, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly and Ilala MP threw his weight behind his constituents, saying the situation threatens their safety and asked the energy company to consider the traders' request.

After a quick chat with the firm's leadership, Zungu said the company had agreed to install a tank and gas distribution pipes to each kitchen.

"I am happy that Oryx Gas has heeded our request; in the next three to five days they will come here to survey the place for installation works," he said.

Seleman Mfinanga, Ferry fish market manager, said the place needed cooking gas infrastructure because it is risky when each vendor keeps their own gas cylinder.

"It is unsafe to put many gas cylinders as others use charcoal to cook, making the place very hot inside," he said. Ilala District Commissioner Edward Mpogolo commended area MP for efforts that led

to donation of gas cylinders to fish traders and the pledge of installation of a tank.

"When they use gas they protect the environment and their health. Oryx Gas is doing a commendable job," he said.

OGTL managing director Benoit Araman said that when fish traders cook with gas they bring development and protect their health against smoke.

"This is to support the government's goal of making 80 percent of Tanzanians use clean energy by the year 2032," he said.

He added that the company will continue promoting the use of clean energy at family level as well as in institutions that serve food to more than 100 people.



**I am happy that Oryx Gas has heeded our request; in the next three to five days they will come here to survey the place for installation works**

## RC appeals for private sector support to improve child health

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has called for collaboration from investors to support initiatives that seek to improve access and quality of health-care for children.

Speaking at an event to hand over sanitary diapers worth 35m/- for newborns at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) yesterday, Chalamila said the support was a positive gesture worthy of emulation.

"We need to work together in other areas because you have demonstrated that it can be done. I call upon other stakeholders to emulate what you have done," he said.

He added that there are several sectors which need collaboration, saying the government has been prioritising the health sector by investing heavily in it.

Victor Zhang, director of Doweicare Company limited which made the donation, said the company decided to support the government by ensuring that Tanzanian families have access to quality healthcare.

"We believe that through this support, we have supported the government's goal of making sure that children who are the future receive the best possible healthcare," he said.

He added that the company through its brand, SoftCare, decided to work with MNH because it is the leading centre of excellence in healthcare provision in the country, adding that the support was the beginning of collaboration in health sector.

Earlier, MNH Executive Director Prof Mohammed Janabi gave details of the hospital's achievements and plans to turn the hospital's paediatric ward into a fully-fledged hospital.




**Advertisement**  
**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**

**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below goods/service package at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced, and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the below goods/service packages.

No.	Reference no.	Description of services to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-24-03-02	<b>Catering and Cleaning:</b> Catering and cleaning for onsite people and premises including laundry and garden services.	i. At least one current catering contract active and cater in excess of 200 people per meal per day ii. Active relevant ISO certification iii. Catering Experience - in excess of 3 years iv. House Keeping Experience v. ISO status vi. Adequate Policies & Procedures

The above services/goods are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable pre-qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. Please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead if your company qualify as per the pre-qualification criteria together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile.
- Company registration documents i.e., Certificate of incorporation, Tax Clearance Certificate, etc.
- Applicable certification, accreditation, and affiliated registration.
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgment of submission from the Mining Commissioner.
- BRELA detailed search certificate indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management, and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest 1800hrs on the **04<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

If you do not hear from us in 21 days after the deadline date, please consider your EOI unsuccessful.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**.



JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

**WIZARA YA MAJI**

MAMLAKA YA MAJISAFI NA USAFI WA MAZINGIRA MBEYA

MBEYA UWSA





**MH. DKT. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN**  
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**Barua Pepe: md@mbeyauwsa.go.tz**  
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PharmAccess innovative projects director Zamaradi Mbega (L) presents equipment used in the screening of blood, including for pressure and diabetes, to Dr Jonas Kira of Livishe Dispensary in Manyara Region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## AfDB steps up investments to boost infrastructure, trade in Mozambique

MAPUTO

THE African Development Bank and Mozambique reinforced their partnership during a visit by Solomon Quaynor, the bank's Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization.

This visit, held from March 12 to 15, this year, underscores the bank's commitment to supporting Mozambique's economic growth trajectory, particularly following the third review of the country's Extended Credit Facility with the International Monetary Fund and the bank's recent Economic Acceleration Package and Budget Support Mission.

Accompanied by the bank's Country Manager Cesar Mba Abogo, Vice President Quaynor held meetings with key government officials, including Minister of Economy and Finance and African Development Bank Governor Ernesto Max Elias Tonela; Minister of Transport and Communications Mateus Magala; and Minister of Industry and Commerce, Silvino Augusto Moreno.

Discussions revolved around the bank's support for private sector development and industrialization through strategic infrastructure projects along vital regional economic corridors linked to Maputo, Beira, and Nacala. These corridors hold im-

mense potential to unlock Mozambique's economic opportunities and foster regional trade with several other countries.

Quaynor also held consultation meetings with other stakeholders involved in the Mozambican economy, including the Mozambican Association of Banks, Cahora Bassa Hydroelectric, Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Mozambique, Maputo Port Development Company, Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique, Mozambique's premier industrial park company called Moz Parks, Export Trading Group and the Canadian Minister of International Development, Ahmed Hussien.

The Mozambican government expressed gratitude for the bank's continued support for regional integration and green industrialization in Southern Africa.

Minister Tonela said, "We are encouraged by Mozambique's economic prospects. The resilience our nation has demonstrated in the face of acute shocks is a testament to the strength and determination of our people. However, we acknowledge that fragility drivers, such as climate change and security threats, remain a concern. This is why partnerships with development institutions like the AfDB are so crucial. We are determined to foster inclusive and green growth for our people, the region and the world."

## UNESCO's 'Safer Campuses' campaign set to fight GBV in colleges

By Guardian Correspondent

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is next week set to launch a Safer Campuses campaign to heighten efforts in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in colleges.

In a statement availed to the media on Thursday, Dr Remmy Shawa, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa said GBV causes short and long-term harm to individuals, insti-

tutions and society.

He said UNESCO wants Africa to reach its full educational and health potential; hence, we are working on freeing all students from GBV on campus through our Safer Campuses campaign.

"A thriving, mentally and physically fit university community is a key to achieving the goals and objectives we have set for our institution. The University of Zambia (UNZA) should provide leadership and set the pace for institutions of higher learning in

addressing gender-based violence in our country and this is why we join the Safer Campuses campaign," said Prof Anne Sikwibe, outgoing UNZA Vice Chancellor.

The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

Dr Shawa noted that young women in the Eastern and Southern Africa region are extremely vulnerable as they are likely to have already survived one or multiple experiences of GBV by the time they reach higher education institutions; all this in a global context where World Health Organisation data show that one in three women have experienced GBV at least once in their lifetime.

Poor and working-class students are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment and sexual assault by

senior academic and non-academic staff as they fall prey to "sex for grades/support". Junior female staff members are also vulnerable as senior male staff members may use job security/promotions as a reward for sex."

Dr Clementina Lwatula, outgoing Medical Officer at UNZA said: "We are committed to creating an environment that is fair, humane, and supportive of educational and career advancement. We join UNESCO's Safer Campuses campaign as

we need to act and raise awareness on the harmful GBV practices within institutions, as well as sensitizing our students, staff members and the community."

The UNESCO Safer Campuses campaign will engage all tertiary education stakeholders - government ministries, administrators, students, staff, management and campus ecosystems - to take action and work towards ending GBV by breaking the silence on this important issue.

The campaign will use various el-

## Museveni names his son chief of defence forces

KAMPALA

UGANDA'S President Yoweri Museveni has appointed his son Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba as the country's army commander, a move that is likely to fuel speculation that he is grooming his eldest child to succeed him.

Gen Kainerugaba has been serving as a senior presidential adviser in charge of special operations after his father removed him as commander of the army's land forces in 2022.

He was promoted to his new post late on Thursday, in a cabinet reshuffle that saw five ministers sacked.

He takes over from Gen Wilson Mbadi who has been named as trade minister.

Two of Gen Kainerugaba's closest advisors were named ministers in the new changes announced by President Museveni.

Embattled Karamoja Affairs Minister Mary Goretti Kitutu, who is facing corruption charges involving the theft of thousands of metal roofing sheets, was dropped from her post.

Lt Gen Samuel Okiding was named as the deputy army chief in the new appointments. He replaced Gen Peter Elwelu, whom Museveni named as one of his senior advisers.

Gen Kainerugaba has recently been holding rallies around the country, with his critics saying this was in breach of the military's code of discipline.

In power since 1986, Museveni has long been suspected of grooming the 49-year-old general to succeed him to entrench what critics call monarchic rule in Uganda.



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumane Murilo speaks at earlier this week's launch of an online transport service in Dar es Salaam city. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

## World Water Day: South Africa's largest city battles crisis

JOHANNESBURG

IN the bustling metropolis of Johannesburg, South Africa's economic heartbeat, a sobering reality has gripped its residents - a water crisis of unprecedented magnitude.

As the year 2024 unfolds, the city finds itself confronting a convergence of challenges that threaten the very foundation of its water security. From dwindling reservoirs to aging infrastructure and burgeoning demand, Johannesburg's battle for water has reached a critical juncture.

For two weeks, Tsholofelo Moloi has been among thousands of South Africans lining up for water as the country's largest city, Johannesburg, confronts an unprecedented collapse of its water system, affecting millions of people.

Moloi, a resident of Soweto on the out-

skirts of Johannesburg, isn't sure she or her neighbours can take much more.

They and others across South Africa's economic hub of about 6 million people line up day after day for the arrival of municipal tanker trucks delivering water. Before the trucks finally arrived the day before, a desperate Moloi had to request water from a nearby restaurant.

There was no other alternative. A five-litre (1.3-gallon) bottle of water sells for 25 rand (\$1.30), an expensive exercise for most people in a country where over 32 percent of the population is unemployed.

"We are really struggling," Moloi said. "We need to cook, and children must also attend school. We need water to wash their clothes. It's very stressful."

Residents of Johannesburg and surrounding areas are long used to seeing water shortages - just not across the whole

region at once.

Over the weekend, water management authorities with Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria, told officials from both cities that the failure to reduce water consumption could result in a total collapse of the water system. That means reservoirs would drop below 10 percent capacity and would need to be shut down for replenishment.

That could mean weeks without water from taps - at a time when the hot weather is keeping demand for water high. The arrival of chilly winter in the Southern Hemisphere is still weeks away.

No drought has been officially declared, but officials are pleading with residents to conserve any water they can find. World Water Day yesterday was another reminder of the wider need to conserve.

Outraged activists and residents call this

a crisis years in the making. They blame officials' poor management and the failure to maintain aging water infrastructure. Much of it dates to the years just after the end of apartheid, when basic services were expanded to the country's black population in an era of optimism.

The ANC long rode on that enthusiasm, but now many South Africans are asking what happened. In Johannesburg, run by a coalition of political parties, anger is against authorities in general as people wonder how maintenance of some of the country's most important economic engines went astray.

A report published last year by the national department of water and sanitation is damning. Its monitoring of water usage by municipalities found that 40 percent of Johannesburg's water is wasted through leaks, which includes burst pipes.

In recent days, even residents of Johannesburg's more affluent and swimming pool-dotted suburbs have found themselves relying on the arrival of municipal water tankers, which came as a shock to some.

Residents in one neighbourhood, Blairgowrie, came out to protest after lacking water for nearly two weeks.

A local councillor in Soweto, Lefa Molise, told The Associated Press he was not optimistic that the water shortage would be resolved soon.

Water cuts have become so frequent that he urges residents to reserve any supply they can find, especially when he said authorities give little or no warning about upcoming shortages.

The water tankers are not enough to keep residents supplied, he added.

An older resident, Thabisile Mchunu,



## Uganda's forest conservation efforts bear fruit

KAMPALA

In recent years, Uganda made significant strides in promoting forest conservation through heightened public awareness campaigns and introduction of advanced technologies. These efforts have begun to yield positive results.

According to data from the National Forest Authority, Uganda's state-run forest conservation agency, forest cover has increased from 9 percent in 2015 to 13 percent in 2021, with a projected rise to 15 percent by 2025. This positive trend follows a notable decline in forest cover, which plummeted from 25 percent of the country's landmass in 1990 to around 9 percent in 2015.

Despite these achievements, Uganda faces a pressing challenge in meeting its national and global commitments to protect and restore forests, largely due to the high rate of deforestation.

The country has lost about 122,000 hectares of forests annually since 1990. Without intervention, Uganda risks losing all its forests by 2030, driven largely by the growing human population.

To address these challenges, Uganda pledged during the 2014 Climate Change Summit to restore 2.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The country also launched a campaign to plant 40 million trees annually, focusing on indigenous species. These efforts underscore Uganda's commitment to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

With contributions from private individuals, the state and development partners, Uganda has undertaken a variety of initiatives, leveraging technology to enhance forest conservation. Zainabu Kakungulu, programme officer for capacity development at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, highlighted the increasing importance of technology in forest management and conservation.

She emphasized that technology enables researchers and conservationists to better understand forest dynamics and protect them more effectively. In Uganda, geographic information systems and remote sensing technologies such as drones are utilized for surveying and mapping forests.



Boniface Kaberege (R), Tanzania Forest Service Agency's Musoma district manager, assisted by Musoma Rural constituency legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo (in cap) on Thursday in preparing one of 100 fruit tree seedlings for planting at Suguti Secondary School. Left is the school's headmistress, Pendo Kapono. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Talks to end doctors' strike collapse as boycott enters 9th day

NAIROBI

DESPITE a gruelling seven-hour session that stretched into the wee hours of yesterday morning, talks between the government and striking doctors broke down again, leaving the crippling health crisis unresolved as the strike entered its ninth day.

The closed-door meeting, which began at 5pm on Thursday, was held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC).

After the meeting, both sides addressed the media separately reading from different scripts.

The Head of Public Service Felix Kosgey said officially there was no strike; the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Union (KMPDU) officials insisted their nationwide strike was still on.

The Employment and Labour Relations Court had on Wednesday directed the parties involved in the negotiations to end the strike and attend the Thursday meeting to alleviate the suffering of patients who are unable to access medical services, including basic and emergency services in various public hospitals across the country.

The meeting was expected to address the issues raised by KMPDU in its strike notice.

Other parties attending the talks as ordered by the court included cabinet secretaries Njuguna Ndung'u

(Treasury), Moses Kuria (Public Service), Florence Bore (Labour and Social Protection) as well as representatives of the Public Service Commission (PSC), Salaries and Remuneration Commission and the Council of Governors.

Just before journalists were escorted out of the negotiating room, Koskei, the convener of the meeting, made a last-ditch effort to broker peace.

He urged both sides to find an amicable solution to the ongoing strike.

Linus Kariuki, the chairman of the mediation committee, then outlined the 19 key grievances that had fuelled the union's strike.

These grievances included lack of

comprehensive medical cover, persistent delays in posting and paying interns, and mismanagement of the internship programme.

The doctors also demanded adequate funding for the health sector, with a specific budget commitment of Ksh425 billion.

Koskei said: "As you know, we have been here since 5pm following the court order that we meet here with KMPDU and other stakeholders. We have had intense and cordial discussions on many issues. One thing that was very clear was that there were 19 issues that caused the strike and we went through them and agreed that they could be resolved amicably. There

are some for the districts, some for the national government, some for specific hospitals."

The parties agreed to form a 13-member committee, with four representatives from the union, three from the Ministry of Health and the rest from key stakeholders such as the Council of Governors.

Over the next few days, the committee will frame the 19 issues and categorise them into either county-level concerns, national government responsibilities or specific hospitals identified by the union.

The union says that most of the issues it has raised remain unresolved, "with no commitment".

Dr Davji Atella, Secretary General of

KMPDU said: "The CBA we are seeking is a court order from seven years ago, and the basic salary we want implemented is from 600 days ago."

The government now says that the doctors are expected to return to work today, following a court order to stop the strike, but the KMPDU is adamant that it will call off the strike once it has a return-to-work formula.

"It is very difficult when there is no commitment on the 19 issues. When we are on strike like this, we don't take promises seriously. When you have 19 issues and there's no commitment, there's no goodwill. It's like a stale cheque. But the most important thing is that we are talking," the general secretary offered.



Construction of a storm drain gets well under way beside a newly built road in Mbulu District, Manyara Region, as found earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Tinubu suspends public-funded trips by senior officials overseas

ABUJA

NIGERIA'S president Bola Tinubu will from April 1st place a three-month ban on ministers and other government officials from publicly funded overseas travel. This is aimed at curbing government spending on foreign trips.

This decision comes as a response to President Tinubu's concerns regarding the escalating costs associated with such trips by public officials. His chief of staff highlighted the necessity of this move against the backdrop of mounting travel expenses incurred by the government.

Criticism has been directed at President Tinubu and his administration for their frequent international visits. Particularly contentious was the sponsorship of over 400 individuals to attend the COP28 climate conference in Dubai last November, drawing ire, particularly on social media platforms.

Since assuming office in May 2023, President Tinubu has embarked on more than 15 foreign trips. Reports indicate that his expenditure on both domestic and foreign travel surpassed budgeted amounts, with figures reaching 3.4 billion naira (\$2.2 million; £1.8 million) in the first half of his presidency.

Faced with Nigeria's pressing economic challenges and the imperative of prudent fiscal management, President Tinubu's administration sees the travel ban as a necessary step. The country is grappling with severe cost-of-living crises, exacerbating widespread hardship and public discontent.

This temporary prohibition on official travel underscores President Tinubu's commitment to addressing public concerns. Earlier initiatives included a significant reduction in the size of official travel delegations, including his entourage, announced in January.

Under the upcoming ban, government officials will only be permitted to travel abroad if it is deemed essential, subject to President Tinubu's approval at least two weeks in advance. The objective is to ensure officials prioritize their core responsibilities for effective service delivery.

However, while tightening regulations on official travel, President Tinubu has not indicated whether he will scale back his trips. His administration has previously defended his international engagements as crucial for addressing economic challenges and advancing national interests.

## Curfew extended in Haiti's capital as gang violence escalates

PORT-AU-PRINCE

THE curfew in Ouest, one of Haiti's ten departments was yesterday extended until today, authorities said.

Gang violence continues to escalate in the south-central department which hosts the jurisdictional seat of the capital city.

The escalating violence and unrest have severely disrupted daily life in Port-au-Prince.

The turmoil has left at least dozens dead, displacing thousands who seek refuge wherever they can find it.

"Some people who have no choice but to flee their home, some of them go into

the school, the public school, to use them for shelter. And some hospitals, the main hospital in Port-au-Prince, is not really operational from our visit. The hospital is like empty. There are no nurses, there are no doctors to take care of patients and the patients don't go to the main hospital of Port-au-Prince to

look for care," China Global Television Network (CGTN) reporter Wilner Bossou said.

The violence has deepened Haiti's political crisis and prompted Prime Minister Ariel Henry to pledge that he will resign, a key demand of the gangs.

Since late February, armed gangs have attacked public

institutions including the capital's police stations and the international airport which remains closed.

During the curfew and state of emergency imposed in early March, "the police are ordered to use all legal means at their disposal" to enforce order.

Armed groups have dis-

rupted fuel supplies, preventing fuel trucks from entering the strategic Varreux fuel terminal in Haiti's capital and leaving gas stations deserted.

"As for the gas station, for the past two weeks, there was a gas shortage, which led multiple people, the population to bring cans,

so they can find gas to stock in order to cope with the gas shortage.

This is the situation today in Port-au-Prince, the capital, which is under attack every day. There is no day passed without listening or hearing some heavy, heavy, heavy attack and heavy guns shootings," Bossou reported.



SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

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

## Settling EAC partner states bills in shillings should be discussed

LEADING business leaders in the East African Community (EAC) zone have been coming up with much the same ideas top public officials have been asking local business leaders and experts to think about - on ways to curb the short-age of US dollars.

The East African Business Council (EABC) has floated an idea, and we still haven't heard from local experts how far it is feasible in relation to each country's needs, namely, using local currencies to settle intra-EAC trade bills, transactions or orders. This mechanism is already in place in a number of countries, India for instance; China and several others have been pushing alternative payments currency. It follows that this is not exactly a new idea, and when the EABC executive director proposed it, there was no hint in his remarks that he was suggesting something novel. Rather, he sought for policy or administrative, procedural arrangements to make this happen.

Whether decision makers will have the same view is a different matter, as much depends on how badly they need foreign exchange and how difficult it is indeed for nearby countries to obtain it.

There are trade scuffles between EAC states or neighbours where currency wasn't at issue but, rather, the need to protect one's markets against large imports. EABC strategists suggest that settling intra-EAC trade payments in local currencies helps to mitigate the depreciation of the shilling against the dollar; this partly on the premise that needing the US currency merely for paying someone in the neighbourhood rather than importing from afar is unnecessary.

When this is done merely for fashion's sake, as a traditional way of settling bills, it makes the demand for dollars excessive and not in line with the need to import goods from far-

away markets.

Yet it all depends on the currency needs of the seller, as finally it is companies and individuals - not state institutions - that conduct trade. With the litany of apps available online each passing day, central banks in the region could advisedly set up a swapping platform where exports would be able to use the facility. If this heightens ability to sell outside, or importers use it to obtain goods by privileging a seller accepting local currency payment, it works.

How far this may lead to healthy competition between regional exporters to accept payment in shillings and sell more, or demand US dollars and sell less, is knotty.

In a sense, this facility will also depend on how far traders themselves need the foreign currency they obtain, as there is plenty of foreign exchange in the parallel market. There was a time President Samia Suluhu Hassan expressed concern that tourism numbers were rising fast but with the government not seeing the flow of hard currency in commercial banks or - all the more worryingly - the central bank.

Parallel market networks ensure that during trading days, one knows where to get the best dollar price with the least inconvenience possible. Then there is also the problem of variations of sentiments across the regional bloc - for instance, as to who will gain more when trade is conducted in local currencies.

This would be largely because the levels of demand for the currencies would not be similar. It would imply that traders accept being paid in their own national currency through a deposit conversion mechanism paying in the relevant currency, rather than having a trader decide what currency to be paid in.

## PPRA zonal offices could help with 'force account' procuring

NEW zonal offices of the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) are being slotted in five major commercial centres in the country in a move intended to make public institutions obtain more of its services with enhance ease and convenience.

The offices have been opened in Arusha, Mbeya, Mtwara, Mwanza and Tabora, and that might be the starting point, as ideally it is possible that the agency needs offices in all regions - even districts - across the country. It would largely depend on the way procurement is organised.

Yet there are curious indications that pressure is mounting, threatening to rein in the use of the public agency's services as such but rather whether to stick to its mode of operations. Two instances from water projects could suffice in illustrating the point being made on the ground but isn't quite the policy norm as yet.

This relates to the way in which the Water ministry is saving vast amounts of money courtesy of the use of its own engineers and technicians. The usual modality is to float a tender and companies compete.

The second, a clearly salutary example, is with respect to a vow by Vice President Dr Philip Mpango only the other day that he would resign if the implementation of the Mwangi-Korogwe water supply project is not completed by the middle of the year.

The US\$300 million project, which is financed by the government in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was launched in 2014 and was lined up for completion by 2017.

It is feared that the fact that it has taken much longer than the sched-

uled three years would likely reflect crippling hurdles in the procurement model.

The procurement environment is leading to laudable initiatives by public agencies and organisations to go well beyond their call of duty by establishing commercial organisations seeking tenders with other public agencies.

The agencies usually expect privileges in obtaining tenders in that public agencies are expected to be more accountable and could be quizzed if anything goes wrong.

Rather to the contrary, the private service provider may only be summoned if there is a query, and that can be more problematic. It is unclear how promisingly PPRA is working on the issue.

Looking in particular at the Mwangi-Korogwe water project that is embarrassing to the VP, the answer doesn't appear to be the proximity of PPRA offices but rather the suitability of the agency's model of procurement.

Perhaps it can take time to sit down and examine the technical potential in government departments and agencies, in particular with regard to their core functions, to maximise potential there first.

This tendering and outsourcing predilection was in a sense a shortcut brought up by multilateral agencies chiefly to ease monitoring and supervision by local authorities unable to determine how ministries deploy their staff, working schedules, etc.

With foreign aid diminishing and demand for infrastructure quite high, tendering is getting increasingly slippery, as costs cited are at times forbiddingly high.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

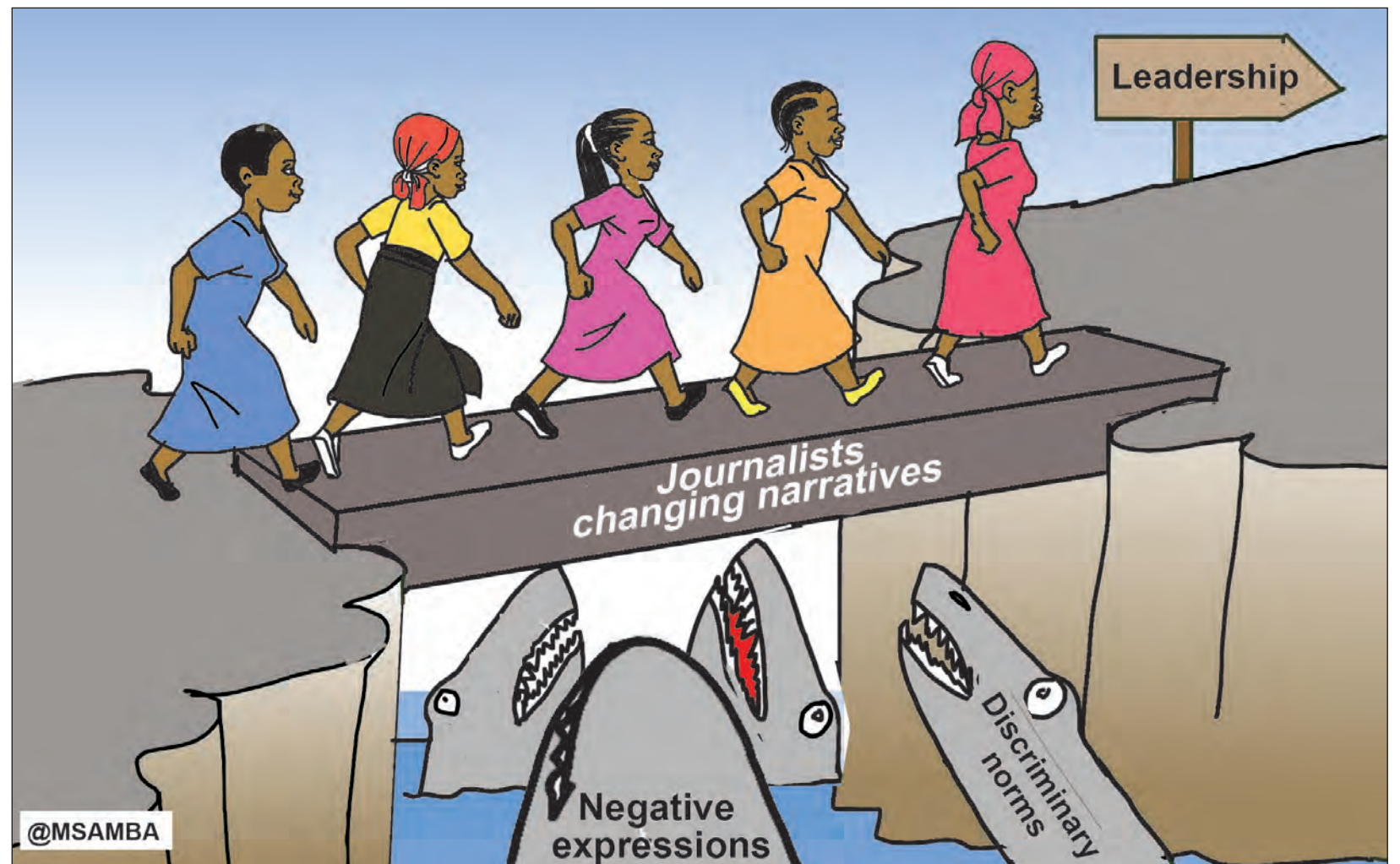
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER: DENNIS NTAITA  
feedback@guardian.co.tz

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0677 020701 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



## In the line of fire: A media executive's take on the plight of journalists in Gaza

By Lucinda Jordaan

UNPRECEDENTED times call for unprecedented interventions. As news media worldwide face calls for honest, transparent reporting, the head of one of the world's largest newsrooms is increasingly vocal about misinformation, obfuscation and the safety of his journalists. This latest World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) EDITOR TO EDITOR chat is with Phil Chetwynd, Global News Director of Agence France-Presse (AFP).

Chetwynd hit the headlines earlier this month, not only when he took the bold step of being one of the first news agencies to issue a kill notice against the manipulated image of the Princess of Wales with her children, but also in explaining why - and declaring that the Palace was no longer a trusted source.

The ensuing media furore over the Kensington Palace pictures somewhat overshadowed his more critical interventions about the plight of journalists in Gaza, and the imperative for international support.

With three big global news events in recent years, how does the challenge of covering the Gaza war stack up against covering the ongoing Ukraine war, which AFP has been covering, on the ground, "every single day for the past two years, often at great personal cost?"

Chetwynd spoke to the World Editors Forum about the challenges of managing journalists at risk.

**Question: You've described the conflict in Gaza as the 'hardest coverage' you've managed, 'in 20 years of managing big coverages,' including the Ukraine war - why?**

Gaza is obviously slightly different from Ukraine in that one major power is squaring off against an organisation which is really hidden in the population, and hidden underground. And the media in Gaza are mixed in with the population, and facing the same threats as the population.

"The difficulty with Gaza is that there's simply nowhere to go. You can escape Ukraine; you can just leave the front if you choose not to cover it or you deem it has become too dangerous. But our teams and journalists in Gaza can't do this. There is also an acceptance of a high level of civilian casualties from the Israeli side that clearly puts our staff in danger. So they are two very different scenarios.

The war in Ukraine has been a constant evolution of different threats that notably come from the use of drones, and the fact that journalists and anybody at the front can be clearly targeted. But the danger is not just at the front: you can be spied on and targeted by drones and artillery even if you are 20 kilometres from any front line.

This is a totally different type of war



from what we have covered in the past; a digital war which reflects changing technology.

**How do you respond to the allegation that Israel appears to be targeting Palestinian journalists?**

It's hard to know exactly what Israel feels about journalists working in Gaza. I think there is a tremendous trauma in Israel around the appalling October 7 attacks by Hamas, which I totally understand, and which, therefore, puts a lot of people in their eyes under suspicion. My sense is that there's a campaign of dehumanisation of Palestinian journalists and it is very hard for them to defend themselves.

They are accused of not being impartial or having links to Hamas. But at the same time, Israel will not allow the international media into the Gaza Strip to work alongside their Palestinian colleagues to bring support and validate their work.

In previous Gaza conflicts our Gaza team has been supported by colleagues from Jerusalem and other parts of the AFP network. It would certainly be harder to attack their work if international colleagues were on the ground as well and witnessing the same things.

The number of journalists killed in the current Middle East conflict is shocking, unacceptable. And there is certainly evidence that some were targeted. A series of reports into the killing of a Reuters colleague and the serious wounding of two AFP colleagues in South Lebanon on October 13 points to a high degree of targeting.

It is rare to have this level of evidence. For many of the cases in Gaza we simply do not have this level of information.

**What do you make of allegations that some Palestinian journalists**

**have links to Hamas, and even embedded with the organisation...?**

I can't speak for every organisation; I can only speak for my AFP colleagues and declare that it is absolute rubbish. There is a very deliberate smear campaign under way to undermine all the reporting that is done in Gaza. The "embedded" allegation has now been withdrawn by the pressure group that raised it, but of course, the damage is done.

Our team in Gaza has always worked hand in hand with our Jerusalem bureau; all the content from Gaza flows through our Jerusalem team. We do not pretend that our journalists in Gaza are totally free to report everything on the ground in Gaza, but we are able to use the network outside Gaza to address more sensitive issues around Hamas and its governance of Gaza.

We have journalists in many countries around the world working under authoritarian governments with varying degrees of restrictions. They all have to know how to tread the line. In this sense, there is nothing exceptional about having journalists in Gaza. There are limits to what they can report, but there remains a great deal they can report.

**How does ALL of this impact actual reporting and coverage - and our understanding of it?**

These unsubstantiated allegations put tremendous pressure on our people. Of course, they feel as if they are put in a position where the onus is on them to prove something that they are not responsible for. It's one thing defending yourself against a concrete allegation - but how do you provide proof about the way you are alleged to think?

Many journalists are accused of having links to Hamas. But the whole territory has been governed by Ha-

mas for the past two decades. The job of journalists in Gaza is to report on the territory.

And so, of course, your work will bring you into contact with Hamas officials and leaders. You will attend government press conferences and there will be pictures of you with Hamas officials. But what does that prove? You are simply doing your job.

Again, I would stress that I am talking about our AFP staff who work according to the rules of an international news agency. This blanket questioning and attacking of their work puts them in danger.

**What would you want the world to know about journalists in Gaza now?**

The most important thing to bear in mind is that all of our AFP staff have lost friends, family members and colleagues in this war. Several members of our team have each lost more than 20 members of their extended families. And nearly all of them have seen their homes destroyed. The AFP office, a second home for many of our staff and a place of refuge, has also been almost totally destroyed by a strike.

I think they are managing to report because they didn't have time to stop and reflect on the enormity of what has happened to them. I think if they did, they would probably collapse.

*\* After starting out in British regional newspapers, Phil Chetwynd began his career at AFP as a correspondent in the Middle East and Asia before going on to hold some of the top editorial jobs at the agency, including chief Asia editor and global editor-in-chief. As AFP's Global News Director he leads the agency's 1,700 journalists based in some 150 countries.*



By Telesphor Magobe

# International Day of Forests invites us to care for nature



**L**AST week we briefly looked at sections 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Law of the Child Act (R.E. 2019), which provide for the duty to maintain child, parental duty and responsibility and the child's right to parental property. The idea behind looking at these sections was to show that, those sections are not fully complied with.

As a result, children are forced by circumstances to run away from home and live on the streets where they experience untold suffering and misery, while they are entitled to live with their parents and is the duty of a parent, guardian or any other person having custody of a child to maintain the child and ensure the child has the right to food, shelter, clothing, medical care, including immunisation, education and guidance, liberty and play and leisure.

All these are needed for the child's full development and wellbeing. It suffices to say that there is a need for exemplary moral rectitude and child upbringing so that children enjoy their upbringing with their parents or guardians and become responsible and law-abiding adults.

Today I invite you to look at International Day of Forests which is marked each on March 21. On Thursday, Tanzania joined other countries across the world to mark International Day of Forests. Various groups of people participated in raising public awareness of environmental conservation and in tree-planting.

This year's theme is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World."

## The Law and You



There are global and national efforts to conserve nature and mitigate nature-related hazards. The situation as it is today threatens terrestrial species due to climate change effects and the most contributing agents are humans.

Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in April 2020, recalling a Spanish proverb that 'God always forgives, humans sometimes forgive, but nature never forgives', said: 'If we have deteriorated the earth, the response will be very ugly...We see these natural tragedies, which are the earth's response to our maltreatment.'

Tanzania is not spared when it comes to environmental degradation and pollution and their devastating effects on humans and nature.

Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment in Policy Brief No 4 of June 2023 says that: "The

world's dry lands, which are home to three billion people in 169 states and cover almost half of the earth's land, are under severe threat from drought, land degradation and desertification (DLDD). Dry lands provide fuel, food, building materials and numerous ecosystem services, including water filtration and retention and carbon sequestration. They hold 44 per cent of the world's croplands, half of the world's livestock and rich biodiversity."

Special Rapporteur says further that while desertification is not a new phenomenon, due to human actions, it is happening at about 30-35 times the historical rate, between 2015 and 2019, the world lost at least 100 million hectares of healthy and productive land every year, affecting food and water security globally.

"If desertification and land degradation continue at a similar rate, more than one billion hectares of productive land will be degraded by 2030. Even more daunting is an

estimate that 95 per cent of the planet's land area could be degraded by 2050 unless preventive and remedial steps are implemented, beginning immediately. This is a silent, invisible crisis that is destabilising communities on a global scale."

Climate Change Synthesis Report 2023 notes that human activities, especially through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1 Celsius above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. "Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued increasing, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production across regions, between and within countries, and among individuals."

As a consequence, the report says, widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean and on the earth's surface that supports life (biosphere) have occurred. "Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected."

Therefore, there are reasons for worrying and taking action otherwise our own existence will be in jeopardy. We can take action in small things like planting trees, protecting water sources and using water resources sparingly. We can also keep the environment clean - so that we don't pollute it. International Day of Forests reminds us of this noble duty if at all we want nature to care for us. Otherwise, it will never forgive us.

**Today's proverb: "God always forgives, humans sometimes forgive, but nature never forgives."**

**The author is a Dar es Salaam-based lawyer. He can be reached at t22magobe@gmail.com**

# Ending tuberculosis by 2030: Multi-stakeholders' efforts vital in realising ambitious target

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

**T**HE World Tuberculosis Day (TB) is commemorated each year on March 24th for purposes of raising public awareness on the devastating health, social and economic consequences of the deadly disease. The day is also commemorated to step up multi-stakeholders efforts to end the global epidemic. This year's theme is 'Yes! We can end TB!'

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that globally, 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2022; 75 million lives were saved since 2000 by global efforts to end TB while 1.3 million people died of the disease in the same year.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) No. 3:3 emphasizes the need to end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

Many people are affected by TB in the African continent. In sub-Saharan African countries - Ethiopia, DR Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Tanzania, TB hits the people aged between 25 and 44 years.

In Tanzania, a number of initiatives are being taken by the government and stakeholders to ensure TB services are accessible to every citizen.

Last year, Prime Minister Kassim Mjaliwa launched the Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB (MAF-TB) to accelerate progress to end the epidemic by 2030. The framework seeks to enhance collaboration and accountability from all key stakeholders including policy makers towards the target.

WHO estimates for 2022, Tanzania is among the 30 countries with the highest TB burden, with at least 71 Tanzanians dying each day from TB. MAF-TB is expected to address the gaps within the TB programming, finding undiagnosed people with TB and linking them to quality care.

According to WHO, TB-related mortality has fallen by 55 percent from 55,000 in 2015 to 25,800 in 2022. There is a decrease in new infections from 306 patients per 100,000 people to 208 patients per 100,000 people, a decrease of 32 percent.

The disease was the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious disease killer after COVID-19 worldwide in 2021.

The Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA) in collaboration with Stop TB-The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) are working to ensure TB services are accessible to the population including the vulnerable mostly in Dar es Salaam and Coast Region.

The two organisations have since April 6th, last year agreed to jointly implement a one year project dubbed Empowering Communities and Equitable TB Services (ECE-TB Project).

UNOPS is a subsidiary organ established by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a central resource for the UN system in procurement, contracts management and other capacity development activities.

PASADA and Stop TB/UNOPS have injected \$79,998 through ECE-TB Project to ensuring high-quality diagnosis and treatment for people with TB.

In an interview with The Guardian, Jackline Mwaipaja, ECE-TB Project Manager said: "We have achieved our



**Cayus Mrina, Executive Director of the Pastoral Activities and Services for people with Aids Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA). Photo: Correspondent Mary Kadoke**

goals in the area of Community Lead Monitoring (CLM) where through the project we have implemented it with impacts. CLM is a digital platform that enables our client to access the organisation progress as well as being able to present their challenges."

PASADA has also succeeded in the area of Community Human Rights and Gender Part as 622 vulnerable people were offered with diagnosis services and treatment support, said Mwaipaja highlighting that drug addicts have also benefited from the project. A total of 366 people have been reached.

"Towards commemorations of the World TB Day, Tanzanians should be aware that TB is curable and

preventable just like the theme states-"Yes We Can End TB!", she asserted, adding that in nine months from April to December 2023 they managed to identify 919 TB cases in which 111 were children below 15 years (12 percent). Of the number, 256 were co-infected.

Elaborating on how the \$79,998 milestone has helped to boost TB services in the country, Mwaipaja noted that \$47,998 was disbursed upon signing of the grant support agreement with the second disbursement of \$16,000 scheduled for approval upon receipt of an interim narrative progress report and an interim financial report.

She said the last disbursement of \$16,000 will be injected in the project upon completion of activi-

ties and acceptance of a final narrative report, case study and certified financial report on the use of grant funds.

Stop TB is a global, multi-stakeholder partnership that seeks to achieve a world without tuberculosis through facilitating, catalysing and coordinating the work of its partners through the Secretariat of the Stop TB Partnership based in Geneva, Switzerland.

PASADA is a social service agency operating under the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam that began in August 1992 when a small group of people with HIV gathered to seek mutual aid and support. Currently, the organisation has 28,601 beneficiaries.



# Innovation can save the world's remaining biodiversity

By John Dutton

**T**HE concept of biodiversity may be broad and complex, encompassing all life-forms on our planet and the finely-tuned ecosystems they inhabit. But beneath this complexity lies a simple, stark reality: without this biodiversity, humanity is in deep, deep trouble.

From the food we eat to the air we breathe, biodiversity nurtures all the processes needed for us to sustain healthy, happy lives. Take, for instance, pollinators – birds, bees, and various insects – which contribute to a staggering one-third of global crop production. Coral reefs and mangroves, meanwhile, serve as natural shields protecting coastal regions from the wrath of violent storms.

## Positive tailwinds for biodiversity

Research from the World Economic Forum shows that \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world's total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services. However, this vital natural capital, the lifeblood of the global economy, is under severe threat of degradation and eventual exhaustion, with almost 70% of the world's biodiversity lost in the past five decades and one million species on the brink of extinction.

Meanwhile, the funding necessary to curb biodiversity loss and facilitate the shift towards sustainable methods of production and consumption, pivotal for the restoration and revitalization of nature, currently falls short by an alarming \$700 billion per year.

But there is hope that irreversible, catastrophic biodiversity loss can be avoided. There is potential for a “win-win-win” for nature, people and the economy and (in some quarters at least) indicators show that we are heading in the right direction.

For starters, we are seeing action being taken at the policy level. In England, for example, new laws have been introduced which will force builders to contribute to positive improvements in natural ecosystems for new projects undertaken.

The European Union's Nature Restoration Law, meanwhile, has set a target for the EU to restore at least 20% of its land and sea areas by 2030, with a commitment to restoring all ecosystems in need by 2050.

There are biodiversity champions in the private sector, too. Recognizing the value of nature, over 300 companies have embraced the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) recommendations, integrating nature-centric disclosure into their corporate reporting.

## Biodiversity-focused innovators taking root

However, reversing biodiversity loss and safeguarding our planet's future will require more than just political will and corporate commitments. It will also take a momentous shift in our approach to innovation.

By harnessing the power of technology and collaboration, innovative solutions are being developed to address the root causes of biodiversity decline. From new ways to measure and monitor biodiversity to solutions that strengthen local value chains, innovation offers a pathway towards creating a more resilient and biodiverse world.

Innovations like NatureMetrics, a UK-based start-up that uses cutting-edge genetic techniques to monitor and report on biodiversity. NatureMetrics collects and analyzes “environmental DNA”, traces of DNA that organisms leave as they move through the environment. The company then feeds this data into interactive maps, charts and dashboards for businesses, governments and NGOs around the world so they can reliably measure and track investments in biodiversity.

Another purpose-driven start-up that is using new ways of monitoring biodiversity is Boomittra, a US-company that uses artificial intelligence and remote sensing to report and verify carbon content in soils.



Boomittra works with farmers to adopt agricultural practices that accelerate carbon removal from their land, and quantifies the carbon captured to generate verified carbon credits which the start-up can sell to corporations and governments eager to meet their sustainability goals. The company currently manages over five million acres of land and was one of the recent recipients of the Earthshot Prize.

Elsewhere, other groups of innovators are helping companies understand the value of investing in the protection and restoration of nature. Terrasos, for example, is a Colombia-based start-up has been a pioneer in funding mechanisms like biodiversity credits and habitat banks, and partners with private landowners to conserve and restore land that has been damaged by activities like cattle, mining and agriculture.

Virridius Terra's TreesofLife platform, meanwhile, uses biotechnology to restore highly-degraded land, lowering the cost of restoration, reforestation and nature-based carbon removal, while also generating returns for its customers.

Other entrepreneurs are bringing “positive dis-

ruption” to value chains and making a significant socio-economic impact. COOPAVAM is a smallholder farmer cooperative in Brazil that works closely with Indigenous collectors in the Amazon. The cooperative pays the collectors up to 80% more than commercial middlemen, while also providing equipment, training, technical support and advance payments to finance trips into the forest.

An emerging innovation ecosystem approach All of these early-stage start-ups are UpLink Top Innovators, selected by the World Economic Forum's open innovation platform and its partners to receive targeted support to scale their solutions. Top Innovators are proof that some of the promising solutions needed to halt biodiversity loss already exist – but we need more of them, at greater speed and scale, to reverse this accelerating trend.

To quicken the pace of change, UpLink is building innovation ecosystems around these much-needed entrepreneurs. This week, UpLink's latest Innovation Challenge—the Biodiversity Challenge—will be launched at the Villars Institute Summit, where over

70 innovators, investors, experts and partners from the UpLink community will gather for a high-impact programme aimed at advancing solutions to the biodiversity and climate crises.

Launched in partnership with It.org and Mercuria, the Biodiversity Challenge calls for innovative solutions that promote the conservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, while enabling the maintenance of services that are crucial for the health of terrestrial ecosystems.

Unlocking the full potential of innovation to reduce biodiversity loss will require collective action: from businesses who must integrate nature-centric practices into their operations and investors who can mobilize natural capital, to governments who should enact and enforce policies that prioritize biodiversity conservation.

The clock is ticking to save the world's remaining biodiversity. But we are starting to see the making of a new story – one where innovators are charting a new path to a nature positive world. Let's not miss the boat.

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Panel on Sudan offers peace resolutions but faces multiple obstacles

By Hubert Kinkoh

SUDAN'S 11-month civil war is arguably the worst internal conflict in Africa. Up to 14,000 people have died and the displacement crisis is the largest in the country's history. At least eight million people have fled their homes and around 25 million – about half the population – need humanitarian assistance and protection.

The war has also reignited hostilities in historically unstable parts of Sudan, particularly Darfur and Kordofan, aggravating the volatile Horn of Africa and Central African regions.

Diplomatic efforts to negotiate peace between General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and General Mohamed Hamdan 'Hemedti' Dagalo's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) are in disarray. Ongoing initiatives have been largely uncoordinated, bureaucratic and focused on gun-wielding belligerents to the exclusion of civilian representatives.

The African Union (AU) has been criticised for its inability to end the war. In a bid to turn things around, AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat appointed a high-level panel on Sudan in January. Under the leadership of Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the panel will work with civilian and military forces, and regional and global actors, including the region's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), United Nations (UN) and League of Arab States.

However, given the AU's approach to the crisis thus far, many doubt that the panel can move the needle closer to ending this complex conflict. Several other AU and

development partner efforts have so far largely failed.

The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) has repeatedly condemned the fighting, calling for a ceasefire and inclusive dialogue, and urging Mahamat to engage the warring parties. The AU Commission developed the May 2023 roadmap for resolving the conflict and created a mechanism on Sudan and a core group to harmonise efforts by all actors.

However, these measures haven't led to concrete engagements with Sudanese partners or reduced fighting between the two military forces. The most significant effort to date has been the Jeddah process driven largely by external stakeholders – but it too has failed to prevent the conflict from escalating.

## African Union high-level panel

The new AU panel has several strengths. With members from Ghana, Uganda and Somalia, its regional diversity addresses perceptions in Sudan that Horn actors lack neutrality. Also, Chambas' experience in Sudan – having headed the AU-UN Mission in Darfur – will increase the panel's understanding of the complexities.

However, diplomats and observers question the panel's political muscle and its ability to bring warring generals to the negotiating table. An Addis Ababa-based diplomat believed the panel's weight could have been enhanced by including a sitting or retired head of state. Some analysts who requested anonymity said it was merely another AU attempt to appear to be taking action.



High-Level Panel on Sudan chair Mohamed Chambas

The ongoing battle for supremacy between the two generals and their military factions will complicate the panel's ability to deliver. Sudan's withdrawal from Igad, the SAF's decision to leave talks and stage more offensives against the RSF, and recent RSF military advances in Wad Madani, Khartoum, and western Darfur could also frustrate peace efforts. And Hemedti's reception by some African countries could spur Burhan to question African-led efforts, including those of the new panel.

The Addis Ababa declaration signed in January between Sudan's former prime minister Abdalla Hamdok's Coordination of Civil Democratic Forces and the RSF further dashes prospects for the panel's work. While it proposes a roadmap for peace, excluding the

SAF could be interpreted as a de facto legitimisation of the RSF amid intense contestation by both factions.

Despite the many obstacles it faces, the panel is a crucial AU-led effort that requires financial and political support from the AU Commission and external partners. This will help it to engage with regional and international actors and bring the generals and their factions to the table.

The formation of the panel is timely given Burhan's resistance to Igad interventions and objection to talks with Hemedti. The panel should seize any opportunity to use quiet diplomacy with both generals to renegotiate conditions for a resolution. It should engage high-level stakeholders rather than rely on proxies and representatives, and could use the AU's convening power

to include broader Sudanese stakeholders, spoilers and funders of factions.

Through the panel and Igad, the AU should push for civilian participation in the Jeddah talks and focus not only on ceasefire negotiations and humanitarian assistance but on discussions on political issues. That could avoid past mistakes by providing a transitional government architecture and implementation plan based on citizens' aspirations. DM

# Govt woos investors in SGR transport operations and service provision

By Guardian Correspondent

PLAYERS in the private sector have been encouraged to grab opportunities in the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) transport operations, an initiative that would help in job creation and contribute to economic development.

This comes as several construction projects of the SGR are ongoing, while the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro SGR commuter train is set to start operation in July this year.

The government revised Railway Act No. 10 of 2017 to establish a strategic plan to incorporate the private sector in the operation and supply of transport services through the railway infrastructure in an effort to implement the industrial policy and stimulate development in the country.

Director General of the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), Masanja Kadogosa said the government recognises the importance of the participation of the private sector in economic activities.

He made the call recently in Dar es Salaam that through this approach, the public and private sectors will be connected, improving the nation's business environment and transportation efficiency.

He said the government has opened doors for the private sector to invest in the railway in order to stimulate competition and economic development.

"We invest potential investors in the railway including SGR, if you decide to come with wagons or locomotives, it is okay because our laws allow this and what we want is to stimulate quality and timely transportation," Kadogosa added.

Kadogosa said that the sixth phase government under the leadership of President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan will continue to ensure the presence



of a friendly environment for investment and investors in the railway sector.

"I would like to assure you that the TRC will continue to manage, coordinate and ensure that the railway infrastructure is improved and all projects are completed on time," he added.

He said upon completion, the SGR will increase freight services whereby the railway will have the capacity to carry up to 10,000 tonnes of cargo per trip which is about 500 cargo trucks where there is room for private sector engagement.

"With continuous collaboration, the Railway Corporation can sustain its operations by generating revenue from the private sector, having

enough locomotives, wagons, and railway lines, as well as providing quick, safe, and effective transportation. Additionally, the government will make extra money by selling the items to nearby nations and receiving foreign currency," he explained.

Kadogosa also said that once connected to the landlocked countries like Uganda, DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi the nation will have access to a market of over 300 million people in the region.

The construction of modern dry ports and cargo train marshalling yards in Isaka in Shinyanga, Fela in Mwanza, Katosho in Kigoma, Kwala in Coast, and Ihumwa in Dodoma will greatly facilitate the transit of commodities to Uganda, Burundi,

Congo and Rwanda.

He said SGR is the most widely used railway track gauge across the world, with approximately 55 percent of the lines in the world using it since it can transport more passengers and cargo at high speed compared to Meter gauge Railway (MGR) which has been in use in Tanzania since the colonial era.

Tanzania is the first country in the East African Community (EAC) to undertake an SGR project which uses both diesel and electric-powered locomotives and can accommodate passenger trains travelling at 160 kilometres per hour.

He mentioned opportunities include investment in matters of

construction of railway infrastructure, provision of operational services as well as real estate along the railways.

He asked all stakeholders who wished to work with the corporation to show up in large numbers in sending applications and they will work on them.

Recently, Minister for Works and Transport, Prof Makame Mbarawa said the government has seen it important to allow private sectors to participate in transport operations of the SGR.

"This will also include those who can buy locomotives or passenger carriages to enter the transportation of passengers and goods. This project will benefit everyone in

their way," he said.

Speaking when a team of 32 party chairpersons from all regions in Mainland and Zanzibar and several Central Committee members toured the Dar es Salaam-Dodoma SGR section, Prof Mbarawa said the government aims to strengthen the transport sector which will involve the private sector to expand the economy by enabling people's movement across the country.

He said the SGR is expected to boost the agriculture sector through the transportation of farm produce from upcountry to urban areas as well as to reduce carbon emissions compared to diesel-powered trains used by other countries in the region.

Prof Mbarawa said before the railway was designed for a speed of 120 km per hour but they received views from stakeholders to increase the speed, therefore they changed it to 160 km per hour.

"Stakeholders were concerned why we were building a railway system that will use diesel instead of electricity and after consulting experts, we came up with this model project which has also attracted the attention of other countries," Prof Mbarawa said.

"We are now going to link Tanzania with other countries such as Burundi, Congo and Rwanda," he added.

Geographically, Tanzania serves as a link between major cities in a number of its neighboring countries, such as Kampala in Uganda, Bujumbura in Burundi, Kigali in Rwanda, Nairobi in Kenya and Lubumbashi in Congo. As a result of the SGR railway's operation, these cities' economies will continue to expand quickly both domestically and throughout the East and Middle African Countries.



# Has 'golden' traditional taarab music lost its vibe to modern-day varieties?

By Correspondent Peter Muthamia

IT is perhaps during the heyday of the late Nasma Khamis Kidogo, that Taarab genre of music took a completely different shape, not just in its composition and lyrics, but also in its application of music instruments.

It was she and the now, the reigning 'Queen' of mipasho (sarcastic brand of music), Khadija Kopa, who bestrode the 'modern' Taarab industry like a colossus that brought about the gist of the so-called modern taarab. The two voices were staple music, filled with messages, some of that was deriding, for the hungry consumers who enjoyed them, and used it to ridicule each other. Then came the likes of Isha Mashauzi, Mzee Yussuf and others.

In the meantime, the Taarab asilia (traditional), arguably the first recorded music to be played by Siti Bint Saad and her group that began making commercial recordings in 1928, making them the first to achieve the feat, started fading out even Zanzibar where it all started. There are however, some remnants of taarab asilia lovers especially in Zanzibar where taarab was born.

Taarab asilia is different from modern taarab in that performers' lyrics have meaning and do not extend beyond the socially accepted norms of morality. The lyrics require serious knowledge of Kiswahili language and fertile imagination to help one understand the underlying messages.

And again, taarab asilia is generally not danced to. The singer unleashes covert messages to the audience, and it is the listeners who will decipher the wordings and make sense out of them. The modern taarab is explicit and addresses issues, be they love, relationships or social, in a more direct way and the audiences derive pleasure and meaning from the genre's paradoxical presentation.

Jahazi modern taarabu is a music group formed by Mzee Yusuf. Many of Jahazi Modern Taarab songs become very popular and trendy at the time and still are. Other singers like Isha Mashauzi aka 'Queen of melodies' is a vocalist who sings and performs Taarab music.

But according to Khadija Koppa, nothing much has changed. There existing diehard consumers of taarab asilia and indeed, even the modern taarab groups play taarab asilia but only differently.

It is said that of the taarab genre, as brought to the Zanzibar coast by Sultan Said Barghash, who ruled Zanzibar from 1870 to 1888. The sultan, who loved music, brought a group of Egyptian musicians, who started teaching the local musicians.

While modern taarab genre is a dancehall type of music that is danceable, the taarab asilia was never danced to. Audiences would sit and ruminate on the wisdom of the lyrics, nod their heads and go their way. Doyens of taarab asilia include Fatuma binti Baraka (Bi Kidude).

Siti and the Band, is a taarab asilia band from Zanzibar that has been together since February 2016. Buoyed by intense love for the taarab traditional asilia, they play the renditions of old taarab and Afro Fusion play Kidumbaki, Afro Jazz and more using instruments like oud and qanun.

According to Amina Omar Juma (Siti Amina) of Siti and the Band, the glaring difference between the two genres are the themes ensonced in the music and the instruments played.

"The lyrics, the message in the songs and the instruments make the biggest difference. Taarab asilia makes use of decent language that can be enjoyed by the audience of all ages. Modern taarab is more overt, and can be a little uncomfortable for the moral type," she said.

Modern taarab is indeed not taarab. It is a fusion of beats that encapsulate Congo rhythms and beats.

"Even if we play music, the element of the roots of the music is important to be adhered to. Something about music is that just like everything else, it has to grow. We the artists need to understand that taarab is ours and help it to grow. Unlike in Dar es Salaam where modern taarab seems



'Modern' taarab singer, songwriter an actress Khadija Omar Abdallah Kopa.

to have obliterated the music scene, in Zanzibar, the taarab asilia genre is still popular. Taarab music has deep roots and is believed to have started in the Zanzibar Town off the East African coast," she added.

The only difference between taarab asilia and modern taarab, according to Khadija Koppa, are the instruments used. The traditional taarab made use of Egyptian qanun (a 72-string zither that is flat and is plucked like a harp). Other traditional instruments include drums, violins, clavies, tambourines, taishakoto (banjo) and others. Taarab asilia musicians play specific instruments, which help to give the music its unique sound and feel that is unique and gives a relaxed pentatonic rhythm.

"Taarab asilia mostly makes use of the traditional instruments such as qanun (a 72-string zither which lies flat and is plucked like a harp),

drums, violins, clavies, tambourines and others while the instruments uses electrical instruments including keyboards, electrical guitars and mixers. The only difference is the types of instruments used," she said.

Jahazi Modern Taarabu is currently among the leading Taarabu group in Tanzania. Mzee Yusuf teams up with his sister Khadija Yusuf, his wife and other members of the group.

### The face of taarab asilia Siti Bint Saad

It is Ali Muhsin of Nadiikhwani Safa, a Taarab group that played music for the Sultan that recognized Siti's gift and decided to teach her to sing along to the group's Taarab instrumentals. She also played the tari or rika.

She was the first woman to perform in Swahili - a novelty at the time. Siti paved war for female musicians performing the coastal towns of Tanzania and

Kenya breaking the wide-held belief that taarab was a male business.

Siti's musical talent went beyond the borders of East Africa. Between 1928 and 1950, she recorded over 150 records at the Columbia Music Recording Company, based in Mumbai, India. She became both a tourist and cultural attraction as people flocked to Zanzibar just to see her. She introduced Indian dancing style called natiki.

### Bi Kidude

Another female pioneer of Taarab was Bi Kidude, born Fatuma binti Baraka in the 1910s (her exact birthdate is unknown) in Mfagimaringo Village, also in Zanzibar. By the 1920s, Bi Kidude had already started singing with local Taarab groups. At the tender age of 13, the talented singer fled Zanzibar to Tanzania to escape a forced marriage.

# RADIO One

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



## BUSINESS

## IFAD launches multi-donor fund to tackle triple crisis



Displaced woman affected by climate change tends to her potato field. Photo: UNHCR/Hélène Caux

By Guardian Reporter

IN a substantial and proactive effort to combat the confluence of challenges posed by the triple threats of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has recently inaugurated the Multi-Donor Funding Facility (MDFF).

A statement released yesterday and made available to this paper, indicates that the facility will channel funding that will support small-scale farmers to adapt to climate change while also increasing food production and improving livelihood opportunities and social cohesion in rural communities.

The \$100 million facility will pave the way for expansion of activities in the target countries and potentially scale to new ones, serving as IFAD's main programmatic initiative and investment vehicle across the Sahel.

The MDFF is open to both IFAD member states and others, such as bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations, and the private sector.

"The Programme has established good practice as an innovative solution for enhanced donor cooperation in fragile contexts. The new funding facility will bring efficiencies and cost savings in line with experience from similar facilities established and managed to date," said Norman Messer, IFAD Regional Manager.

Adding that: "It will also ensure that actions that are better taken at regional level because they address cross-border issues are adequately funded."

Approved in 2021, the six-year programme with a total cost of \$180,400,000 was designed in 2020 at the request of five countries namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger and Senegal.

It aims to address the triple crises of climate change, COVID and conflict in

the region. This unique, joint implementation approach by FAO, IFAD, and WFP (known as the Rome-based agencies or RBAs), with implementation roles for regional producer organizations has shown great potential, aiming to reach 854,750 rural people.

After two years of implementation, the program has been reaching some of the most vulnerable population groups, such as internally displaced people, and households that are chronically food insecure.

They have benefited from the distribution of inputs, such as small livestock, improved seeds and market garden equipment, or assets or cash in exchange for labour to rehabilitate degraded soils, accompanied by capacity-building activities.

Additionally, most participating countries have launched activities supporting economic integration, such as marketplace infrastructure and information systems, storage, and processing facilities.

The MDFF will promote knowledge management and sharing lessons for enhanced longer-term impact, especially for youth and women.

Efforts include strengthening synergies, through the facilitation of exchanges of technical expertise, and innovative solutions and knowledge, contributing to the overall goal of achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The ambition of putting in place the MDFF is that of making a significant contribution to tackle one of the root causes of youth out-migration, food insecurity, conflicts, and insecurity in many rural areas, namely, the lack of sufficient investment aimed at creating economic opportunities locally.

## World Bank boosts Tanzania with \$50m for public finance, procurement revamp

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank (WB) has given the green light for fresh funding to bolster Tanzania's revenue management, revamp public procurement procedures, and enhance resource allocation and audit efficiency.

Introducing the exciting new \$50 million Public Finance Management and Procurement Systems for Service Delivery Program, aimed at enhancing Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar's ability to mobilize and manage public resources on a national scale.

A statement issued yesterday by WB and made available to this journalist, indicated that the funding initiative will boost institutional capacity, efficiency, transparency, and accountability, with the ultimate goal of improving service delivery for the people.

The operation is structured as a Program for Results (PforR), where disbursements are directly tied to the achievement of specific program results or outcomes. This innovative approach is centered



Nathan Belete, World Bank country director. File Photo

around four key result areas.

According to the statement, four result areas are expected, with one of them focusing on bolstering the government's revenue mobilization efforts by enhancing the e-filing system and launching taxpayer awareness campaigns.

The second result is dedicated to enhancing the efficiency and transparency of public procurement management, with a focus on activities such as building the capacity of the electronic government procurement system and

promoting sustainable procurement practices.

The statement further indicated that the third result area will concentrate on improving financial management through enhanced budgeting processes, including the creation of a citizens' budget in Swahili, as well as improved financial reporting.

On the other hand, the fourth area will center on promoting accountability through activities that strengthen external audit processes and enhance parliamentary oversight.

"It is commendable that the government ac-

knowledges the vital role of robust public financial management and procurement systems in driving Tanzania's development agenda, and that is why they initiated this program," said Nathan Belete, WB country director.

Adding: "While there has been important progress in this area over the past few years, it is important to continue to assess and address persisting weaknesses in order to enhance the timely delivery of public services and development operations for the benefit of citizens."

Recent PFM reforms have led to significant achievements in the sector. The rollout of electronic revenue collection systems is among the most notable, contributing to a 350 percent increase in non-tax revenue collection over the past five years.

Other important reforms include the adoption of a treasury single account, the rollout of expenditure management systems, the introduction of electronic procurement systems, the development and rollout of the central budget management in-

formation system, and the strengthening of parliamentary oversight functions.

Despite these gains, there are continuing weaknesses in core aspects of PFM such as the lack of a reliable, credible annual budget, a weak control framework, inefficiencies in revenue collection and taxpayer compliance, and shortcomings in the financial reporting of public institutions.

"Additionally, delays in procurement create significant hindrances in the timely delivery of public services and the implementation of development operations in Tanzania," said Paul Welton, WB senior financial management specialist, and co-task team leader.

He adds: "Considering that 70 percent of the country's annual budget, or \$13 billion, is spent through public procurement, any improvement in the public procurement system will result in great economic benefits to the country. Ultimately, all citizens and businesses in Tanzania will benefit from improvements in transparency, accountability, and service delivery."

## Agricultural experts strategically team up to endorse central zone as top cotton hub

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

AGRICULTURAL experts specializing in the country's cotton sub-sector are strategically focusing on maximizing efforts to significantly enhance production and productivity in the cultivation of the valuable fibre crop within the country's central zone corridor.

Dodoma and Singida stands among the regions with recommended potential climate and soil for the cultivation of the economic cash crop but relevant production has remained in low ebb due to an array of reasons, including poor agronomic practices among the farmers, as well as failure in adopting high-tech agro-machineries.

To that end, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Ukiriguru Centre and the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB) have decided to chip-in so as to bridge efforts meant to improve performance of the farmers in the two regions mapped in the country's semi-arid.

Executed through the Cotton Victoria Project (CVP), the meaningful initiative which runs through smooth partnership between TARI Ukiriguru and the government of Brazil, the major focus is to impart the agricultural extension officers in the two regions with the best practices for the cultivation of the crop.

After being empowered, the vision is to ensure each of the benefited agricultural extension officer to manage at least to reach out to a total of 10 useful farmers in their areas of jurisdictions through the well-



Dedicated cotton farmers at work in the plantation. Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

established Knowledge Transfer Unit (KTU).

Speaking the relevant training to the extension officers in Dodoma region yesterday, Dr Paul Saidia, the TARI Ukiriguru Centre director, expressed that the program will train at least 30 officers in all districts where the crop flourishes in Dodoma region.

In Dodoma, cotton is grown in the districts of Bahi, Chemba, Chamwino, Mpwapwa and Kongwa.

"We're focusing to enable the farmers to elevate their acreage production from current between 200 and 300 tons per acre to at least 1000 tons," according to him.

The project, according to Dr Saidia, majors to roll out key agronomic technologies to the extension officers as new recommended cotton planting space, of 60 centimeters from row to row, and 30 centimeters from hole to hole, bringing the number of the cotton plants to 44,444 per acre from the formal 22,222 plants.

"Other technologies incorporate

adoption of improved seed varieties, application of suitable fertilizers as well as pesticides," he added.

And as part of the initiative's package, there is introduction of a state-of-the-art planter machine, which has been designed and produced by the TARI.

"This planter, which has good working capacity is marketed to the farmers at a friendly price of 3m/,-, contrary to those imported which are sold at 8m/,-," he observed.

And he added, other technologies incorporate adoption of improved seed varieties, application of suitable fertilizers as well as pesticides.

Speaking during the inception of the training, Dodoma Region Assistant Secretary (RAS), Aziza Mumba, hailed the institutions for implementing the vital project in the region, saying the move will play key role to heighten production and productivity in the fibre crop within the region.

She unveiled that, Bahi district was leading for producing reason-

able tonnage of cotton per annum, followed by Kongwa districts, but observed that all districts of the region have potential for the mass production of the crop.

She challenged the extension officers and the farmers to use the robust project to expand and improve their production.

Cotton Victoria Project, CVP, is a brainchild of the partnership between Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI)-Ukiriguru Centre and the government of Brazil for improving the performance of the cotton sector in Tanzania.

The robust project is being implemented in cooperation with several stakeholders in the cotton value chain from within and outside the country, include the ministry of agriculture, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA), the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), and the Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB).

Among others, the initiative works to heighten the institutional capacity and human resources training in the use and dissemination of technology in the cotton production sector in the country.

## WPP Scangroup to restructure units, declare staff redundancies



Patricia Ithau, Group CEO of WPP Scangroup PLC, at a recent event in Nairobi. File Photo

By Guardian Reporter and agencies

EMPLOYEES WPP Scangroup PLC, a multinational advertising firm with operations spanning across various countries in Africa, including Tanzania, may be taken aback by the recent revelation that the company is contemplating staff layoffs and role restructuring in certain units. This decision comes in light of the challenges faced by the firm in meeting its revenue targets.

The publicly traded company has stated that its decision to restructure critical units in Kenya is a response to market demands, although macroeconomic trends may also play a significant role in this strategic move.

WPP-ScanGroup, with a presence in 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, operates majority-owned offices in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

A spokesperson from WPP Scan-

group confirmed to The Kenyan Wall Street on Wednesday that their creative business in Kenya, which also provides digital services and solutions in the advertising and communication sector, is undergoing a restructuring of its skillset composition. This includes bolstering certain areas while streamlining others.

"New roles will be created to strengthen our capabilities and build new skills in areas such as content, data, strategy, and tech;

other existing roles will be modified to reflect global best practices; and lastly some roles will reduce to enhance departmental efficiencies," the spokesperson added.

In November 2023, the firm issued a profit warning to investors. Among the reasons it cited in the notice was "continued subdued economic environment in our markets of operations that has led to cautious spending by our clients on advertising, marketing and communications." It also reported spend-

ing Kshs 178m on a one-time staff retrenchment.

In February 2024, UK media reported that WPP Scangroup could be facing potentially expensive litigation from its founder and former CEO, Bharat Thakrar, who was ousted in 2021.

Thakrar, who still owns 10 percent of the company, raised issues with his exit, which he claimed was discriminatory and designed to ruin his reputation. He is claiming damages amounting to Kshs 4.3bn.



# Kairuki enhances economic relations during Buckingham meeting with King Charles III

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

King Charles III of the United Kingdom has hosted Tanzanian High Commissioner to the UK, Mbelwa Kairuki, to a royal audience at Buckingham Palace in London, where they engaged in discussions on several mutual issues, including economic diplomacy.

The 75-year-old monarch, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, met Mbelwa Kairuki at the Buckingham palace for the formal ceremony welcoming Tanzania's top diplomat based in the UK.

In August last year, President Samia Suluhu Hassan transferred Ambassador Kairuki to London, replacing Dr Asha Migiro, whose tenure came to an end.

Two months later, following Kairuki's appointment, he presented copies of his credentials to Victoria Busby, the Head of Protocol at the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, in London.

Kairuki takes charge as top Tanzanian diplomat in UK while total trade in goods and services (exports plus imports) between the duo as of March 21, 2024, was £452 million in 2023, an increase of 31.8 percent as recorded in 2022.

According to the UK trade and investment fact sheet, out of the said £452 million, is related to the total UK exports to Tanzania which amounts to £243 million in 2023, an increase of 9.0 percent.

And for the UK imports from Tanzania amounted to £209 million in the four quarters to the end of Q3 2023 (an increase of 74.2 percent or £89 million



Tanzanian High Commissioner Mbelwa Kairuki presents his credentials to King Charles during a private audience at Buckingham palace. Photo: Jonathan Brady/PA

in current prices, compared to the four quarters to the end of

Q3 2022).

Tanzania was the UK's 114th

largest trading partner in the four quarters to the end of Q3

2023 accounting for less than 0.1 percent of total UK trade.

While in 2021, the outward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) from the UK in Tanzania was £34 million. In 2021, the inward stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the UK from Tanzania are not available due to data disclosure.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been emphasizing the importance of economic diplomacy and urging Tanzania's Ambassadors abroad to actively promote the country's abundant investment opportunities. She has highlighted the significance of leveraging bilateral relations to maximize the benefits from Tanzania's resources.

In addition, President Samia has stressed the need for envoys to capitalize on all available opportunities to attract investments and bolster the

country's economy.

She has called upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, along with the Ambassadors, to take the lead in promoting Tanzania on the global stage.

President Samia has tasked the diplomats with tapping into various opportunities in developed countries to enhance the skills and capabilities of Tanzanians, particularly in sectors such as Education, Health, and other areas requiring specialized expertise.

Furthermore, the envoys have been instructed to explore markets for Tanzanian products, with the aim of boosting export volumes for the country's cash crops and other goods. This strategic approach is expected to contribute towards the overall growth and development of Tanzania's economy.

## Company launches seed fund to support couriers

Nairobi

RIDE-HAILING platform, Bolt, in partnership with the Nest Innovation Park will offer a seed fund worth €20,000 to the ten most innovative individuals in June this year as part of its goal to support couriers.

"Ride-hailing and food delivery have always offered drivers and couriers the flexibility to earn whilst pursuing wider career opportunities. We hope this program will take it a step further and help make a real difference to local communities," said Bolt Regional director for rides Caroline Wanjihia.

The program will then determine 20 exceptional ideas that will be mentored by top-notch entrepreneurs through in-person engagement. This will enable the participants to prepare themselves for the final stage in June, where they will pitch their ideas that will be selected for funding.

"We are excited to support the concepts of our drivers and couriers and extend this program to their family members to make an even bigger impact. The Accelerator program has been an exceptional success in Nigeria, and we are thrilled to extend its impact to Kenya today," said Caroline Wanjihia.

Bolt has stated that it has launched a similar program in Ghana. The first edition was held in Nigeria in September last year. Its replication in two more African countries signals the positive reception it must have received.

The Nest Innovation Park as a hub for innovation realizes that couriers have an affinity for invention. Drivers interact with many customers, identifying gaps and opportunities in the mobility sector as well as related areas. By expanding this program to other key Bolt markets, the Nigerian hub will possibly achieve its goals of transforming ideas into economic ventures.

Bolt has been on the negative headlines over the years as the company faces occasional standoffs with its drivers over commissions. Last year, drivers in Kenya wanted the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) to decline licensing of the ride-hailing platform until it agreed to raise commission rates.

Bolt intends to find alternative ways of empowering their drivers while focusing on retaining profits. The ride-hailing industry is a competitive zone with different players across the continent looking for innovative ways to dominate market share. Part of their strategies involves guaranteeing drivers opportunities in the innovative sector.

The Kenyan Wall Street



Lilian Liundi, Executive Director of the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, during one of her advocacy initiatives. File Photo

## TGNP convenes pre-budget dialogue to advocate for gender-responsive Budget

By Francis Kajubi

The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) has organized a pre-budget dialogue in Dar es Salaam, bringing together over 200 residents from diverse social groups in preparation for the 2024/25 budget sessions set to begin next month in Dodoma. The aim is to advocate for the development of a gender-responsive budget.

TGNP organized the dialogue to raise awareness about the importance of involving all social groups in the preparation of the National Development Vision 2050. The goal is to promote inclusive and gender-responsive macroeconomic development.

Lilian Liundi, TGNPs Executive Director told the dialogue's participants yesterday in Dar es Salaam that TGNP would like to see lawmakers approving a budget that aligns with the next budget with national priorities by embracing gender responsiveness for sustainable development.

Themed "Towards preparations of 2050, invest in a gender responsive budget 2024/25", the dialogues also held a panelist session by experts in the health, education, tax and services sectors from the government and non-government organizations.

Liundi called upon the government to engage stakeholders from diverse sectors to shed insights and perspectives on the priorities and financing for the next budget, local government elections by empowering women in leadership, and in the preparation of the vision 2050.

"We urge the government to identify key gender issues to be addressed through the budgetary allocation process,

considering the needs of various sectors and marginalized groups," said Liundi.

According to her, engagement of the private sector will help enhance the alignment of the next budget with national priorities and agreements to ensure its effectiveness in addressing pressing political and socio-economic issues, as the government can't do it alone.

Gemma Akilimali, TGNP Board of Directors Chairperson argued that as the result of community sensitization through public dialogues on budget preparations and engagement in implementation, TGNP believes that there will be enhanced understanding and awareness of recommendations for 2024/25 budget.

She said TGNP is hoping for formulation of specific recommendations to inform the budgeting process and ensure alignment to agreements the country has entered and national plans.

"We are also expecting to see strengthened collective voice and mechanism for influencing gender-responsive budgeting;

We are hoping for awareness and advocacy towards the importance of a participatory approach towards the development of the vision 2050 which is supposed to be gender-responsive," said Akilimali.

Sophia Komba, one of the dialogue participants was of the view that in realizing the best preparation of gender inclusive budgets the government needs not only to adopt proposed recommendations, but to ensure that the allocated funds for development projects are spent accordingly and results are identified to attract accountability.

## Do Kenyan consumers borrow to repay their existing loans?

Nairobi

TALA money march report, a research conducted among consumers to understand the impact of cost of living and how credit is helping them, shows that Kenyans could be borrowing to repay their debts pointing to the extent hard economic times has pushed many to the wall.

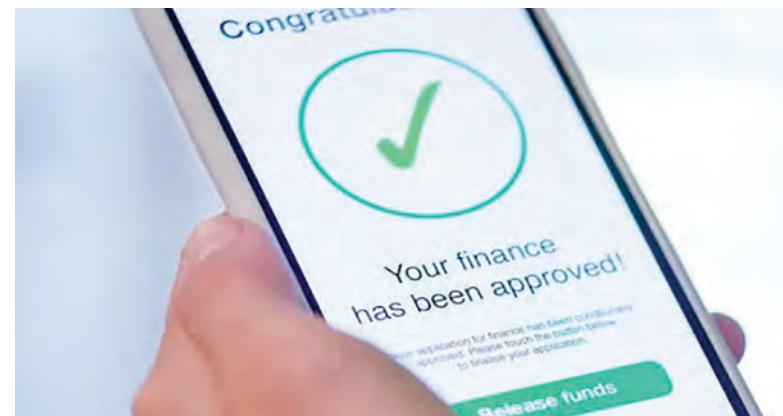
"Loans taken for personal reasons are mainly for paying school fees and loans taken for business needs are more common among consumers whose main income is a full-time job compared to business owners," the survey notes.

The rate at which consumers apply for loans to pay school fees is higher in 2024 as 33 per

cent of people targeted in the survey admitted to have taken a facility to offset school fees arrears, compared to 28 per cent in 2023 and 20 per cent in 2020.

Other types of utility bills paid using loans include internet, phone bill, food, electricity/water, cooking gas and television (Netflix/Showmax/DSTV/Gotv).

According to the survey, the three main factors consumers consider when choosing a digital lender include the interest rate, repayment period, and loan processing time. However, loan collection tactics, customer service, licensed by Central Bank of Kenya, ease of using the app, popularity, star rating in PlayStore, recommendation



and advertisement creativity are also common factors.

With the recent advances in technology and ongoing innovations, lending through digital channels, particularly mobile phones, has grown significantly in Kenya. How-

ever, concerns have been raised by the public about the predatory practices of the unregulated digital credit providers, and in particular, their high cost, unethical debt collection practices, and the abuse of personal information.

Central Bank has so far licensed 51 Digital Credit Providers after receiving 480 applications since March 2022. The most recently added entities in Digital credit space include Autocheck, Azura, Chapeo, Chime, Creditarea, Decimal, Dextintec, Factorhouse, Fezotech, Fortune, Lipa Later, Lobeltec, Maralal Ledger, Marble Capital, MKM Capital, Pi Capital, Senti Capital, Ubapesa and Zillions Credit.

The availability of buy now pay later services by Safaricom, Lipalater, MasterCard, Aspira and Craft Silicon also make loan access to Kenyan consumers much easier. The solutions enable consumers to get large ticket items from retail chains such as supermarkets and pay at an agreed time.

The Kenyan Wall Street







## WORLD



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, visits a campus of Hunan First Normal University, and learns about the university's efforts in putting resources related to the Party's heritage to great use and its adherence to fostering

## Xi calls on Hunan to write its chapter in Chinese modernisation

CHANGSHA

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called on central China's Hunan Province to stay committed to reform and innovation and follow a realistic and pragmatic approach to write its own chapter in advancing Chinese modernisation.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks during an inspection tour to the province from Monday to Thursday.

Xi urged Hunan to build itself into a national hub for important and advanced manufacturing industries and a sci-tech and innovation center with core competitiveness, and continue to be a pacesetter for reform and opening-up of China's inland regions.

On Monday, Xi first inspected Hunan First Normal University in Changsha City, where he visited an exhibition featuring Mao Zedong in his youth and chatted with students and faculty members. Xi stressed the role of schools in fostering virtue among students and guiding them to serve the country.

Later, Xi inspected a Chinese-German battery materials joint venture. He said sci-tech innovation and high-quality development are the key to enterprises' growth and success.

He said China will keep opening its door wider to the world and welcome more foreign companies to invest and develop in China.

On Tuesday, Xi visited a cultural street in the city of Changde, where he pointed out that the country's diverse traditional cultures with local characteristics constitute a splendid Chinese civilization.

Hunan is one of China's 13 major grain-producing provinces. When visiting a village in Changde, Xi

said as China has over 1.4 billion people, the country must ensure its own food security. He stressed the importance of increasing grain production and quality. He also called for efforts to let farmers become rich by producing grains.

Upon leaving the village, Xi said the Party leadership will take solid and effective policies and measures to turn the blueprint of rural revitalization into reality.

On Thursday, after hearing the provincial Party and government authorities report their work, Xi gave acknowledgment to Hunan's work.

He called for reinforcing the principal position of companies in sci-tech innovation, and promoting deeper integration of the chains of innovation, industries, capital and human resources. He also called for advancing major technology and equipment research and further developing advanced manufacturing.

On deepening reform, Xi said the focus should be placed on resolving problems that are holding back the fostering of a new pattern of development and high-quality development. He said reforms must provide impetus and vitality to economic and social development.

Xi also urged Hunan to be deeply involved in the Belt and Road cooperation, develop well the pilot free trade zone with high standards, and strive to build a pilot zone for deepening China-Africa economic and trade cooperation.

Xi asked Hunan to take on the responsibility of safeguarding national food security and accelerate breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields such as the seed industry and agricultural machinery.

He also called on the province to promote deep integration of culture and tourism, and strengthen Party building.

Cai Qi, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the General Office of the CPC Central Committee, accompanied Xi on the inspection tour.

On Wednesday, Xi met with military officers from troops stationed in Changsha.

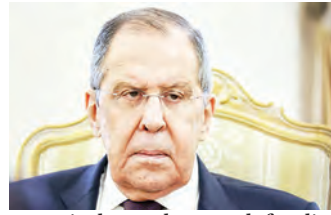
Xinhua

## West distorts all market economy principles – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE West is perverting the principles of the global market economy, those that it previously championed, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said during talks with his Serbian counterpart Ivica Dacic.

"The most striking example of the distortion and abuse of all principles of the global market economy, principles the West itself was proactively implementing in international market relations, is the application of unprecedented sanctions against anyone standing for its



own independence, defending its right to be part of the global community in full compliance with the principle of equal rights enshrined in the UN Charter," the Russian minister stressed.

This agenda reflects the course taken by the collective West headed by the US to politicize trade and international trade ties, thereby discrediting

institutions "that were created after World War II to regulate global processes, meaning the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization," the top Russian diplomat said.

"In this sense, a special meaning is certainly acquired by the collective work on the floor of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to defend the principles underlying the international system created after World War Two and which the West is obviously disinterested to perform," Lavrov noted.

Agencies

## Blinken: Gaza ceasefire deal still possible but difficulties remain

CAIRO

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday he believed talks in Qatar could still reach a Gaza ceasefire agreement while Israel attacked Hamas gunmen in the enclave's Al Shifa hospital and evacuated patients.

In Cairo, Blinken met Arab foreign ministers and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as talks in Qatar centered on a truce of around six weeks that would allow the release of 40 Israeli hostages in return for hundreds of Palestinians detained in Israeli jails.

"Negotiators continue to work. The gaps are narrowing, and we're continuing to push for an agreement in Doha. There's still difficult work to get there. But I continue to believe it's possible," Blinken said.

"We've closed the gaps, but there are still gaps. So I can't put a timeline on it. I can just say that we're committed to doing everything possible to reaching an agreement."

The main sticking point in ceasefire talks has been that Hamas says it will release hostages only as part of a deal that would end the war, while Israel says it will discuss only a temporary pause.

A statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel's spy chief David Barnea would travel to Qatar on Friday to meet mediators.

### Hunger at Ramadan

With hunger worsening in the densely populated enclave, where five months of war have created critical food shortages, the head of the World Health Organization said only opening more border crossings for trucks carrying aid could prevent famine in Gaza.

Israel's offensive has now killed almost 32,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities.

The war was triggered by militants from Hamas, which governs Gaza, storming into southern Israel on Oct 7, killing around 1,200 people and taking



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken disembarks from an aircraft as he arrives in Tel Aviv, Israel yesterday. AP

253 hostages, by Israeli tallies.

The Egyptian president stressed the need for a truce to address the escalating humanitarian crisis and warned of the dangers from Israel's promised military operation in Rafah, echoing growing international concern.

The southern Gaza city is the last zone of relative safety for civilians and more than half the enclave's population is now sheltering there, pressed against the Egyptian border.

An Israeli official insisted Israel would take control of Rafah even if it caused a rift with the United States, saying that a quarter of Hamas' original fighting force was there.

"It's going to happen. And it will happen even if Israel is forced to fight alone," Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer said in a podcast.

Blinken said a major military operation in Rafah would be a mistake, and that it was not necessary. Officials from 36 countries and UN agencies gathered in Cyprus to discuss ways to expedite humanitarian deliveries.

"Recent efforts to deliver food by air and sea are welcome, but only the expansion of land crossings will enable large-scale deliveries to prevent famine," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"Once again, we ask Israel to open more crossings and accelerate the entry and delivery of water, food, medical supplies and other

humanitarian aid into and within Gaza."

### No Ramadan feasts

Gaza's Palestinians despaired at observing Ramadan, a month-long Islamic observance that includes daytime fasting for adults, without relatives who have been killed and lacking adequate food for their children.

At a Gaza school run by the UN Palestinian refugee agency, thousands of people who have fled Israeli airstrikes barely had enough food to break the daily fast, unlike fellow Muslims around the world.

Basel al-Soueihi, sheltering in the Jabalia refugee camp, was cooking a few red lentils for the surviving members of his family, 17 of whom have been killed in the war.

"There is no food or water, there is nothing. All my cousins died, there's no one left. We used to all gather during Ramadan, with my uncle," he said, close to tears.

Israel said its troops had killed more than 50 Hamas gunmen over the previous day, taking the number of fighters killed around Al-Shifa hospital to 140, along with two Israeli soldiers. It added 358 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants had been captured during the raid at the hospital complex.

Agencies



**At a Gaza school run by the UN Palestinian refugee agency, thousands of people who have fled Israeli airstrikes barely had enough food to break the daily fast, unlike fellow Muslims around the world**



India not only fulfilling aspirations of its people but also providing hope to world - PM Modi

NEW DELHI

HIGHLIGHTING India's strong commitment to democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that India is not only fulfilling the aspirations of its 1.4 billion people but is also providing hope to the world that democracy delivers and empowers.

Referring to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the country, he said that the world will witness the "largest festival of democracy" and people will affirm their faith in democracy once again.

Prime Minister Modi was addressing the Summit for Democracy via video conferencing on Wednesday. He called the summit a crucial platform for democracies worldwide to exchange experiences and learn from each other.

The third Edition of the Summit for Democracy is being organised by South Korea in Seoul.

"Democracy delivers! Democracy empowers! PM @narendramodi delivered his remarks at the 3rd Summit of Democracy on the theme, 'Inclusive Society and Youth Empowerment'. PM highlighted the achievements of democracy in fulfilling the aspirations of its people. He called for making international systems and institutions more inclusive, democratized, participative and fair," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

He further said that India has an ancient and unbroken culture of democracy, and it has been the "lifeblood of Indian civilization."

"Consensus-building, open dialogue, and free discussion have resonated throughout India's history. That is why my fellow citizens consider India to be the Mother of Democracy," PM Modi said.

He added, "Today, India is not only fulfilling the aspirations of its 1.4 billion people but is also providing hope to the world that democracy delivers and empowers."

Referring to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the country, Prime Minister Modi said that the world will witness the "largest festival of democracy," which will be the largest electoral exercise in the history of mankind.

"In a few weeks from now, the world will witness the largest festival of democracy in India. With around one billion voters expected to vote, this will be the largest electoral exercise in the history of mankind. The people of India will once again affirm their faith in democracy," he said.

PM Modi emphasised that over the last decade, India has moved forward with the mantra of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'--that is, 'collective efforts for inclusive growth.'

ANI

## UN food agency concludes seasonal lean food aid distribution in Zimbabwe

HARARE

The World Food Program (WFP) has concluded its lean season food aid distribution in Zimbabwe after last year's cereal harvest amid rising food insecurity due to the El-Nino-induced drought.

The Zimbabwean government, along with the WFP, has been providing lean season food assistance to the targeted

people across the country. Speaking at one of the food aid distribution locations in Matabeleland South Province on Thursday,

WFP Representative and Country Director Francesca Erdelman said Zimbabwe is facing one of its worst droughts in decades, which will likely leave many people food insecure and requiring emergency food aid in the 2024/25 season.

## China, UN organizations co-host side event to promote protection of rights of persons with disabilities

A side event of the 55th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council was held on March 12 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The event was co-hosted by the Chinese Permanent Mission to the UN Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, the Special Rapporteur on the

rights of persons with disabilities of the UN Human Rights Council, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Permanent Missions of Mexico, New Zealand and Finland to Geneva, and UN Women.

The event was joined by over 100 people both virtually and in-person, including diplomats from multiple countries, personnel of relevant international organizations and non-governmental organiza-

tions, and journalists.

Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the UN Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

China is willing to work with all parties to take relevant anniversaries as an opportunity to take practical measures

to eliminate the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities and truly realize the goal of "no one should be left behind."

He said China places high importance on the development of the cause of persons with disabilities. It has implemented more than 90 laws to protect the rights and interests of persons with disabilities, including the Law on the Creation of Barrier-free Environment, established a

subsidy system covering more than 27 million persons with disabilities, and created "Beauty Workshops" to promote employment for women with disabilities. He put forward three propositions of China on promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, which are as follows:

First, promote tolerance and eliminate prejudice and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Second, strengthen guar-

antees, speed up the construction of barrier-free and age-appropriate facilities, and establish and improve a rescue system.

Third, increase participation and promote the employment and entrepreneurship of disabled people and their equal participation in economic, social and cultural affairs.

Ambassadors of Mexico, New Zealand and Finland to Geneva delivered speeches. Former Special Rapporteurs

on the rights of persons with disabilities of the UN Human Rights Council, chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as officials with the OHCHR, UN Women, UN Children's Fund and International Committee of the Red Cross shared their views on protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Participants to the event also had interactive dialogues.

People's Daily



# Uganda's forest conservation efforts bear fruit

KAMPALA

IN recent years, Uganda has made significant strides in promoting forest conservation through heightened public awareness campaigns and the introduction of advanced technologies. These efforts are beginning to yield positive results.

According to data from the National Forest Authority, Uganda's state-run forest conservation agency, forest cover has increased from 9 percent in 2015 to 13 percent in 2021, with a projected rise to 15 percent by 2025. This positive trend follows a notable decline in forest cover, which plummeted from 25 percent of the country's landmass in 1990 to around 9 percent in 2015.

Despite these achievements, Uganda faces a pressing challenge in meeting its national and global commitments to protect and restore forests, largely due to the high rate of deforestation. The country has lost about 122,000 hectares of forests annually since 1990. Without intervention, Uganda risks losing all its forests by 2030, driven largely by the growing human population.

To address these challenges, Uganda pledged during the 2014 Climate Change Summit to restore 2.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. The country also launched a campaign to plant 40 million trees annually, focusing on indigenous species. These efforts underscore Uganda's commitment to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

The East African country, with contributions from private individuals,



Charles Bukuwa, director of Bukuwa Nurseries SMC Ltd, a private tree nursery operator, shows some of the eucalyptus tree seedlings during an interview in Mpigi district, Central Uganda, March 19, 2024. Xinhua

the state and development partners, has undertaken a variety of initiatives, leveraging technology to enhance forest conservation.

Zainabu Kakungulu, program officer for capacity development at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, highlighted the increasing importance of technology in forest management and conservation. She emphasized that technology enables researchers and conservationists to better understand forest dynamics and protect them more effectively. In Uganda, Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing technologies, such as drones, are utilized for surveying and mapping forests.

"Technology enables us to quickly gather information on forest health, loss and gain, which is crucial for effective conservation efforts," she said.

In addition to digital technology, Uganda is embracing bioscience. Charles Bukuwa, director of Bukuwa Nurseries SMC Ltd, a private tree nursery operator, employs biotechnology to produce fast-growing, drought-resistant and pest-resistant trees.

"If we are harvesting more and planting less, it means we need a technology that is going to give us stock or trees that are going to grow faster to bridge this gap. Tree biotechnology is the way forward," Bukuwa explained.

Operating in three different parts of the country, Bukuwa's nurseries produce between 600,000 to 800,000 eucalyptus tree seedlings per two seasons annually.

With growing awareness among the public about the increasing demand for timber and the dwindling supply due to the cutting of natural forests, many individuals are now engaging in tree planting

as a business venture.

Bukuwa believes that with this understanding, it would be easier to increase forest cover to match or exceed the rate of destruction.

Bukuwa is not alone in his efforts; thousands of other tree nursery operators across the country are meeting the increasing demand for tree seedlings.

According to the National Forest Authority, an average of about 7,000 hectares of planted forests have been established annually over the last 15 years.

As part of its efforts in forest conservation, Uganda has intensified its cooperation with China in forest conservation in recent years.

Both Kakungulu and Bukuwa highlighted that, alongside the campaigns launched by the central government at the national level, Chinese citizens are encouraged to adopt or nurture trees, donate money and engage in volunteer work related to trees.

Kakungulu emphasized the need for Ugandans to adopt a culture of caring for trees to ensure forest conservation.

The National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China reported significant achievements in afforestation in 2023, with the country planting about 8.33 million hectares of trees and grass.

Bukuwa noted that Chinese children are taught about the importance of trees from a young age, suggesting that education about tree conservation and the environment should be included in Uganda's school syllabus for lower learning levels, similar to China's approach.

"China has imparted valuable lessons. Some of the technology originated from China, and many tree planting schemes are now inspired by China. You can even see bamboo growing," Bukuwa said. ■



The hashtag "#UNGA" sign is shown outside the UN General Assembly Hall at the United Nations, Sept 23, 2023. AP

## UNGA declares 2025 as international year of peace, trust

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations General Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution to declare 2025 as the International Year of Peace and Trust.

The resolution calls on the international community to resolve conflicts through inclusive dialogue and negotiation in order to ensure the strengthening of peace and trust in relations between UN member states as a value that promotes sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights.

It encourages all member states, organizations of the UN system and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Year in an appropriate manner and to disseminate the advantages of peace and trust.

It invites the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the UN Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Year.

In a separate resolution, the General Assembly declares Nov 15 as the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight Against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime.

The resolution invites all UN member states, the organizations of the UN system and other global and regional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to commemorate the International Day in an appropriate manner, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities, and to share best practices in this regard.

It invites the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant entities, to facilitate the observance of the International Day.



**It encourages all member states, organizations of the UN system and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to observe the International Year in an appropriate manner and to disseminate the advantages of peace and trust**

## UAE envoy hosts 'Ramadan Iftar' event at embassy, hails ties with India

NEW DELHI

UAE Ambassador to India, Abdullnasser Jamal Alshaali, hosted a 'Ramadan Iftar' event at the UAE Embassy in the national capital on Thursday.

Hailing India-UAE ties, the envoy said that they want to use the event to celebrate the values shared between New Delhi and Abu Dhabi in terms of peace, harmony and brotherhood.

Speaking to ANI, the UAE envoy

said, "We want this to remain a key event on everyone's calendar in the diplomatic community and beyond. I feel very happy that other missions are organising their own Iftaars, inviting people over Ramadan...we want to make sure that we make use of the opportunity to celebrate the values that the UAE and India share in terms of peace, harmony and brotherhood."

The UAE Ambassador appreciated the relationship between

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He further said that the momentum of India-UAE ties is increasing and there still lies room for further improvement.

"A lot of progress has been made in so many fields and sectors, but there's always more to be done. The relationship (between India and the UAE) and the charisma between the two leaders make sure that there is momentum and

that this momentum keeps growing over time. The fact that they keep visiting each other's country keeps everyone on their toes to strive to do more and better in this relationship," Alshaali said.

He added, "No matter what you achieve, in any relationship, there is always room for improvement. There's always room to do things differently.

This is why we end up with a long list of homework for both ambassadors and senior officials

in both governments."

Earlier in February, Prime Minister Modi went on an official visit to UAE. He held a bilateral meeting with UAE President Al Nahyan and several other top leaders. Several agreements were signed between the two countries.

During the visit, PM Modi also inaugurated BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, which is the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. He also addressed the Indian diaspora at 'Ahlam Modi' event. **ANI**

## development of Russia-China trade ties despite external pressure

MOSCOW

THE US and EU continue to put the squeeze on China, but this will not hamper the development of relations between Beijing and Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, commenting on information about alleged reports

that a number of Chinese banks were rejecting payments from Russia.

"Of course, unprecedented pressure from the United States and the European Union on China continues, including in the context of relations with us. This, of course, creates certain problems, but will not become an

obstacle for the further development of our trade and economic relations," he said.

"Thanks to the top caliber of our relationship [with China] and the special

nature of our relationship, we have the necessary capabilities to overcome these difficulties," he stressed.

Earlier, the Izvestia newspaper reported that some Chinese banks were sending back yuan payments received from Russia. Before that, there were problems with dollar transfers. Chinese fi-

nancial institutions are allegedly tightening their requirements due to the threat of secondary US sanctions.

However, in February, the Bank of China told TASS that they had not stopped accepting payments from Russia, and the related reports were pure speculation.



## Russia discusses visa-free travel agreements with Asian, African, Middle Eastern countries

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Foreign Ministry announced that they are negotiating visa-free travel agreements with some countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, as reported by TASS.

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokes-

woman Maria Zakharova, in a briefing, announced the plan.

"Concerning plans to expand the list of countries with which we have mutual visa-free travel, we certainly have them. Currently, negotiations are underway with a number of Asian, African and Middle Eastern countries," she said.

In this regard, the diplomat recalled that "information on established unilateral visa-free travel is usually published on the Russian Foreign Ministry's website and its accounts on social media."

Earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle

East and Africa, Mikhail Bogdanov, said that Russia is working to establish a visa-free regime with all Persian Gulf countries, reported TASS.

He further emphasised that the work is going on systematically.

"In principle, such work is going on systematically. Because, of course, I think it is in the interests

of our countries and peoples to communicate and to promote joint business and tourism," he said, answering the relevant question.

Moreover, Bogdanov stated that efforts in this direction were in progress with all countries in the Persian Gulf, according to TASS.

Earlier, the Russian Foreign Min-

istry said that intergovernmental agreements were being drafted on visa-free travel by individuals to Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Zambia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

ANI

## Shenzhen accelerates development of low-altitude economy

AFTER meals were packed, weighed, and mounted to drones, these unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) took off under unified control, and arrived at office buildings across an overpass in just two minutes. They autonomously delivered the meals and returned.

The delivery drone fleet has become a spectacle in a commercial area in Longgang district, Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province.

"In this commercial area, the drones deliver over 300 orders every day. During the lunchtime, they take off and land almost every minute," said Yan Yan, head of public affairs for drone operations at Meituan, a Chinese shopping platform for locally found consumer products and retail services.

According to Yan, Meituan

has opened multiple drone routes in Shenzhen, delivering a total of over 200,000 orders to communities, office buildings, tourist attractions, hospitals, and universities. The platform has established a community drone delivery model that is able to deliver orders to destinations within 3 kilometers in 15 minutes.

In fact, food delivery by drones is no longer a novelty in Shenzhen. From sightseeing to urban security, from medical assistance to emergency rescue, and from agricultural and forestry protection to power line inspections, the low-altitude economy is finding more and more application scenarios in Shenzhen.

For instance, taking a helicopter ride operated by Heli-Eastern has become a convenient transportation option for citizens going from Shenzhen

Bao'an International Airport to areas like Guangming and Pingshan districts of Shenzhen; a "lifeline" for transporting blood products via drones from the Shenzhen Blood Center to hospitals in Nanshan and Bao'an districts has been established; at the power transmission management office of Shenzhen Power Supply Bureau Co., Ltd., 5G-enabled drones have been employed regularly in high-voltage cable terminal inspection on transmission towers.

"Shenzhen has listed the low-altitude economy as one of the 20 key strategic emerging sectors for development. The city aims to drive the development of this new sector with technological innovation and by creating more application scenarios," said Zhao Ke, an official of the Shenzhen Municipal Bureau of Trans-



Photo shows a delivery drone of Meituan in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province. [Photo provided by the drone service department of Meituan]

port. According to Zhao, Shenzhen has opened 126 low-altitude air routes and established 89 unmanned aerial vehicle takeoff and landing points. Last year, the city saw 600,000 flights of cargo drones and 20,000 flights of helicopters, Zhao said.

Yang Jincai, chairman of the Shenzhen UAV Industry

Association, revealed that by 2023, Shenzhen reported low-altitude economy output of 96 billion yuan (\$13.35 billion), and was home to over 1,700 companies engaged in the industry. The city has developed a complete industrial chain covering related R&D, design, manufacturing, operation and support.

Currently, Shenzhen holds

a market share of over 70 percent in the consumer drone sector globally, and more than 50 percent in the industrial drone sector.

The rapid development of the low-altitude economy in Shenzhen is attributed to the city's strategic efforts to seize development opportunities and continuously improve relevant policy systems.

In 2017, Shenzhen became a comprehensive demonstration zone for the general aviation industry. In 2019, measures were introduced to designate airspace for micro and light UAVs.

On Feb. 1 of this year, regulations on the promotion of the low-altitude economy in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone officially came into effect, normalizing the development of the low-altitude economy in terms of infra-

structure, flight services, industrial applications, technological innovation, and safety management.

Zhao said that the first phase of a project on promoting infrastructure for intelligent low-altitude integration in Shenzhen is currently accelerating its pace. The project aims to preliminarily establish an infrastructure network, air connectivity network, flight route network, and service network to support the low-altitude economy.

Besides, innovative platforms such as a smart air traffic operation laboratory are also being constructed. In the future, Shenzhen will gradually carry out UAV operations and integrated flight verification, as well as develop regulations, standards, and norms for low-altitude flights.

People's Daily





Tanzania's senior national women's cricket squad all-rounder Perice Zakayo bowls against Namibia in the 2024 All-Africa Games clash which took place in Ghana recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

## TCA delighted with Tanzania squads' performance in 2024 All-Africa Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Cricket Association (TCA) has stated it is happy with the country's men's and women's teams' performance in the 2024 All-Africa Games currently taking place in Ghana.

The association's leaders are adamant the future of the game in the country is bright.

Both men's and women's cricket teams were eliminated from the Games. The men's team, last Wednesday night, lost to Namibia by seven wickets.

Atif Salim, TCA Media and Communication Officer, said the teams did very well and the association focuses on giving the national teams more international exposure.

The Tanzania men's team started the All-Africa Games in Ghana by defeating Nigeria by 47 runs and lost the second game against Zimbabwe by four wickets while on Wednesday Tanzania lost to Namibia by seven wickets.

In the first All-Africa Games assignment, the national women's team confronted Nigeria and the tie was concluded as a no result as it could not proceed due to heavy rains. The teams took a point apiece in the clash.

After the match against Nigeria, Tanzania's women's team lost to South Africa by eight wickets. Tanzania went in to bat first- registered 66 runs all out in 18.3 overs.

South Africa thereafter smoothly got down to a successful chase when they registered 67 runs, dropping two wickets in 10.2 overs.

Before competing in the 2024 All-Africa Games, the Tanzania women's team lifted the 2024 Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I Tournament top honour, in which the side ended the round-robin tournament with victory in five fixtures and one loss to set up the best net run rate of 2.867.

The Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I Tournament, which took place in Lagos, had witnessed Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and the host Nigeria battling it out.

Both Tanzania men's and women's games were held in Twenty20 International format. This was the first time that cricket took place in the All-Africa Games.

Salim further said lack of international exposure contributed to Tanzania teams' failure to reach medal medal-winning stage.

The TCA official revealed: "I think our teams did reasonably well, it is just that we couldn't cross the final hurdle, the women's team suffered due to the match against Nigeria being washed out due to rain, and points were shared."

"The men's squad is always placed in tough groups- having to face higher ranked opponents, yet, we beat Nigeria and showed good account of ourselves against Zimbabwe and Namibia," Salim noted.

"We also have to account that we had many debutants for both men's and women's teams, many players did not have international exposure, hence, I'm sure in the future, with more international games, the teams will improve," he said.

Meanwhile, TCA Chairman Balakrishna Sreekumar and the association's vice chairman Ashish Nagewadia expressed elation over Tanzania's victory in the 2024 Nigeria Invitational Women's T20I tournament.

He said despite a challenging start marked by the loss to Rwanda, the national women's team did well.

He highlighted the youthfulness of the women's team, emphasizing the squad's cricketers' potential for growth in the sport.

Sreekumar outlined plans for regular training camps and increased match opportunities for the national women's team in the coming months, saying under his leadership, the Muhimbili Cricket Academy- founded in Dar es Salaam- has undergone significant revamping, with facilities now offered at no cost to clubs, aiming to enhance access to training resources.

Beyond the cricket field, TCA is committed to supporting players' financial security post-retirement. Sreekumar detailed initiatives such as sponsoring players for activities like baking or beautician courses, ensuring they can sustain themselves beyond their cricketering careers.

Furthermore, he expressed gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for her unwavering support of the sports sector, citing Tanzania's notable participation in the All-Africa Games as a testament to the country's sporting prowess and political stability.

Nagewadia reflected on the challenges faced in the three months he has served in TCA, including limited preparation time for international tournaments.

The official revealed despite these obstacles, both the men's and women's teams have successfully participated in various tournaments, showcasing Tanzania's cricketering talent on the global stage.

Nagewadia also commended the full funding of the Dar es Salaam cricket leagues by TCA, a significant milestone under new management, enabling clubs to focus on internal development and player growth.

The two TCA leaders said the association's management is focused on creating sustainable livelihoods for players through cricket, adding initiatives such as players' contracts are in the pipeline- seeking to provide stability and support to athletes.

The vice president emphasized the importance of open communication between the board and players, fostering a conducive environment for collaboration and growth within the cricketering community.

"The men's team's exceptional performance which had it qualifying for the ICC Cricket World Cup Challenge League showcases Tanzania's growing influence in international cricket, surpassing anticipated achievements," he said.

Nagewadia highlighted the positive relations with other cricket boards, paving the way for potential exchange programs and collaborations, as exemplified by Sreekumar's recent visit to India's National Cricket Academy.

# Historic FIFA Series debut marks footballing milestone for Tanzania

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

THE footballing landscape of Tanzania was set to witness a monumental shift with the senior national team's historic participation in the new FIFA Series 2024 tournament.

This coveted opportunity transcends a mere tournament; it marks a crucial stepping stone toward propelling Tanzanian football onto the global stage.

Interim head coach Hemed Suleiman's meticulously selected squad of 23 players embodies the nation's aspirations.

This handpicked group carried the hopes of a passionate fan base eager to witness their heroes compete against established names like Bulgaria.

The significance of Tanzania's involvement in the FIFA Series cannot be overstated. Here is a deeper dive into the potential benefits this participation holds for the nation's footballing future:

Historically, the scarcity of regular high-profile matches has hampered the growth of Tanzanian football.

The FIFA Series directly addresses this challenge by providing a much-needed platform for the national team to gain invaluable competitive experience.

Facing opponents from diverse footballing backgrounds, like the Bulgarians will expose Tanzanian players to different playing styles and tactical approaches.

This exposure will prove instrumental in refining their skills, fostering tactical awareness, and bolstering their confidence on the international stage.

The FIFA Series presented a golden opportunity for Tanzanian football to break out of its regional shell and



Footballers making Tanzania's senior national football team are pictured participating in drills in Baku, Azerbaijan yesterday in preparation for the 2024 FIFA Series which began yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

garner global recognition.

The tournament was to be broadcasted internationally, placing the Tanzanian team in the spotlight.

This newfound visibility can act as a catalyst for attracting foreign scouts and potential investment in the domestic league, fostering the development of young talent.

The FIFA Series fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing between participating nations.

The Tanzanian team will have the unique opportunity to interact with players and coaches from established footballing countries.

This exchange of expertise can pave the way for future partnerships, training programs, and the implementation of successful strategies adopted by leading footballing nations.

While the 2024 edition serves as a pilot project, FIFA's plans for the future are nothing short of ambitious.

The March 2026 in-

ternational break promises an even grander spectacle, potentially featuring more prominent teams and a wider global audience.

This sustained commitment from FIFA bodes well for the continued development of the sport on a global scale, ensuring that nations like Tanzania have a platform to showcase their talent and compete at the highest level.

Tanzania's participation in the FIFA Series 2024 presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to propel the nation's footballing prowess to new heights. Capitalizing on this chance requires a multi-pronged approach.

Strategic investments- Increased funding for infrastructure development, coaching programs, and youth academies will be crucial to nurturing future generations of footballers.

Embracing international exposure- Tanzania must actively seek participation in international tournaments and friendly matches to

provide its players with regular competitive experience.

In recent years, Tanzania has undergone a significant sports revolution, particularly in football.

At the club level, notable strides have been made, exemplified by the Young Africans SC's historic journey to the final of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup.

Despite narrowly losing the continental showpiece's trophy to Algeria's USM Alger on aggregate, this achievement underscores the rapid growth of Tanzanian football.

Simba SC, another prominent club in Tanzania, has been actively participating in African competitions, notably the CAF Champions League for the past five years.

Their advancement to the quarterfinals not only elevated their status but also granted them entry into the newly established African Football League.

The league's inaugural match, hosted at the Benjamin Mkapa Sta-

dium in Dar es Salaam, garnered global attention, showcasing Tanzania's genuine passion for football.

Moreover, the Tanzania senior national team, Taifa Stars, recently showcased its prowess in the 2023 AFCON showdown.

Their commendable performance garnered significant attention, hinting at Tanzania's emerging presence on the continental football stage.

Looking ahead, Tanzania's hosting of the 2027 AFCON showpiece, alongside Kenya and Uganda, further solidifies its commitment to football development.

Efforts are underway, including government approval for the construction of modern stadiums, with the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium undergoing extensive renovations in preparation for the 2027 AFCON.

The road ahead for Tanzanian football is paved with immense potential. With dedication, strategic planning, and the unwavering support of the nation, the beautiful game has the potential to flourish.

Tanzania can etch its name on the global footballing map, for that matter, the inaugural FIFA Series is the spark that can ignite this transformation.

As the nation's heroes take to the field in Azerbaijan, the entire nation will be holding its breath, not just in anticipation of the results, but for the dawn of a new era in Tanzanian football.



Boxers are pictured trading jabs in the 2022 National Club Championships' bout which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BOXING FEDERATION OF TANZANIA

## Dar boxer bows out of 2024 All-Africa Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's boxing team's prospects of winning three silver medals in the 2024 All-Africa Games in Ghana were on Wednesday after boxer Ezra Mwanjwango lost to Zambian Andrew Chilasa.

The bout ended 5-2 on the judge's decision and the decision to award the Zambian maximum points was reached after judges previewed the bout which initially ended 3-2 in favour of Chilasa.

Tanzania Boxing Federation (BFT) president Lukelo Wililo yesterday expressed optimism that despite Mwanjwango failing to reach the semi-finals, the other two boxers- Yusuf Chan-

galawe and Musa Maregesi, who took the ring yesterday, can reach the stage.

"Unfortunately, our boxer Ezra Mwanjwango failed to reach the semi-finals, he did his best but his opponent was well-prepared, the country still has hope that the remaining two boxers, Changanalawe and Maregesi can do well," Wililo said.

Tanzania had eight boxers in this year's All-Africa Games. Male boxers are Abdallah Mohammed- Lightweight, Ezra Paul- Welterweight, Abdallah Mfaume- Light Heavyweight, Yusuf Changanalawe- Cruiserweight, Musa Maregesi- Heavyweight, and Mhina Magogo- Heavyweight.

Female boxers are Miriam Ma-

ligisa- Minimumweight and Zulfa Macho- Flyweight. The boxers were under coaches Samuel Kapungu and Muhsin Mohamed.

So far Tanzania has won three bronze medals and is among 11 African countries that have had their boxers winning medals before entering the ring in All-Africa Games. Maregesi reached the semi-finals without entering the ring.

The other countries that have won medals are Tunisia, Zambia, Algeria, Ghana, Egypt, DR Congo, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Morocco.

Speaking during the Tanzania team's send-off, Minister for Culture, Arts, and Sports Damas Ndumbaro urged the squad to make the country proud by lift-

ing many medals in the Games. Ndumbaro said it is high time local athletes performed well in top international events.

Some of the sporting codes whose athletes have represented the country in the games are athletics, boxing, cycling, swimming, and judo.

"I'm calling all the athletes who will represent the country at the coming All Africa Games in Ghana to fight for the national flag," the minister insisted.

"The government has provided all necessities for the teams, it sponsored training camps for all athletes and it is time for them to prove to the nation that they are competent, winning medals is the only way for them to prove that," he said.



## North Korea v Japan World Cup qualifier off over 'unforeseen circumstances'

TOKYO

NORTH Korea's home World Cup qualifier against Japan was called off yesterday, the Asian Football Confederation said, hours after announcing it would be moved to a neutral venue.

"The fixture between DPR Korea and Japan, scheduled to be played on March 26, will not take place as scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances," the AFC said in a statement.

It said the decision was taken after talks with world football governing body FIFA and came a day after North Korea said it would not be able to stage the game in the capital Pyongyang.

North Korean officials did not say why. The AFC said the matter would now be referred to "the relevant committees" in FIFA with further updates expected.

It did not confirm if the fixture would be played at a future time or place.

Earlier Friday, AFC general secretary Windsor John told AFP the game would proceed, but at a neutral venue.

The match in Pyongyang would have been the first game in North Korea for Japan's men's team since 2011 and a rare international football match in isolated North Korea.

Japan and North Korea's women's playoff for the Paris Olympics was switched from Pyongyang to neutral ground in Saudi Arabia last month.

Japanese news agency Kyodo reported on Thursday that North Korea didn't want to host the match over fears of bacterial infections in Japan.

North Korean officials the same day told their Japanese counterparts that they could not play host, without saying why.

"They asked us during half-time if we can organise (it) in Japan," Japan football association chief Kozo Tashima said after the teams met in a first qualifier in Tokyo, which the hosts won 1-0.

"I told them it was so sudden and that I cannot give them an immediate yes," Japanese media quoted Tashima as saying.

"I told them it will take us at least two or three days (to answer). I told them it's difficult," he said.

Earlier this week Japan's foreign ministry warned football fans not to attempt to travel to the country for the match.

"As you know, North Korea takes a hostile view of Japan and travel is not recommended for the general public," it said on X, formerly Twitter.

AFP

## Dazzling Foden puts pressure on Southgate to find England role

LONDON

PHIL Foden has been hailed as the best player in the Premier League by Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola but where he fits into England boss Gareth Southgate's plans remains unclear just three months from Euro 2024.

The precociously talented 23-year-old has hoovered up 14 major trophies at club level and has become an ever more central figure in City's success under Guardiola.

Foden has scored 18 goals and provided 10 assists in 41 appearances for his club this season but has yet to make the same impact for England.

"He is the best player in the Premier League right now for the amount of things he does," said City boss Guardiola. "He always scored goals but now scores goals that win games and when you do this, you reach another level as a player."

Foden has been part of Southgate's squad for the past two major tournaments as England reached the final of Euro 2020 and fell to France at the quarter-final stage of the 2022 World Cup.

But he has proved to be a victim of his own versatility and has found himself competing for a place in an extraordinary generation of English talent.

Foden has thrived this season in a more central role in City's midfield, enabled in large part by Kevin De Bruyne's long absence through injury.

"I'm really glad with my performances and am playing a lot of minutes inside, where I want to be, and I'm delighted with the way I'm playing," Foden said after scoring a hat-trick against Brentford last month. "I'm playing the best form I've had in a City shirt consistently for a long time."

However, that role in the England team has been handed to Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, who has become one of the world's best players at the age of just 20.

Foden has also excelled at times cutting in from the right wing, boasting a weapon of a left foot that has earned him the nickname "sniper" from his City teammates.

Yet there too he faces competition, this time from Arsenal's Bukayo Saka, who was arguably England's best player at the World Cup and has earned Southgate's trust with seven goals in 12 international appearances since the start of the World Cup.

AFP

# Israel out of Euro 2024 chase, Ukraine in dramatic fightback

LONDON

ISRAEL'S hopes of reaching the European Championships for the first time against the background of bloody conflict at home were shattered by a 4-1 defeat to Iceland on Thursday while war-torn Ukraine stayed on course for the finals with a last-gasp comeback.

Due to the ongoing conflict with Hamas, Israel's tie was switched to Budapest and their hopes of making the finals of any major competition for the first time since the 1970 World Cup enjoyed a confident start.

On the half-hour mark, Daniel Leo Gretarsson was punished for bringing down Eran Zahavi.

The veteran Israeli striker picked himself up to steer his penalty past Hakon Valdimarsson in the Iceland goal.

The lead lasted less than 10 minutes, however, when Genoa's Albert Gudmundsson curled in a free-kick to equalise.

Just three minutes before half-time Iceland, who made the quarter-finals at the 2016 Euros,



Tough moment: Israel's Eran Zahavi reacts as he misses from the penalty spot. Agencies

were ahead.

Gudmundsson swept over a corner and midfielder Arnor Ingvi Traustason was on hand to lash the ball home off a deflection which wrong-footed Israel goalkeeper Omri Glazer.

Israel's Roy Revivo was sent-off in the 73rd minute but his team were then handed a golden chance to equalise when Gudmundur Thorarinnsson was penalised for handball.

However, this time Zahavi dragged his penalty wide and Iceland soon made him pay.

In the 83rd minute Gudmundsson grabbed his second of the night

after a surging run and then completed his hat-trick as the clock ran down.

"It's very disappointing. We were one goal ahead and then we conceded two easy goals before half-time," said Glazer.

"It's never easy when it's 11 against 10, and sometimes you miss a penalty, it's part of football. Then we gambled more. We lost, and we need to look in the mirror at what we did well, and what not so well."

Iceland will now face Ukraine on Tuesday with the winner to claim a spot in this summer's

finals in Germany.

"We were lacking goals earlier in qualification last year, and now we have Albert Gudmundsson back, and he showed that he's a class player," said Iceland coach Age Hareide.

Ukraine's hopes of making it to successive Euros were kept alive after a dramatic and very late come-from-behind 2-1 win over Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zenica.

Defender Amar Dedic unleashed a powerful drive just before the hour mark with the ball deflected into his own goal by the unfortunate Mykola Matviyenko to

give Bosnia the lead.

However, two goals inside four minutes in the dying exchanges gave Ukraine victory.

In the 85th minute substitute Roman Yaremchuk scored from a fine cross by Yuhym Konopliya to level the tie.

Artem Dovbyk, whose goals have driven Girona closer to a Champions League place in Spain, headed Ukraine's winner with two minutes left.

"Our players wanted to win and attacked as much as they could," said Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov.

- Wales to face Poland -

Wales will face Poland for a place in the finals after powering to a 4-1 win against Finland in Cardiff.

Rob Page's side stormed into a two-goal lead thanks to strikes from David Brooks and Neco Williams.

Teemu Pukki reduced the deficit just before the break, but Brennan Johnson and Daniel James netted in the second half to keep Wales' dreams alive.

Bidding to reach a third consecutive Eu-

ropean Championship, Wales will take on Poland in the play-off final in Cardiff on Tuesday.

Poland, bidding to play in a fourth successive Euros, crushed Estonia 5-1 with goals from Przemyslaw Frankowski, Piotr Zielinski, Jakub Piotrowski, Nicola Zalewski and Sebastian Szymanski.

Estonia had to play with 10 men for more than an hour after Maksim Paskotsi was red-carded for a foul on Zalewski.

Georgia, looking to make the finals of a major tournament for the first time, defeated Luxembourg 2-0 in Tbilisi.

Both goals came from Budu Zivzivadze who also hit the woodwork. Georgia were without Napoli star striker Khvicha Kvaratskhelia who was suspended.

They will face 2004 champions Greece next Tuesday for a place in the Germany showpiece.

The Greeks were far too strong for Kazakhstan in Athens, winning 5-0 with four of the goals coming in the opening 40 minutes for Gus Poyet's team.

AFP

# Rape convict Robinho arrested in Brazil

SANTOS, Brazil

FORMER Manchester City and Real Madrid footballer Robinho was arrested Thursday in Brazil, after losing a last-minute court bid to delay serving his nine-year sentence for raping a woman a decade ago.

Supreme Court Judge Luiz Fux rejected Robinho's request for a stay and ruled "the detention order is maintained... so that he can begin serving his sentence."

Federal Police in the southeastern city of Santos said in a statement to AFP on Thursday night that their forces "carried out an arrest warrant... against Robson de Souza."

"The prisoner will undergo an examination at the (Medical Legal Institute), a custody hearing and will be sent to the penitentiary system."

Popularly known as "Robinho," the footballer was found guilty by an Italian court in 2017 of taking part in the gang rape of an Albanian woman celebrating her 23rd birthday at a Milan nightclub four years earlier.

The former Brazil international, now 40, lost an appeal in 2020 and had his sentence upheld by Italy's highest court in 2022, after which Italian prosecutors issued an international arrest warrant for him.

Brazil does not extradite its nationals, however, and Italy asked that Robinho be made to serve his sentence in his home country instead.

A court in Brasilia agreed Wednesday, by nine votes to two, and on Thursday court president Maria Thereza de Assis Moura signed a document paving the



Robinho was arrested by Brazil federal police after a Supreme Court judge rejected a request to delay his prison sentence for a rape conviction. Agencies

way for a warrant to be issued for Robinho's incarceration.

Journalists flocked to his luxury condominium in Guarujá, near Santos, but his arrest wasn't caught on camera. The Globo network later aired a short video showing him inside a police precinct.

Robinho will be taken to a prison in Tremembé, about 150 kilometers (95 miles) southeast of Sao Paulo, the nation's most populous city, a Federal Police officer told journalists.

His lawyers had filed a request to the Supreme Court to allow him to remain free while challenging the latest court decision.

That was rejected.

"Brutally humiliated" - The footballer, who protests his innocence, told Brazilian network TV Record in an interview broadcast on Sunday that the sex had been consensual and accused the Italian justice

system of racism.

According to the complaint, Robinho and his co-accused had made the young woman drink "to the point of rendering her unconscious and unable to resist," and then had "sexual relations several times in a row" with her.

In March 2021, a Milan appeals court found Robinho had acted with "special contempt for

the victim, who was brutally humiliated."

Robinho's case and that of former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain defender Dani Alves have sparked criticism over the failure of football authorities in Brazil to condemn violence against women.

In February, former Brazil international full-back Alves, 40, was sentenced to four-and-a-half

years in prison for raping a woman in a nightclub in Barcelona.

On Thursday, Palmeiras president Leila Pereira, the first woman at the head of the Brazilian club, lashed out at the football world for its silence on the twin rape convictions of Robinho and Alves.

"Nobody says anything," she told Brazil's UOL news site.

"It's a slap in the face for all of us women, especially the case of Daniel Alves, who paid for (his) freedom," Pereira said, referring to a Spanish court decision Wednesday to grant Alves bail of a million euros.

"Each case of impunity is the seed of the next crime," she added.

Robinho, for his part, will not gain his freedom quickly because Brazil "does not allow bail" for the crime he is accused of, criminal lawyer Leonardo Pantaleao told AFP.

- Fall from grace - For Robinho, it has been a dramatic fall from grace.

Having begun his career in 2002 at Santos, a team made famous by Brazil great Pele, he was touted as the successor

to the golden generation of Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Ronaldinho.

In 2005, he joined Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and David Beckham at Real Madrid.

He went on to play for Manchester City from 2008 to 2010, and for Milan for four years until 2014.

In 2009, he was briefly detained in England for an alleged sexual assault of a young woman, but the charges were dropped after an investigation.

He sought to return to Santos in 2020 but the club suspended the deal after pressure from fans and sponsors, leading to the abrupt end of his career.

At about the same time, TV channel Globo Sports had released excerpts of a recording Italian prosecutors used to secure their conviction, in which Robinho purportedly said: "I'm laughing because I don't care. The woman was completely drunk. She doesn't even know what happened."

Robinho has 100 Brazil caps and 28 goals for his country.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Israel out of Euro 2024 chase, Ukraine in dramatic fightback

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## Azam FC eyes Fitson Mayele's signature

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE NBC Premier League outfit, Azam FC, is reportedly making a groundbreaking move to sign Congolese striker Fitson Mayele from Egyptian giants Pyramids FC to replace wantaway attacker Prince Dube.

Azam FC lacks a pure goal-scoring striker, with Alassane Diaw being the only talisman at the club, whilst Idriss Mbombo and Dube are currently out of the club.

In what is considered one of the most audacious attempts in recent times, Azam FC has extended an offer of US\$15,000 per month (approximately 38.3m/-) to secure the services of the prolific forward.

Sources close to the player reveal that Mayele has expressed his desire to return to the Tanzanian league with just one season at Pyramids FC.

Mayele, who previously dazzled fans with his performances for Yanga - a fierce rival of Azam FC - joined Pyramids FC last year.

His move came after a stellar season which witnessed the attacker laying his hands on the top goal scorer honour in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League and making significant contributions for his outfit in the CAF Confederation Cup.

Despite his proven track record, Mayele has found it challenging to replicate his goal-scoring form in Egypt, which has sparked rumours of his eagerness to return to Tanzania for the upcoming season.

During his tenure with Yanga, Mayele became a household name in Tanzanian football.

In his first season, he nearly clinched the Golden Boot, scoring 16 goals and finishing just one goal behind the top scorer.

The following season, he elevated his performance by netting 17 goals, sharing the top scorer accolade with Saidi Ntibazonkiza of Simba SC.

His contributions were not limited to domestic competitions; Mayele shone brightly on the continental stage as well.

He played a pivotal role in Yanga's journey in the CAF Confederation Cup, scoring 14 goals across the Champions League and Confederation Cup, showcasing his remarkable talent and goal-scoring prowess.

Mayele's impact at Yanga was profound, leading the team to two consecutive Premier League titles, two FA Cups, and two Community Shield victories.

His exceptional form in the 2022/2023 season helped Yanga reach the CAF Confederation Cup final for the first time in their history, where he finished as the tournament's top scorer with seven goals.

## Benchikha targets peak fitness for Simba SC players to match Al Ahly's intensity



Simba SC players are pictured participating in training in Unguja recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and 2023/24 CAF Champions League quarterfinals. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

SIMBA SC's head coach Abdelhak Benchikha has strategically chosen Zanzibar as the training camp location for his team ahead of their CAF Champions League quarterfinal showdown against Al Ahly which will be held in Dar es Salaam on March 29.

Benchikha cited stability and optimal training conditions as key factors in the decision, aiming to prepare his players for the rigorous challenge awaiting them at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

"The Zanzibar camp provides us with the opportunity to train morning and night, aligning with the match schedule," Benchikha explained.

The Algerian noted: "This allows our players to acclimatize to the playing environment and enhance their performance."

In addition to technical preparations, Benchikha emphasized the importance of physical fitness in facing Al Ahly's formidable lineup.

"We must train twice daily to build a team capable of competing with Al Ahly. Our focus is on ensuring our players are in peak condition to match the intensity of the Egyptians" he asserted.

As Simba SC's players intensify their training regimen in Zanzibar, reassuring news comes from team manager Mikael Igendia.

He pointed out that all 23 players who have traveled with the squad are in good health. This positive development serves as a boost for the team as they focus on the upcoming CAF Champions League quarterfinal encounter against Al Ahly.

Simba SC's Information and Communication Manager, Ahmed Ally, shed light on the scheduling of the match - revealing that the timing was determined by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

Despite stakeholders' considerations for alternative timings due to weather conditions, CAF prioritized

the welfare of both teams and took into account cultural factors such as Ramadan.

"The match timing was carefully considered by CAF, taking into account various factors including the well-being of players and cultural sensitivities," Ahmed noted.

"While there were suggestions to schedule the match in the afternoon to mitigate heat, the final decision reflects a balance of interests."

With the match poised to coincide with Yanga's clash against Mamelodi Sundowns, anticipation for both encounters is pal-

pable.

Simba SC remains undeterred by the challenge posed by Al Ahly, expressing confidence in their ability to deliver a strong performance.

"Our training camp in Zanzibar has equipped us with the necessary tools to face Al Ahly head-on," Ahmed affirmed.

"We understand the magnitude of the task ahead, but we are prepared to rise to the occasion and showcase our true potential."

During their training camp in Zanzibar, Simba SC is gearing up for an anticipated friendly match as part of their preparations for the upcoming CAF Champions League quarterfinal showdown against Al Ahly.

While the opponent for the friendly match has not yet been confirmed, Simba SC is expected to face either JKU SC or Al Hilal SC, further emphasizing the team's dedication to rigorous preparation ahead of the crucial encounter.

As Simba SC braces for the quarter-final showdown, the team remains focused on their ultimate goal of advancing to the semi-finals.

With determination and strategic planning, they aim to overcome Al Ahly and continue their pursuit of CAF Champions League glory.

## Yanga offers free entry for CAF CL last eight tie vs Mamelodi Sundowns

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

YANGA's president Hersi Said and the squad's Executive Committee have announced free entry for the upcoming CAF Champions League quarterfinal clash against South African giants Mamelodi Sundowns, scheduled for March 30 at 9 pm in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's Information and Communication Manager, Ally Kamwe, explained that the decision was made with fans in mind.

Recognizing the late-night kickoff and the additional travel expenses supporters might incur returning home, the club opted to prioritize fan presence over ticket revenue.

While initially announcing ticket prices for VIP sections (A- 30,000/-, B- 20,000/-, C- 10,000/-), Yanga has taken a surprising turn.

In a move prioritizing fan presence over more revenue, the club offered free entry for the regular stand for the fans that will access it in the upcoming CAF Champions League quarterfinal clash against Mamelodi Sundowns.

"We understand the late-night timing presents challenges for our fans, they will likely face transportation costs after the match," Kamwe said.

"The Yanga leadership is not driven by greed. While some might see this as a mon-



Yanga's Information and Communication Manager, Ally Kamwe. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

ey-making opportunity with high ticket prices, we believe in a different approach," Kamwe noted.

Kamwe emphasized the importance of fan support in boosting team morale, noting: "A packed stadium fuels the players' passion. Therefore, the club has chosen to prioritize victory over financial gain. We want as many fans as possible to come and cheer on Yanga," he continued.

This decision highlights Yanga's commitment to accessibility and fan engagement.

"Under president Hersi Said's leadership, we've designated this match as free entry for all fans," declared Kamwe.

The official disclosed: "The value of witnessing Yanga take on Mamelodi Sundowns far outweighs any ticket revenue. The money you would've spent on a ticket can now be used for transportation to and from the stadium, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone."

Kamwe urged fans traveling

from afar to take advantage of the early gate opening, pointing out: "The gates will be open well before kickoff, come early and show your unwavering support for our team!"

Yanga's decision is a bold move that prioritizes fan experience and team spirit over profit.

This free entry initiative is sure to generate excitement and pack the stadium, creating an electric atmosphere for this crucial match against Mamelodi Sundowns.

In the 2023/24 CAF Champions League season, Yanga clinched second place in Group D, securing their spot in the quarterfinals with a total of eight points.

The group standings were led by Al Ahly, followed by Yanga, with CR Belouizdad in third place and Medeama SC in fourth.

Throughout the Group Stage, Yanga competed in six matches, winning two, drawing two, and losing two, showcasing their resilience and competitive spirit on the continental stage.

Mamelodi Sundowns concluded the Group Stage of this season's CAF Champions League as the top team in Group A, securing 13 points from six matches. They clinched victory in four games, drew once, and suffered a single defeat.

Finishing atop Group A, Mamelodi Sundowns outperformed TP Mazembe, who secured the second position with 10 points.

Following them was FC Nouadhibou in third place, while Pyramids FC ended their campaign at the bottom of the group standings.

The other fixtures for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals include matchups between Simba SC vs Al Ahly SC, TP Mazembe vs Petro Atletico, as well as Esperance vs ASEC Mimosas.

These eagerly awaited first-leg encounters are set to take place between March 29-31, promising thrilling displays of skill and determination on the field.

Subsequently, the second leg games are scheduled for April 5-6, adding to the excitement of the knockout stage of the competition.

## Catholic Church hosts 2024 Half Marathon in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam has organized a Half-Marathon that will involve more than 10,000 people to collect funds to help people with various needs in the community.

This year's race, which is expected to start at 6 am, is slated to take place at the Pilgrimage grounds, Pugu in Dar es Salaam on May 18.

The race will involve various events- 2km, 5km, 10km, and 21km for a variety of competitors.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, the Archbishop of the Dar es Salaam Diocese Jude Theodeus Ruwa'ichi said last year's race was a great success and they believe this year's edition will be even more successful.

"I would like to inform everyone that this year's race will be held on May

18, I invite everyone to participate to achieve our goals of helping people in need in our communities," Bishop Ruwa'ichi stated.

He further said in last year's race they managed to collect 117m/- which was presented to orphanages and buy 100 sheets that were handed over to the Cardinal Rugambwa Hospital and, this year, they hope to exceed the donation.

"On the race day, there will be various activities, there will be a health test exercise, blood donation, building faith in the church, and many other things," Ruwa'ichi pointed out.

He said that this year, apart from helping the needy in the community, the organizers have planned to improve the library at Pugu Secondary School by establishing the Mwalimu Nyerere library.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

