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VP receives, hails Cardinal Rugambwa as peace symbol

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Vice President Dr Philip Mpango in jovial mood with Protase Cardinal Rugambwa (C) shortly after the latter jetted into Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday from Vatican City, where he was elevated to the position at the weekend alongside 20 other archbishops. Left is Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, a prelate who served as Archbishop of Dar es Salaam from 1992 to 2019 and was made a cardinal in 1998. Archbishop Rugambwa becomes the third Tanzanian Catholic Church Cardinal. Photo: VPO

PM: Blacklist surveyors fuelling land wrangles

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed that stern legal actions be taken against companies tasked to survey plots in Dodoma Region over ethical failures when conducting the exercise.

He issued the directive in the capital yesterday at a meeting with city authorities from Dar

es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Tanga and Dodoma aimed at finding lasting solutions to land conflicts in urban areas.

"I want these companies to face the wrath of the law including blacklists as these companies are still operating," he said the government shall work with trustworthy companies.

He affirmed being aware that some of the companies belong to city officials as shown in the report, where the city executive director has a company, as well as the city accountant.

They all use them to do the same task, which he said is unacceptable as it contributes to increased land disputes. Regional commissioners need to

ensure that rural planning officers, surveyors and valuers are given the task instead of private companies.

He directed further that those who have been implicated in the matter be arrested for investigation and questioning

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Govt to recruit 150,000 community health staff

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government is set to recruit 153,385 community health workers in the next three years to strengthen primary healthcare provision.

Dr Wilson Mahela, the Regional Administration and Local Governments deputy permanent secretary for Health and Social Welfare in the President's Office (PO-RALG) made this observation at the Tanzania Health Summit which ended yesterday.

He said the projection is to employ 51,192 community health workers each year for three years

to attain 153,385 openings, with a view to facilitate eventual implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) insurance policy.

"If we want to implement UHC, we must first invest in community health workers," he said, asserting that the government needs to strengthen primary health care as more than 85 per cent of the population receive health services at primary health setups.

The summit theme fo-

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TASAC, Barbados sign MoU to recognise sailors

By Carlos Banda

THE Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation (TASAC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Barbados—an island state in the Caribbean Sea to facilitate recognition of certificates presented by seamen from both countries.

Kaimu Abdi Mkeyenge, the TASAC director general, said in a statement yesterday after the signing the MoU in London that the move will benefit Tanzanian sailors, eligible to seek for job openings in international shipping line markets.

Tanzania is also in discussions with 34 countries to seek similar agree-

ments that allow certificates held by Tanzanian sailors to be recognised, acknowledged in those countries.

Those already being consulted at the Bahamas, South Korea, China, Comoros, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Iran, Kenya, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Oman, Palau, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singa-

pore, South Africa, Seychelles, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Vietnam and European Union member stated who operate a unified maritime operations system.

These accords create job opportunities for Tanzanian sailors while addressing challenges faced by Tanzanian seamen, like being disembarked

from shipping vessels of countries that lack agreements with Tanzania in that sphere.

"Barbados is among countries that we had initial discussions with," he said, expressing satisfaction with

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Govt to recruit 150,000 community health staff

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cusing on primary health care has come timely as PO-RALG was focusing on primary health care, he stated, affirming that primary health care is the foundation of a strong health system.

"Our plan is to ensure each community has two community health workers, if possible, as we have 64,384 'hamlets' in the country," he said.

He said it was vital that the entire population starts using community health workers, hinting that the problem remains at how the government is going to make sure that this is the case.

He appealed to public institutions and non-state actors to support the new recruitment drive to attain 153,385 employees as it requires vast amounts of money.

The community health system is the first point of contact for most people seeking health care, making it essential for health promotion and disease prevention, he said, appealing to disease prevention so as

to reduce curative needs to fewer people.

Community health workers play a vital role in delivering primary health care services to communities, he said, underlining the importance of investing in communities. Health summits around the world have been stressing strengthening community health work, he specified.

Walter Kayombo from the Improved Community Health Fund (iCHF) health uplift project with the regional secretariat in Dar es Salaam said adopting digital services in managing health insurance was vital for improving primary healthcare. The Insurance Management System for instance involves digital registration of patients and management of the database eased service provision, under the Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) project.

Many people had since then been registered, a game changer in managing community health insurance which targets people with low income, he added.



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Charlotta-Ozaki Macias (C), cuts the ribbon to open a Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) office in Dodoma city's Kilimani suburb on Thursday. She is with (from-R) Tanzania Information Services (Maelezo) assistant director Zamaradi Kawawa, UTPC president Deogratius Nsokolo, Swedish Embassy official Holger Tausch and UTPC executive director Kenneth Simbaya. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph.

TASAC, Barbados sign MoU to recognise sailors

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reaching an agreement and signing a MoU to mutually acknowledge certified seamen. "It is therefore evident that we recognize sailors from Barbados and they recognize our seamen as well," he stated, affirming that Tanzania has a total of 17,689 sailors formally registered and certified.

Barbados is located at upwards of 430 kilometers to the northeast of the South American mainland, the nearest point being Venezuela, with the island state holding an open registry of

400 ships.

The isle is encircled by Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent in the west, Trinidad and Tobago in the south and Grenada in the south west.

The TASAC move advances maritime opportunities as part of the country's open door policy, enhancing the corporation's status in blue economy issues.

TASAC generated a total of 43bn/- to government coffers in the previous financial year while taking over informal ports with significant activity to widen port and shipping operations, it said in a recent briefing.

VP hails Cardinal Rugambwa as peace symbol

By Correspondent James Kandoya

APPOINTING a third cardinal of the Catholic Church from Tanzania is testimony to the fact that Tanzania is a peaceful country and a model around the world, the government has declared.

Vice President Dr Philip Mpango made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when receiving newly ordained leading prelate Protase Cardinal Rugambwa (63), who had just jetted into

Julius Nyerere International Airport from Vatican City.

He said the government attaches great importance to working with the Catholic Church and other denominations to ensure a peaceful environment for development aspirations and the promotion of peace and enhancement of security.

The VP noted that Tanzania was lucky to have a third cardinal, the late Laurean Cardinal Rugambwa and Archbishop Emeritus of Dar es Salaam,

Polycarp Cardinal Pengo.

The head of the world Catholic Church, Pope Francis, this July 9 appointed 21 new cardinals. Among them was the then co-adjutor archbishop of Tabora, Protase Rugambwa, who earlier (November 2017 to April 2023) served at the Vatican (the global headquarters of the Catholic Church) as secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

He had previously served in that department as adjunct secretary and

president of Pontifical Mission Societies from 2012 to 2017, the VP noted.

Dr Mpango referred to the prelate's emphasis during his ordination ceremony in Rome on peace and unity in Tanzania as underlining his clear commitment to maintaining harmony in the country.

Upon the prelate's ordination, President Samia Suluhu Hassan feted that event on social media, congratulating him and wishing him success in his elevated functions.

The VP extended a hand of welcome to the prelate after the ordination, reaffirming the government's commitment to working with leading religious leaders in promoting peace and enhancing national unity.

Expressing gratitude to the show of emotion, Cardinal Rugambwa called on the public to engage the matter in their prayers so that he can fulfil his new roles.

Archbishop Emeritus Polycarp Pengo meanwhile thanked Pope Francis for the

appointment of a successor in that role, seeing in the newly ordained cardinal a younger brother.

Eveline Mtenga, the Catholic Women in Tanzania and Africa chairperson, said it was a blessing to have a new church leader and it was the duty of the entire church to pray for him so that he could fulfil his duties.

"As mothers, we are happy to have the new son of Africa take charge in the Tanzanian church as its foremost prelate," she said.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (R) pictured on Thursday receiving hospital supplies and equipment worth more than 40m/- from Navid Adatia, DKT International Tanzania's head of administration. It was a donation by the firm to the region. Photo: Frank Monyo

PM: Blacklist surveyors fuelling land wrangles

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"over their possession of government documents."

The concerned officials include Justin Albert, Freddy Mathias and two others named Elias and Magige, still selling plots despite not being government officers, he said.

"These are just hired people," he stated, noting that they have maps and know all the maps "and what they are doing is to sell plots and take the customers to their people at city offices who facilitate provision of title deeds."

Early in the week the

premier ordered legal measures against 14 public officials in Mwanza and Dodoma cities over unethical conduct in handling land matters.

Among them, three are working with the Mwanza City Council and 11 are officials of Dodoma City Council, he said.

He directed Mwanza regional administration secretary Elikana Balandya to suspend two officials from work, instructing the regional assistant land commissioner to be sent back to the ministry for disciplinary action.

The premier had similarly

directed the police and the anti-corruption bureau (PCCB) to seek out 11 civil servants who worked for Dodoma City Council to answer allegations of misuse of public funds, forcible acquisition of lands and selling open spaces.

The suspects were listed as Josephat Mafuru (former Dodoma city council director), Scorpion Philip, Lennis Ngole, Allen Mwakanjuki, Aisha Masanja, Agusta Primo, Azory William Byakanwa, Frezia Kazimoto, Premin Nzenga, Stella Komba and Thabiti Mbiyagi.

Richard Kiura, training co-ordinator said a total of 396 graduates were received where 26 of them will repeat their examination for one month.

Government invests heavily in cyber security - minister

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has invested heavily in strengthening experts in the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), capacitating them with essential skills and techniques to fight cybercrimes.

George Simbachawene, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service

Management and Good Governance), said that with the new initiatives, the experts have the ability to halt corruption systems before they are implemented.

Closing training on preliminary investigation to the experts yesterday at the Police Training School - PTS in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region, the Minister said that the government has

been implementing various projects including health, water education which has an estimated six to 200bn/- that requires need experts from PCCB to prevent any form corruption.

"So, continue being innovative, don't wait for strangers to use various techniques including online to weaken the relevant project, you have been

trained here to prevent that from happening so that the projects have value of money," Simbachawene said.

He said that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been seeking for funds from various sources so as to finance development projects thus deserving honest executives, who will help the government to achieve its de-

velopment goals.

He further said that the government has halted the system of some employees who have been entering in the public service and immediately seeking transfer to other departments saying that it was working for another special procedure under Chief Secretary.

"We all need to think on this, public servants are

hired as per their professionals where there are lawyers, engineers, procurement experts, Information technology (IT), so you should help the government with great integrity, we do not expect you to ask for transfer for your personal interests, we will not allow this," the Minister insisted.

On how to produce evidence in cases, the

Minister urged the experts to be more careful in producing documents and strong verifications that will enable the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to allow the filing of the relevant case.

He said there are a few examples of the presence of weakness in the preparation of evidence, something

which leads the DPP's office to withdraw the case by not showing the intention to proceed with prosecution despite the fact that the government has suffered huge losses in projects.

Richard Kiura, training co-ordinator said a total of 396 graduates were received where 26 of them will repeat their examination for one month.



Global Education Link director Abdulmalik Mollel (in white shirt) and Innocent Tesha, one of the parents whose children are studying abroad, cut a cake in Dar es Salaam yesterday to mark the climax of the commemoration of Customer Service Week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PCCB, DCEA agree on war on graft, illicit drugs in institutions of learning

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fighting graft and illicit drugs within learning institutions in the country.

The campaign dubbed, "Eliminate Corruption and Illicit Drugs in Schools and Higher Learning Institutions", was launched just five months after PCCB and DCEA signed an agreement to collaborate on various issues that aim at fighting corruption as well as curbing illicit drugs business and use in the country.

It was jointly launched in Dodoma by PCCB Director General, Salum Hamduni and DCEA Commissioner General, Aretas Lyimo at an event where the two equally launched the guidelines to be used during implementation of the campaign.

Speaking immediately after the official launching of the campaign, the two top bosses of crucial institutions expressed optimism that if well implemented, the campaign will help the young generation to refrain from being swallowed by corruption and illicit drugs.

According to the PCCB Director General, the two institutions decided to sign the MoU after realising that some of their responsibilities were similar and that they decided to join forces so that they can help in prevention of crime rather than conduct-

ing operations which ought to be done after crimes have been done.

In the MoU, the anti-corruption boss said that both PCCB and DCEA agreed to train their officers who will be executing the ambitious campaign. To begin with, about 58 officers from the two institutions drawn from across the country were trained for two days in Dodoma beginning Tuesday this week.

Also, Hamduni said that the two institutions agreed to exchange intelligence information that will help in averting corruption and illicit drugs business and use, provision of public education through various platforms including anti-graft and anti-illicit drugs clubs in schools and colleges as well as creating awareness to school children and students of higher learning institutions to get rid of acts that violates ethics, traditions and norms as well as volunteering information that can help to avert criminal acts.

Speaking at the launching event, the DCEA Commissioner General said that the two institutions had decided to bank on schools and higher learning institutions because if you prepare the young persons to get rid of corruption and illicit drugs, such crimes were likely to go away.

According to Lyimo, his institution decided to partner with PCCB because the latter has over 7,000 anti-graft clubs in schools and higher learning institutions, therefore the campaign seeks to also bring an idea of the war against illicit drugs in similar clubs.

'President Samia's visit will India to strengthen medical tourism'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

OVERSEAS Education Agency-Global Education Link (GEL) has highlighted several opportunities that Tanzania will benefit from the visit of President Samia Suluhu Hassan in India, including the strengthening of medical tourism in the country.

The agency said that India is the leading country in the world for medical tourism, so President Samia's visit will strengthen the existing cooperation between Tanzania and the

country in various sectors, especially in health. Abdulmalik Mollel, GEL director said that in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the climax of Customer Service Week at his office.

Mollel said that the visit of President Samia, which is expected to take place in India from tomorrow, will be of great benefit to Tanzania as the country has expertise in all fields.

He said that Tanzania has decided to become the hub of medical tourism for countries in South of the Sahara Desert, so the visit will continue

to strengthen the relationship that will help the country to get more medical tourists across the world.

"In terms of education, we will open many opportunities to study abroad in India, student scholarship will increase, doctors and specialists who need to exchange experience with their Indian counterparts will have more opportunities, we also have opportunity in reserve tourism," said Mollel.

In addition, he said that with the investment that has been made in the health sector by the 6th phase gov-

ernment and the good relationship between Tanzania and India, the East Africa and Southern African Countries will depend much on Tanzania for specialist treatments.

Mollel said the President's visit will also open doors for Tanzanian undergraduate students who want to go to India to study medicine in the field of health and other fields.

"India is known all over the world for its competence in the health sector, so the presence of our President in India will help strengthen the cooperation

between the country's universities and the local universities that we have been working with for a long time," he said.

He said that many colleges in India have twinning programmes whereby their students can study partly in their country and finish at other colleges abroad so he said that this is an opportunity for local universities in Tanzania to exchange students with their Indian counterparts.

Meanwhile, Mollel said (GEL), has opened a window for students who want to study abroad calling on Tanza-

nians to utilize the opportunity.

"For students who missed the chance in local universities from now on we have opened the study window and they will go at any time. We will not close and anyone who wants to go abroad will go. We will process them and they will go in a short time," Mollel said.

Mollel said GEL has planned to increase study opportunities for Tanzanians who want to go abroad to study for Doctorate (PhD) and Master's degrees.



Akili Platform Tanzania director Roghat Robert makes remarks at the annual NGOs Forum meeting held in Dodoma city earlier this week, the thrust being the need for the organisations to place a premium on the enhancement of creativity in their activities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TFS calls on potential investors to start projects in tourism, nature reserves

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS) is welcoming potential investors from within and outside the country to establish projects in tourism and nature reserves.

TFS Deputy Conservation Commissioner, Zainabu Bungwa made the call yesterday during the mangroves planting exercise at Kunduchi beach by members of the 3rd Global Youth Climate Summit.

The summit which ends today in Dar es Salaam brought together over 300 youth from 24 countries across the globe.

Zainab said that in combating environmental degradation to further protect natural resources and reserves, there is a need to increase more strength to attract investments in the area.

"Therefore, we are inviting potential investors to come and invest in this area and we believe that by doing this it will greatly give a push in the fight against climate change, which is largely caused by the destruction of the environment," she said.

She also underscored the need to

continue empowering young people by educating them on the importance of protecting the environment and sustainability investing in the sector. "We want young people to inherit environmental care efforts because these are the future leaders we rely on, we believe that when they are well matured in the area of protecting nature, the world will be a safe place for all," she insisted.

Ejaj Ahmad, founder, Global Youth Leadership Centre said that climate change was bringing a lot of impacts globally and that joint efforts were needed to strengthen environmental degradation and establish robust strong strategies to restore nature.

"This is why we have gathered our young people from different countries to equip them with essential knowledge and skills for them to also take action that will not harm nature, this a very powerful group," he said.

Martin Mlenga, an activist from Zambia said what they have learned in the conference will be a huge motivation for them to continue to educate the community on the importance of environmental protection.

Russia at to start teaching Kiswahili in public schools

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Russian government has announced to start teaching Kiswahili language in public schools beginning this academic year.

Russia becomes the first country in Europe to teach Kiswahili language in public schools.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam Region yesterday, Russian Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrey Avetisy-an said the decision has come after several secondary schools in Moscow introduced Kiswahili in their curriculum.

The envoy said the decision is part of his government's effort to support Tanzania government's dream of promoting the language internationally. He said Kiswahili is also taught at higher learning institutions.

The envoy added that the decision is also part of a long bilateral relationship between the two countries, noting that Russia has a long history with Kiswahili since some of its higher learning institutions are teaching the language.

"We have students at five major universities who are fluent in Kiswahili language; this is a big achievement. This promotes cultural relationship between the two nations," he remarked.

Avetisyani said that knowing each language is important for promoting development of the two countries; the Russians government wants students to be competent in different languages to secure employment in other countries.

Kiswahili has expanded after being recognised as one of the official languages in the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) which has over 400 million people.

The language is also taught in other countries including in Chinese universities.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NBC KARIAKOO BRANCH RELOCATION

Please be informed that from Monday 9th October 2023, NBC Kariakoo Branch will relocate to Mkunguni Street, House no. 22.

We would like to assure our esteemed customers that there will be no disruption of services during the move. All services that are available at NBC Kariakoo Branch will continue to be offered at the new location.

NBC is committed to serving our customers and clients with excellence.

Issued by NBC Management





Entrepreneur Rukia Idrissa (R) pictured in Dodoma city earlier this week briefing Petrosas Katambi (2nd-L), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), in the course of deliberations on opportunities for youths in agribusiness. The event was organised by the Agricultural Markets Development Trust. To his left is AMDT board member Lilian Simule. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania Mining Commission wants investors to pay outstanding debts

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Mining Commission has appealed to investors with undeveloped mining licences to develop the potential areas and settle their outstanding debts, starting this month.

Executive Secretary of the Mining Commission, Eng. Yahya Ismail Samamba made the appeal yesterday during an interview.

"The defaulters are denying the government patriotic opportunity to gain needed revenue collection from the prestigious facet," he stated.

He added: "We appreciate the good contributions by all investors in helping develop the country's mining sector. That's why we are reminding them to fulfil their statutory obligations in order to have the sector run successfully," he expressed.

In order to facilitate the payment of the debts in question, Eng. Samamba kindly urged the license holders to go to the resident mines offices in all regions across the country to agree on the best way to pay the debts in instalments.

He insisted that the commission will take legal action against all own-

ers who will fail to comply with the given instructions, adding: "We would like to remind them that the period of three months to pay voluntarily has expired on September 30, 2023 and thus, we have patriotically decided to offer them a special grace period to service their debts."

The Mining Commission was established under the Mining Act 2010 as amended by Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendment) Act 2017. The Commission came into existence through the Government Notice No. 27 issued on 7th July, 2017.

The Commission has taken over all operational functions that were being performed by the minerals division under the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and all functions that were being performed by Tanzania Minerals Audit Agency (TMAA) and Tanzania Diamond Sorting Organization (TAN-SORT).

The responsibility of the minerals division is now to advise the Minister on all matters related to the mining sector. The aim of the Commission is to enhance management of the mining sector and to ensure that the government is benefiting from the income generated in a sustainable manner.

EAC and EU develop joint roadmap to foster digital transformation in the region

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) and European Union (EU) have kicked off the 1st regional conference on digital transformation in Arusha, aiming to foster a human-centric digital transformation in the region.

The conference, facilitated by the Digital for Development (D4D) hub, has brought together key stakeholders from the region and European partners.

Opening the conference, EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki, said the EAC is keen on creating a single regional digital market comprising an online market, a data market, and a connect-

ivity market.

"This is underpinned by digital skills, innovation, infrastructure, financing, and a conducive legal and regulatory environment. Achieving this requires digitalisation in various sectors and integration platforms," said Dr Mathuki.

He hailed the EU as EAC's long-standing strategic partner, saying the EAC's primary goal is to develop a regional digital market for digital trade in East Africa.

He added that the going digital initiative is crucial for the development of the region, as well as for the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"To achieve this, we must, among oth-

er things, establish political agreements and fair platforms for an interoperable regional digital market. Our Partner States also need to agree on regulations to foster digital markets, including data governance and artificial intelligence (AI) standards," said the Secretary General. He added: "It is also incumbent on Partner States to harmonise regulations and build capacity for data governance and AI standards."

Christine Grau, the EU Ambassador to Tanzania emphasized Team Europe's determination in its commitment to supporting the digital transformation of East Africa and global partners.

She stated that by working together,

they can harness the potential of digitalisation to address challenges, create opportunities, and build a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Amb Grau highlighted the European Commission's Digital 4 Development (D4D) approach which recognises the potential of digital technologies and services as powerful enablers for sustainable inclusive development and growth worldwide.

"Our goal is to maximize the impact of digitalization as a driver for social and economic growth while working towards the achievement of the SDGs in our partner countries," said the EU envoy. "The global gateway programme,

launched in 2023, demonstrates our commitment to this approach. Through 'Team Europe' initiatives between EU institutions and Member States, we aim to mobilize up to EUR 300 billion in investments in digital infrastructure, climate and energy, transport, health, education, and research. Within this framework, the D4D Hub plays a crucial role, focusing on the digital pillar of the Global Gateway strategy," she added.

On behalf of Smart Africa, CEO Lacine Koné highlighted Smart Africa as a bold and innovative commitment from African Heads of State and Government to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent, ushering

East Africa into a knowledge economy through affordable access to broadband and the usage of Information and Communications Technologies.

The D4D Hub serves as an important instrument for the EU and its Member States to support transformational projects across the African continent. This aligns harmoniously with the ambitious goals under the Global Gateway, a new strategy for the EU.

The strategy aims to mobilise EUR 300 billion in investment to boost smart, clean, and secure links in digital, energy, and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education, and research systems across the world.

Energy firm inaugurates road safety competition at primary school in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

TOTAL Energies Foundation and Nafasi Art Space have launched an international competition dubbed: "Via Creative," with an aim to educate primary school students about road safety.

The launching event took place at Buza Primary School in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Managing director of Total Energies Tanzania, Mamadou Ngoma said the training will commence from October 9 to 20 with the national finals scheduled for October 13 and the international finals on November 13, this year.

He said the campaign provides primary school students with an opportunity to express their thoughts using messages of road safety to those around them using artistic drawings where the winners will receive prizes ranging from 100,000/- to 200,000/-.

At the end of the competition, the top winning group will participate in the international finals alongside winners from various countries in an event that will take place in Paris, France.

"We are committed to promoting an understanding of road signs from the grassroots level to nurture a community that cares about road safety. Therefore, we hope that this will be a catalyst to help our surrounding community and the entire society prevent road accidents."

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Asulwisy Edward Mwakyonike, who is also the Head of Road Safety in the Mbagala Police District, said: "We are very grateful to TotalEnergies foundation for helping the police force expand road safety education. We hope that this competition will foster unity within the community against preventable road accidents."

For this year, students from 35 schools in Dar es Salaam and 20 schools in Bagamoyo will come together in a drawing competition aimed at educating about road safety.

During the training period, students will work in groups of five to create banners that promote young people, their fellow students, and adults to change their behaviour and attitude in order to increase responsibility in the overall issue of road safety for both motor vehicle users and pedestrians.

Each school will select 10 students who will become ambassadors for road safety and participate in the national banner drawing competition with messages promoting protection against road accidents.



An Airtel Tanzania official (L) pictured in Dodoma city yesterday briefing Dodoma assistant regional administrative secretary (Industry, Trade and Investment) Mwajabu Nyamkomora (C, standing) at the firm's pavilion at the climax of the commemoration of Customer Service Week. Right is Airtel customer experience director Adriana Lyamba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TRA and JICA in drive to boost domestic revenue mobilisation

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have launched the implementation of a risk-based tax auditing to boost domestic revenue mobilisation.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, director of governance group and Japanese experts at JICA head quarter, Seiichi Negishi said that the four-year pro-

ject (February 2023 to January 2027), specifically the project aims to improve TRA's operational process on risk-based tax audit at the selected tax regions.

He said the project also further aims to enhance information collection and management mechanism for tax audit operation between TRA's Head Office and Regional Offices and re-design a training structure for TRA Officers on risk-based audit operations.

"It was a pleasure to commence the new project focusing on risk-based tax audit operation, which is one of the core functions of tax administration, following the past technical cooperation projects with TRA. We strongly believe that the project will make a positive contribution to strengthening the revenue mobilization in Tanzania," he said.

Negishi said that Tanzania has experienced rapid population

growth and steady economic growth in recent years, and it made the transition to a lower-middle income country in July of 2020 although its GDP fell due to the impact of the global pandemic, and economic activity is now gradually recovering.

However, the tax revenue-to-GDP ratio has remained low in the 11 percent -12 percent range since FY 2016/2017 compared to the average (14.84 percent)

of the ratios in 2020 for the 35 African countries.

Michael Muhoja, TRA Deputy Commissioner for technical service thanked JICA for the project as it is going to enhance TRA's capacity to increase tax revenue through risk-based audit operations.

He said the project will support further improvement of TRA's tax collection capacity not only through human resource development but also

through risk-based audit operations at tax regions in line with the FYDP III and CP6.

He said based on the FYDP III, TRA has developed its next strategic policy, the Sixth Corporate Plan (CP6) (July 2022 - June 2027).

So far, TRA has set "Operational Excellence" as its business strategies for the next four years, with the goals of strengthening tax collection, improving tax compliance

and improving operational efficiency, and has worked to improve its tax audit operations to achieve the designated goals.

Moreover, the National Five-Year Development Plan III (2021/22-2025/26) (FYDP III) sets a target of 30.6 trn/-of tax revenue in 2025/26 and a tax revenue-to-GDP ratio of 14.4 percent to achieve high economic growth, macroeconomic stability.



Brenda Msangi (R), CEO of Dar es Salaam's CCBRT Hospital, contributes to panel discussions at an NGOs Forum meeting held in Dodoma city on Wednesday. CCBRT and NMB Foundation were explaining the extent to which they have been using existing laws and regulations to serve the community and share the opportunities in those laws and regulations which other NGOs are yet to capitalise on. She is with Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Dr Anna Henga. Photo: Correspondent

Health professionals discuss challenges facing people with special health needs

By Guardian Correspondent

MORE than 100 health professionals met in Dar es Salaam to discuss and find solutions to challenges in provision of integration services to people with special health needs.

Speaking during the meeting, the representative of Rehab Health Institute, Remla Shirima said currently there is a shortage of experts in provision of integration services. She said the country has 2,000 professionals in the area.

"The government is concerned with empowerment and investment in social services. Health Minister Umyy Mwalimu, when presenting her ministry's budget in the National Assembly in May this year, mentioned 14 priorities of the ministry, including access to and delivery of immunization services," said Shirima.

She said following the situation, the institute thought it would be good to join the government in supporting and providing the service especially at health centres in rural areas.

Shirima said another goal is to train the professionals as part of efforts to increase the number of health practitioners in the country. She said they also intend to ensure integrated health services are available at health facilities across the country as well as medical equipment.

She said that Rehab Health Institute aims to ensure access to necessary equipment, training of professionals in collaboration with other stakeholders in the health sector.

Coordinator of Elderly Health Services in the Ministry of Health, Dr Msafiri Kabulwa said the

government has put in place strategies to ensure availability of integrated health services all over the country.

Dr Kabulwa said despite challenges in the delivery of integrated services to people with special needs at health centre level, such services are available at regional and district hospitals.

Assistant Inspector of Police, Dr Focus Makenge said involving police officers at the training has helped to increase their understanding of the services and its importance to people with special needs.

He said there are many people seeking such services at hospitals following road accidents, but through the training, they are now aware of how to assist them.

"We will use the acquired knowledge to also educate people on the need to follow-up compensation procedures if the accident has resulted in disability. Doctors should also specify the kind of accidents and the vehicles involved; this helps police in preparing reports," he added.



We will use the acquired knowledge to also educate people on the need to follow-up compensation procedures if the accident has resulted in disability. Doctors should also specify the kind of accidents

World needs 44m more teachers to educate every child, report finds

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE world needs 44 million more teachers if education is to be provided to every child, according to new figures from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The education and culture agency said 9 percent of primary school teachers quit the profession in 2022, almost

double the rate of 4.6 percent in 2015.

Audrey Azoulay, the Director General of UNESCO said: "Teachers play a vital role in our societies, yet this profession is facing a major vocations crisis. Some regions of the world lack candidates. Other regions face a very high dropout rate during the first few years of work. In both cases, the answer is the same: we must better value, better train and better support teachers."

UNESCO's analysis showed that the shortfall in teachers had been reduced from 69 million in 2016, mostly in southern Asia, where the shortage had almost been halved to 7.8 million.

In sub-Saharan Africa, which accounted for a third of the global teacher shortage, the shortage had only been reduced by 2 million during the same period. The region needs 15 million teachers to meet the sustainable devel-

opment goal of ensuring primary and secondary education for all by 2030.

The report said there are problems globally including in rich countries, with teachers having to deal with high stress levels, lack of supplies, poor leadership and low salaries.

In Europe and North America, retirement and "a lack of interest in entering the profession" meant that 4.8 million teachers are still needed to "secure

quality primary and secondary education".

In parts of Africa, insecurity has added to school closures, with more than 13,000 schools closed in parts of central and West Africa over the past four years.

UNICEF said a quarter of Burkina Faso's schools were closed when the academic year began this week, with fighting in the country preventing a mil-

lion children and 31,000 teachers going back to school.

John Agbor, UNICEF's representative in Burkina Faso, said: "Having so many children still unable to return to school due to violence and insecurity, and so many schools closed, is very upsetting. We need to continue our work and ensure every child in Burkina Faso can access education and fulfil their dreams in peace and safety."

Kenya to ask for extra \$1bn loan from China

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto will be travelling to China later this month to seek a \$1bn (£820m) loan to pay for stalled road projects, his Deputy Rigathi Gachagua has said.

Gachagua told a local FM radio station that many contractors had abandoned projects around the country as they were not getting paid for their work.

He said while Kenya was already heavily in debt to China, the president would ask for an extra \$1bn while seeking a longer repayment period for the money that is already owed.

He said the president would tell the Chinese that "we admit we owe you money, can we talk so that you add more time, we pay more slowly, and can you add some little more money to finish building our roads?"

Kenya owes China more than \$8bn from loans mostly contracted during the former government under President Uhuru Kenyatta for infrastructure projects.

The deputy president addressed the issue of extravagance by government officials, saying it was the reason the president had ordered a curb on foreign trips.

Earlier this week, the presidency banned public officials from taking non-essential trips abroad to cut spending and has ordered all ministries to cut their budget for the next financial year by 10 percent.

The government has been accused of unnecessary spending amid complaints by many Kenyans over the rising cost of living and tax hikes put in place by the government.



Public Procurement Regulatory Authority board chairperson Dr Leonada Mwangike (C) presents the agency's audit report on procurement in the government for financial year 2022/2023 to the Finance deputy minister Hamad Hassan Chande in Dodoma city yesterday. Looking on is PPRA chief executive officer Eliachim Maswi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TBS goods certification training benefits 5,000 people in Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

OVER 5,000 people in Igunga, Kaliua, Sikonge, Uyui and Tabora Municipality in Tabora region have been empowered with skills on how to identify genuine products in the market outlets, thanks to the efforts made by the Tanzania Bureau of Stand-

ards (TBS).

Beneficiaries were trained on the importance of reading the information contained in products and buying products that have TBS certification.

Through the campaign that started on September 18, this year, and ended yesterday, TBS has encouraged small entrepreneurs to confirm the quality of

their products and businessmen to register food and cosmetic stores.

The campaign was held in various places including markets, bus stands, auctions and other open areas, where citizens came out to get education and understanding of various issues related to the quality of products.

Gibson Milambo, Kaliua acting district executive director commended TBS for providing education to the people and advised to conduct regular surprise inspections in shops especially in food products and cosmetics at the district level.

Gladness Kaseka, TBS communication and manager said the goal of the organization is

to provide education to the public at all district levels and so far the organization has reached 72 districts. "People have praised TBS for the education they decided to provide because it will help them make the right decisions when buying products," said Kaseka.

Magesa Mwizarubi, TBS inspector, asked entrepreneurs

and businessmen to ensure that they sell products certified by TBS and the owners of food and cosmetics premises to register them to avoid any inconvenience that may arise. Magesa explained to the citizens the importance of standards in their daily lives and asked them to be ambassadors to encourage quality

in the communities they live in parallel with providing information at the nearby TBS office or calling the service center through the contact provided if they encounter challenges related to quality issues of the product at the time of purchase. Out of 5,615 people who were trained, 215 are entrepreneurs.



Rayhaan Rizwan makes remarks in Dar es Salaam earlier this week shortly after being elected CCM's young pioneers chairman for Ilala District. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania set to start execution of Integrated Disability Action Plan

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is set to start implementing the Integrated Disability Action Plan to help address challenges facing people with disabilities including deaf people effectively from April, 2024 making it the first country in Africa.

Mary Kessy, the national professional officer Violence and Injuries Prevention from the World Health Organisation (WHO) told this paper in an interview that Tanzania commends the government for starting to identify and assess the priorities out of the 10 global recommendations.

Kessy said that the implementation was part of the Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities that wants countries to integrate disability into health priorities.

She said compared to other countries in Africa, Tanzania government has up to date started identifying and assessing the priorities out of the 10 global recommendations.

She said that World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions 74.8 on Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Persons with Disabilities requested the developing countries develop and launch a Global report to provide Member States with technical support and capacity building to integrate disability into health priorities.

"I commend the Tanzanian government for being the first country showing its readiness to start implementing

the integrated disability action plan," she said.

Some of the global resolutions are health financing, models of care, health and care workforce, physical infrastructure, digital technology and system of improving the quality of health.

Kessy suggested that services can become more inclusive by raising awareness among all health service staff including health workers, receptionists and security guards of the rights and needs of people with disability.

According to her, this can be done by providing training for all staff and developing specific policies on disability inclusion.

Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Prof Joyce Ndalichako said everyone has a right to access services regardless of his or her disability.

She said that Tanzania is now working out resolutions of the WHO in order to attain health standards for persons with disabilities.

Her ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Health are working closely to ensure health and education equity for persons with disabilities.

Celina Mremba, chairperson of the Tanzania Association of the Deaf (TAD) said that lack of sign language interpreters is one of the big challenges they encounter when performing their duties.

Rome Water Dialogue 2023 seeks solutions for sustainable water and food-secure future

ROME

FOOD and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has convened a key gathering aimed at finding synergies and solutions to water's critical role relating to soils, land, climate change, biodiversity and agriculture.

"We must stop taking water for granted," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said at the opening of the two-day Rome Water Dialogue.

"With agriculture accounting for more than 70 per cent of the planet's freshwater withdrawals, by increasing efficiency, reducing negative impacts and reusing wastewater, agriculture holds the solutions to the global water crisis, as well as the key to achieving global water and food security," Qu said.

The FAO Director-General emphasized the need for a 4Rs approach based on the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replace to effectively

address the severe water challenges mostly due to water related natural disasters that resulted in direct economic costs of more than \$200 billion in 2021 alone. "We - the global community - must leverage every opportunity to achieve a resilient, sustainable water secure, food secure future", the FAO Director-General said.

The dialogue forms part of what FAO brands its Water Journey, a focus on integrated water resource management for agricultural and

food security.

Starting with the first Rome Water Dialogue last year, milestones include the Africa Regional Workshop on National Water Roadmaps hosted by Zimbabwe, the second WASAG International Forum and the Praia Call for Action, the designation of water as the theme of the FAO Conference last July, of the next biennium and of this year's World Food Day on 16 October.

It also features eight commitments

by FAO towards the Global Water Action Agenda as adopted during the UN 2023 Water Conference to achieve the water-related goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

FAO's practical support to countries includes technical solutions on rainwater harvesting and storage, aquifer storage and recovery, non-conventional water resources for agriculture, irrigation systems and fish passages. The Organization also

works with countries to map out irrigation needs and potential in support of planning, investment and financing decisions.

It supports countries with data, information, through platforms such as FAO's Water Productivity Open-access of Remotely sensed derived data (WaPOR)—the geographical scope of which is just expanded to cover the entire globe - and the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG).

New malaria vaccine to prevent many deaths

By Sarah Boseley

A new vaccine against malaria - which kills 600,000 people every year, mostly children - is to be injected into babies' arms in 18 countries where the disease is most deadly. That's joyous news. But the unbridled enthusiasm the announcement has generated says as much about the sorry state of malaria control as the brilliance of scientific invention.

The vaccine will protect 75 percent of those given it. It is still hugely important to get vaccination programmes going in the 18 countries that will now be funded to run them, because many deaths will be averted. But it's not the end of malaria. Nowhere near.

The R21/Matrix-M vaccine from Oxford University and the Serum Institute of India, which ran the trials and will manufacture it, is the second to be dispatched to the field. The first was RTS,S - trade name Mosquirix - made by GlaxoSmithKline. It was created in 1987, then trialled and piloted in 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi.

There is little difference between the outcomes of the two vaccines, which are designed and made in a very similar way. We're not looking at a breakthrough mRNA vaccine here, using brand new technology of the kind involved in the Pfizer/BioNTech and the Moderna Covid vaccines - although there are groups working on early-stage development of one.

The big difference is price and supply. There are only 18m doses of RTS,S available. The Serum Institute has undertaken to make 100m doses of the Oxford vaccine and double that in the following year. The price will also be a lot lower - in line with that of other childhood vaccines that are generally used across Africa.

That's the really good news. You can't use a vaccine to save lives if you can't afford it or obtain it. The comment from Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO's regional director for Africa, was telling.

"This second vaccine holds real potential to close the huge demand-and-supply gap," she said after WHO announced its approval. Malaria is the disease families fear in endemic regions. They want a vaccine. They have seen too many children sicken and die. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, will now stump up the money to get the vaccine out as widely as possible.

But this is not a one-shot vaccine. It's four shots. And because the vaccine works best in smaller babies, the first three shots will be given at monthly intervals, starting at five months old, followed by a booster at two years old, which will not coincide with the routine childhood immunisation schedule. Families may have to travel to clinics, taking time out from the fields or hard work at home, perhaps bringing other children too. Even in affluent countries, children are not always brought back for second vaccine doses.

Prof Nick White of Mahidol University in Thailand and Oxford, one of the world's leading malaria experts, said that in Africa, malaria maps to its wars. In conflict zones such as the DRC, immunisation is often a casualty. "Large swathes of Africa will not be able to receive this," he said.



Hanspaul Group CEO Satbir Hanspaul (R) briefs Natural Resources and Tourism minister Angellah Kairuki (in light-green dress) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how electric vehicles utilise eco-friendly technology, thus benefiting the tourism sector. It was during the opening of the three-day 7th Edition of Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Adopt friendly media laws, Zanzibar government urged

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) director for Zanzibar, Dr Mzuri Issa, has said it is important to adopt friendly media laws in Zanzibar that lead to the existence of freedom of expression and access to information in the society.

Dr Mzuri made the suggestion yesterday at the meeting aimed at proposing amendments to the law of the Broadcasting Act No.7 of 1997

involving members of Zanzibar Media Committee (ZAMECO), loose network entailing media based organizations and diverse media experts. Dr. Mzuri added that there is a need to amend the law thus provides opportunity for freedom of expression which is the main source of the country's development.

"Freedom of information and the right to access information as well as freedom of ex-

pression are fundamental factors in the development of the country and it even brings individual happiness", said Dr. Mzuri in the meeting which was requested by ZAMECO which is currently reviewed by Zanzibar Law Review Commission.

Chairperson of the Zanzibar Law Reform Commission, Khadija Shamte, said that the time has come to have laws that go with times and the commission is ready to cooperate with stakehold-

ers to that end.

"We need to work together to get friendly media laws that will bring change in the media industry in Zanzibar", said Khadija

Zanzibar stakeholders have urged the commission to incorporate the recommendations in its report and finally get a law that meets the required criteria.

Chairperson of Zanzibar Press Club (ZPC), Ab-

dullah Mfaume said proposed new broadcasting law will facilitate and smoothen ways to collect, distribute information by journalists through different media channels for the benefit and interest of the society.

He requested the Zanzibar Law Review Commission and other key actors in the government sphere to leverage the existing of ZAMECO in reviewing laws that deal with media regulations for better insight of the context and issues.

US resumes some food aid deliveries to Ethiopia after assistance halted over 'widespread' theft

ADDIS ABABA

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has said it is resuming food deliveries to hundreds of thousands of refugees in Ethiopia, four months after assistance was halted over a widespread scheme to steal supplies.

The decision was made after Ethiopia's government agreed to remove itself from the dispatch, storage and distribution of refugee food supplies, the USAID spokesperson said.

Food aid will be restored to roughly 1 million refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and elsewhere.

However, food assistance has not resumed for the 20.1 million Ethiopians who rely on it as the country grapples with internal conflict and drought.

The agency also said it has implemented measures including biometric tests and GPS tracking across its operations worldwide to help address risks of diversion and to "help ensure food assistance gets to those who need it most."

"We continue to work with

the Ethiopian government on additional reforms that will help ensure that assistance is provided based on assessed vulnerability and need, consistent with international best practice," the USAID spokesperson said.

USAID and the United Nations World Food Program in June halted all food aid to Ethiopia after an internal investigation found donated food intended for millions of hungry people there was being diverted on a "widespread" scale. Both agencies had already paused food assistance to the war-torn province of Tigray in March.

At the time, USAID officials said that the diversion scheme could be the largest-ever theft of humanitarian food. Since then, thousands of deaths linked to the food pause have been reported in Tigray.

The WFP restarted small-scale distributions in some areas of Tigray on July 31 as it tested "enhanced controls and measures." Last month, the leader of the Tigray region said 480 people had been arrested there over the theft.



Bakhresa Group representative Hussein Suphiane (C) contributes to discussion in Dar es Salaam yesterday on how the tax system could support efforts leading to the sustainable development of Tanzania's industrial sector. It was in the course of the Tanzania International Manufacturers Expo 2023 organised by the Confederation of Tanzanian Industries. Others are Tanzania Revenue Authority representative Stephen Magige (L) and Nguvu Kamando from Vodacom Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Z'bar still needs huge investments in various economic sectors - Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said that Zanzibar still requires huge investments in the blue economy sector through tourism, fish farming, ports, oil and gas and marine transport.

President Mwinyi made the remarks here yesterday as he addressed newly appointed ambassadors elect who visited him for introduction, ad-

vice ready for travelling to their new stations to represent Tanzania in foreign countries.

He called on the envoys to grab investment opportunities in countries they will be stationed, channel them to the country in order to boost Zanzibar's tourism that depended on the Isles economy by 30 percent of its GDP.

He called on them to look for new tourism markets and advertise the

Isles tourist attractions including its beaches, heritage sites and other fields.

In regard to the fishing sector and fish farming, President Mwinyi called on the envoys to drum up more on the sector as well as looking for investors and investors in seaweed farming of which Zanzibar leads in Africa's seaweed production.

He also told the new envoys to grab up financial opportunities, capital and loans as well as boosting good

relations with the nations they represent including in education and other fields.

Regarding the oil and gas and marine transport sectors, he said that Zanzibar needs huge investments in the sectors in order to spur trade and economy through the ports of Zanzibar, Pemba, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and others including those to reach Mozambique, Comoro and other nearby islands.

He also called on the new envoys to continue strengthening the good relations with Tanzania's neighbours.

Speaking on behalf of fellow envoys, Ambassador Khamis Mussa Omar who will represent Tanzania in Beijing, China, promised President Mwinyi to grab investment opportunities for Tanzania from the countries they will be stationed with as well as improving the existing relations.

The newly appointed Ambassadors

with their stations in brackets include Amb. Hassan Mwamweta (Germany as well as Bulgaria, Czech, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Switzerland), Amb. Habibu Awesu (Qatar), Amb. Mohamed Juma (Saudi Arabia) and Amb Imani Njikai (Algeria)

Others are Amb Maj Gen Ramson Mwaisaka (Egypt), Amb Gelasuis Byananwa (Burundi) and Amb Dr Benard Kibesse (Kenya).

Jafo happy with JNHPP project on conservation of environment

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo

DR Selemani Jafo, Minister of State Office of the Vice President (Union and Environment), has expressed satisfaction with the execution of the Julius Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Plant (JNHPP) Project, particularly the way it follows environmental guidelines.

Jafo made the remarks on Tuesday during his special tour of the country's mega power project in the Rufiji River in eastern Tanzania.

He also lauded the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) for making a close supervision and reinforcement of the Environmental Act at the power project.

He made the tour for the purpose of inspecting the progress of the project as well as the manner to which NEMC is working to ensure the implementation of the project does not pollute the surrounding environment.

"This is a huge project which involves more than 12,000 people on the site and due to its nature it automatically produces different forms of waste. I have been impressed with the decision by NEMC to set up a permanent camp here in order to ensure the Environmental Management Act is effectively observed," he said.

He also tasked players in the project to ensure the effective conservation of water sources at the Kilombero and Ruaha rivers. "Apart from increasing the availability of electricity supply, completion of this project is projected to play a major role to combat floods, improving irrigation agriculture as well as reducing use of charcoal and firewood among the citizens," he observed.

Giving further advantages of the project, he said the initiative will increase the availability of water and unlock a prestigious opportunity for the country to embark on water tourism.



A Lumumba Road underpass built with Roads Fund financing comes in handy for these pedestrians in the Mwanga Sokoni segment of Kigoma municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

UN programme teaches women on climate-resilient farming

JOHANNESBURG

SINCE 2019, UN Women has partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on "Contributing to the Empowerment of Women in Africa through Climate-Smart Agriculture", a programme to provide technical farming skills, recommendations on best business practices, and climate-conscious agriculture methods to tens of thousands of women farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

About 66 percent of working women in the region are employed in agriculture-related fields, according to a recent report by the FAO. Women's working conditions "are likely to be worse than men's", the report found, citing a disproportionate number of women working in irregular, informal, and labour-intensive work.

"Although commercial farming is still a male-dominated industry where women have to work doubly hard, the reality is that women have always been

farmers, working the land and producing food", said Disebo Makatsa, a South African woman who turned her mother's vegetable garden into Dee-Y Trading, a 368-hectare vegetable and dairy farm in Free State province.

"What many small-scale women farmers need are skills, finance, technology, and access to markets, to move into the formal economy", she said.

Makatsa is one of 4,560 South African women farmers who received training through

the UN Women and FAO programme, supported by Standard Bank.

In South Africa, the programme has focused on helping them grow crops including maize and beans. In Malawi, UN Women reached 10,461 women, with a focus on growing ground nuts. In Uganda, it helped 1,400 women learn to cultivate farm-raised fish, and in Nigeria the programme reached 12,500 women with techniques to produce shea butter and rice.

Additionally, those trainings have imparted techniques to help fight climate change, through using climate-resilient farming techniques and technologies, as well as responsible land care.

"The programme's primary goal was to empower women economically while enhancing climate resilience and agricultural productivity", said Ayanda Mvimbi, Women Economic Empowerment Specialist at UN Women's South Africa Multi-Country Office.

"I learned a lot about best agricultural practices and implemented them", Makatsa said, citing programs that taught her about using drip-irrigation technology to conserve water, rotating crops to retain soil nutrients, and growing different vegetables together to save land and keep soil fertile.

Programme participants also receive guidance on legal compliance, helping them formalize their businesses and work with retailers and distributors to sell products that meet food

safety standards. Since working with the programme, Makatsa has added 18 new milk cows to her stock and employs 14 people on her farm year-round, with many more hired during the harvest season. She hopes to grow her business and expand into pasteurized milk, pre-cut vegetables, and other agricultural products.

"I've seen a big difference with the quality of crops we're producing and an improvement in the yield," Makatsa said.

Integration of NCDs in HIV care might congest hospitals

STAKEHOLDERS are holding out for integration of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) into routine tests especially concerning HIV care and treatment services. A local NGO, the Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) linked with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has lately brought together stakeholders to seek ways to improve NCDs tracking, at a health forum was alongside the three days Tanzania Health Summit at mid-week. The issue isn't that NCDs are overly similar to HIV but rather it takes time for anyone to take notice.

There is already a problem at the formative stage of the issue, as it is evident that the question here is testing and perhaps tracking for changes in someone's NCDs status over a certain period of time. The need to attach it with HIV testing is really one of convenience in the sense of the regular manner in which such testing is conducted when one seeks examination or treatment for things like malaria, etc. But is it different from demanding that NCDs be tested for most hospital reporting?

Another difficulty in the wish to take up NCDs in HIV testing and treatment is that the two are especially different sorts of diseases. One is an infection with drugs that are being mass produced, and for which there are programmes designed to take care of that need to avoid a public health crisis. HIV is a contagious condition and thus imposes certain duties on the public authorities, while NCDs are a matter of lifestyle. The public authorities need not be concerned if one has blood pressure.

Not being concerned doesn't mean

not having to care, but there are distinct levels of urgency in the matter, where testing for HIV, malaria or tuberculosis is essential for wider public health. Testing for NCDs is really a matter of being concerned with the situation of this or that individual, and not a hovering danger to society as such, the way health authorities had to hurriedly organise polio vaccination. There can be no such urgency if the problem is how much sugar, beer or meat one takes.

There is definitely a case for collaborative efforts to facilitate early diagnosis of diseases, and this is a factor that bring together NCDs and HIV in the sense that they have both have incipient levels and dangerous levels later on. The difference is the social environment, treatment and counselling, in which case the whole issue of care and treatment, where no common ground exists between NCDs and HIV. At a psychological level or rather with a specific patient the two things are totally unrelated; people living with HIV+ status eat for dense nutrition, skirt BP fear, etc.

This suggestion can thus be taken up as relevant for those seeking medical attention in private hospitals, especially those with a habit for routine health tests, not just for HIV but has to include NCDs, a whole range of diseases. When it comes to those visiting public facilities the suggestion can't work, as there is usually a throng of people waiting to be attended, thus adding 'unwanted' tests isn't the best thing to do on any particular day. Medical officers will hardly pile up more tests than prescribed on the basis of specific ailment taking one to hospital.

There is excellent ground for a fruitful state visit to India

NEWS that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is set to pay a four-day state visit to India wasn't surprising given the president's particular brand of economic diplomacy and making friends or seeking potential investors from different places. The work rate that the president puts up isn't in the same league with officials who are then tasked with making plans aired from those visits work, as even when a project has been registered it could still fail towards the end. The bureaucracy has been reduced to a considerable extent, but laws are in place to check 'zeal, excess.'

There is something of a mixed bag in the way the state visit is being seen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, as India is a major country from the viewpoint of the size of its economy. This means one thing in terms of the size of the market it represent, but when attention shifts to purchasing power, it is easy to congest the Indian market as it is the case here, due to the narrow margins of personal spending on average terms. India is thus best seen from a trading partnership point of view, but there are aid elements taken up too.

The fact that eight years ago a Tanzanian Head of State was in India suggests that we have fairly regular contacts at high level, as often one hears of a visit at top level and it is the first time that such a visit occurs. While relations with India have plenty to do with foreign relations like others, the cultural dimension is quite intense, and it is interesting to see how it is taken up in this visit. More attention is given to the diplomatic front, the traditional ties related to non-alignment, or at present the search for horticultural markets particularly, here especially green peas.

There is a dimension of technical assistance that also has to do with medicine business, in the wish to set up a kidney transplant facility in the country. That would add to the increasingly sophisticated range of specialised medical services at the country's foremost hospital, Muhimbili, and its specialised units. There are water sector development projects that are being raised occasionally and date back nearly a decade. That implies an el-

ement of private-public partnership may quicken the project uptake and speed, as it creates more stakeholders to push for it.

Admittedly, India is a country separated from Tanzania by a fairly considerable distance of sea, though covered by air travel. Culturally though India is virtually a neighbouring state, and that adds a complication in affirmation of the value of that country's investments in Tanzania. It becomes an expatriate measure, of how many investments are actually from India, as there are plenty of local Indian investments.

There is hence no question that the president's visit is likely to quite fruitful, but as is usually the case for such visits, plenty still awaits to be done during the visit, to bring to proximity expectations of the visiting state team and the hosts. That is why privileging private-public partnership where it is feasible makes plenty of sense, as India isn't in the first place a donor country as such, and it expects that we clearly appreciate its assistance by some business leverage. There is no reason to fail there.



The fact that eight years ago a Tanzanian Head of State was in India suggests that we have fairly regular contacts at high level, as often one hears of a visit at top level and it is the first time that such a visit occurs. While relations with India have plenty to do with foreign relations like others, the cultural dimension

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SOME ACCESSORIES ARE MISSING



UN and Africa's disproportionate representation

By Solange Bandiaky-Badji and Hursu Adam

THE United Nations (UN), established in 1945 unsettling narrative of inequality. This imbalance is glaringly evident when we scrutinise the representation of Africa, a continent consisting of 55 sovereign nations. Despite playing a substantial role in global peacekeeping endeavours, Africa remains starkly under-represented in the UN's topmost decision-making tiers, has persistently proclaimed its mission to foster peace, security and international cooperation. Nevertheless, a careful exploration of its structural foundation, particularly the configuration of its Security Council, illuminates

Africa, tragically, is the only continent without a permanent seat or veto power in the Security Council, revealing an institutional bias inherent in the UN's present structure. The Security Council, widely considered the most influential body within the UN, is composed of five permanent members with veto power: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China. This group essentially governs and moulds global policies, yet it glaringly lacks representation from any African nation. This omission is not only disconcerting but also constitutes a deep-seated inequity for many.

The argument for Africa's representation is further bolstered by its substantial participation in global peacekeeping missions. African countries consistently rank among the largest contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping operations. Despite this pivotal involvement, these nations are denied a voice in the permanent decisions made by the Security Council. This disconnect between contribution and influence manifests a severe power imbalance within the UN structure.

Africa, a continent rich in cultural diversity, natural resources and growing economic potential, warrants recognition as an equal player on the global stage. The current Security Council structure not only belittles Africa's significant contributions but also hampers the continent's potential to influence global policies that directly affect it. This arrangement simultaneously undermines the UN's own principle of equal representation. Reforming the Security Council to include African representation is not merely fair but essential to transforming the global body into a just organisation that serves both the weak and powerful nations equally.

Moreover, this power imbalance often results in African nations merely being the subjects of decisions, rather than active contributors. The African continent frequently finds itself at the mercy of mandates and decisions passed by the permanent members of the Security Council, without any meaningful channel to influence these decisions. This representation deficit has significant repercussions on the continent's autonomy, sovereignty, and development.



Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, briefs the Security Council meeting on peace and security in Africa, with a focus on countering terrorism and extremism in Africa.
File photo

Example, Kenyan President, William Ruto, brilliantly stated that current times put the effectiveness and intention of multilateralism to the test for historical evaluation. Like many other leaders, Ruto strongly believes that the Security Council is flawed, lacking democracy and inclusivity, and doesn't represent the world adequately. This makes it ineffective in addressing global issues, with the unchecked actions of some global actors as evidence of this dysfunction.

In an era where we strive for equality and fairness, the United Nations' antiquated structure stands in stark contrast. The current configuration of the Security Council, reflecting the geopolitical realities of the post-World War II era, is ill-equipped to handle the complexities of the 21st Century, where power dynamics have significantly evolved. It is imperative, therefore, to reevaluate the composition of the Security Council, ensuring a more equitable representation that mirrors today's global landscape. If the Security Council is not reformed soon, future generations will laugh at us, questioning why, even in the 21st Century, the world remained so biased against African countries.

A balanced United Nations can redress the injustices faced by Africa and foster a more robust and inclusive global decision-making platform. Prioritising the reformation of the Security Council to include permanent representation and veto power for Africa is a matter of international importance. Such changes would not only enhance the UN's legitimacy and efficacy but also reaffirm the principle of equality and justice the UN purports to uphold.

There is a glimmer of hope, however. The 2015 report of the Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance co-chaired by

renowned diplomats, Madeleine Albright and Ibrahim Gambari, advocated for the reform of the UN system. This initiative was subsequently echoed in the Stimson Centre's report, "Beyond UN75: A Roadmap for Inclusive, Networked & Effective Global Governance", and the Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda World Summit 2023" which pledged: "We will leave no one behind," and "We will upgrade the United Nations." So, Africa should not be left behind. Africa should be upgraded to be an equal actor in the world's highest decision body.

At the time of penning this article, the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is actively underway, having commenced on September 19, 2023, in New York. On its inaugural day, the assembly witnessed addresses from seven distinguished African heads of state: President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of Nigeria and his counterparts from South Africa, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Mozambique and Senegal.

However, it's essential to note that granting these African nations the platform to speak on the first day of the UNGA session is not merely a token gesture or a matter of protocol. Beyond these symbolic opportunities, it's imperative that the international community acknowledges and addresses the more significant issue at hand: the lack of Africa's representation with a permanent seat on the Security Council.

The continent has long been advocating for a place at the table where global decisions are made. Merely offering African countries a chance to speak at the UNGA is not enough. It's high time that the international community moved beyond symbolic gestures and took substantial action by granting Africa

a deserved permanent seat on the Security Council.

To conclude, Africa's exclusion from the highest echelons of decision-making within the UN contradicts the principles of fair representation and equal participation. This scenario is a remnant of an obsolete geopolitical system that urgently requires reform. Including Africa's voice in the UN's core decision-making body is about more than correcting historical injustices; it is integral to establishing a balanced and equitable global governance system for today and future generations.

The African Union (AU) High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa, Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, has urged artists across the continent to utilise their talents in championing peace amidst escalating conflicts in the region.

The AU, in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), convened a five-day virtual training for artists under the theme: 'Leveraging Arts for Peace'.

The training brought together 25 African artists from all the regions of Africa, to not only raise their consciousness about promoting peaceful co-existence in communities but also to sensitise them against the use of art to incite violence, promote hate speech, hate crimes, or other forms of conflict. The participants exchanged views and brainstormed on creative ideas that would heighten public awareness of Silencing the Guns and the negative impact of the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons on the continent.

In 2013, the African Union adopted the "Silencing the Guns" initiative with the goal of ending all wars in Africa by 2020.

However, ten years later, the sound of guns has become even louder on the African continent as more countries became engulfed in armed conflict.

Elements prosecution must prove before court in the offence of theft

By Telesphor Magobe

LAST week, we briefly looked at acts which could be ethical and illegal or could be unethical and legal. There are many of them, but we just mentioned two of them. One was rape and we said rape is both unethical and illegal, but when it comes to marital (spousal) rape (forceful sexual intercourse with one's own wife without her consent) the laws of Tanzania are silent about it.

Another act we mentioned was procuring one's own miscarriage (abortion) or helping another person to do so is illegal in Tanzania (sections 150-152 of the Penal Code R.E. 2022). However, under certain circumstances it is unethical, yet in some jurisdictions across the world abortion is legal.

Today, I invite you to briefly look at the offence of theft. Recently, I went to a busy place where many people were 'coming and going' and I saw one person disembarking from a minibus. He was then approached by a young person who asked for 200/-. The person who had disembarked from the minibus threw it to him, but it fell down.

The young person picked it up and off he went. Then, the person who had thrown it called him and said: "It is good when you need something you ask for it as you have done, but never steal again because you will be lynched at any time."

Since I was standing and looking at them, the person who had disembarked from the minibus saw that I was looking at them and heard what he was telling the young person. He then came to me and showed me a clip showing the young person he was talking to surrendering himself to two policemen at a police station, vowing "from today I won't steal again".

After that incident, the person who had disembarked from the minibus said he believed the young person had stopped stealing, but was surprised to hear from another person who was also around who said:

"He's still stealing and recently he stole a bag of maize flour from a neighbour. There is a notorious thief who has run away and once he reappears anywhere we will lynch him. We are tired of him."

There was also a time if you were in a car and in a queue and holding a mobile phone and if a window you were near was open, you could just find your mobile phone gone because a thief had just come unnoticed, snatched the mobile phone from you and ran away.

When I was growing up there was a 'notorious thief' in a neighbouring village and since he was often in and out of jail, he claimed he knew how to defend himself in court better than fellow villagers who were unfamiliar with court proceedings. This made him continue stealing



and sometimes he would even mention the things he was going to steal next.

Some villagers who wanted to buy stolen property would easily buy the same from him. So, we are all familiar with stories of suspected thieves who could be unknown to us or if are known they could have been prosecuted and jailed or were not prosecuted, but could have been lynched by the so-called angry mob. Others may still be lucky!

So, what does the law say about theft? Section 258 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2022) provides for the definition of theft. Subsection (1) states: "A person who fraudulently and without claim of right takes anything capable of being stolen, or fraudulently converts to the use of any person other than the general or special owner thereof anything capable of being stolen, steals that thing."

Subsection (2) states that a person who takes or converts anything capable of being stolen is deemed to do so fraudulently if he or she does so with any of the following

intents - that is to say - an intent permanently to deprive the general or special owner of the thing of it, an intent to use the thing as a pledge or security and an intent to part with it on a condition as to its return which the person taking or converting it may be unable to perform.

A person is also deemed to fraudulently take or convert anything capable of being stolen if he or she has an intent to deal with it in such a manner that it cannot be returned in the condition in which it was at the time of the taking or in the case of money, has an intent to use it at the will of the person who takes or converts it, although he may intend afterwards to repay the amount to the owner.

Section 265 provides for general punishment for theft. It states: "Any person who steals anything capable of being stolen is guilty of theft, and is liable, unless owing to the circumstances of the theft or the nature of the thing stolen, some other punishment is provided, to imprisonment for seven years." As we can see the law does not provide an alternative punishment (for instance, a fine). The

law elaborates further the offence of theft, but we won't go into such details. We may look at other elements of theft again at another time.

In the case of DPP (appellant) v Shishir Shyamsingh (respondent), which was an appeal from the decision of the High Court of Tanzania in Kigoma, the respondent was the branch manager of Tanzania Commodities Company Limited in Kigoma Region. He was charged with the offence of theft contrary to sections 258(1) and 265 of the Penal Code (R.E. 2019), convicted and sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment.

The charge sheet showed the respondent had stolen 30mn/-, which was the property of Mohamed Enterprises (T) Limited. During trial, the accused was found to have converted the money to his personal use. He successfully appealed to the High Court of Tanzania in a criminal appeal No 54 of 2020 after which the DPP appealed to the Court of Appeal.

In the Court of Appeal, the crucial issue for determination was whether the prosecution had proved the case against the appellant beyond reasonable doubt.

The Court of Appeal said for the offence of stealing to be established, the prosecution should prove that (1), there was movable property, (2) which was in possession of a person other than the accused, (3) there was the intention to move and take that movable property, (4) the accused moved and took it out the possession of the real possessor, (5) the accused did it dishonestly to himself or wrongful gain to himself or wrongful loss to another, and (6), the property was moved and taken without the consent of the real possessor.

After weighing the evidence of both parties, and like the first appellate judge, the Court of Appeal said the prosecution had failed to prove the charge to the required standard. Justice of Appeal Wambali on behalf of two fellow Justices of Appeal said the prosecution failed to prove the elements of the offence of stealing.

He cited the case of Fakihi Ismail v The Republic (2019) (unreported), and said while it was the duty of the prosecution to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt, it was equally the duty of the trial court to ensure it was satisfied with prosecution witnesses and had given relevant evidence which proved the elements of the offence. Thus, the Court of Appeal found that the appeal was devoid of merit and dismissed it.

Today's proverb: "A guilty conscience needs no accuser."

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We need achievable commitments to truly care for elderly persons

By Adonis Byemelwa

OCTOBER 1 was the International Day of Older Persons, an annual observance that celebrates the contributions and achievements of older individuals in their families, communities and nations. It also raises awareness of the challenges and issues that older people face with a focus on promoting their wellbeing and inclusion in all aspects of life.

This year, the theme was 'Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations.' This theme aims at drawing attention to the unique needs of older people globally in terms of their rights and reporting violations, in addition to fostering solidarity through equity and reciprocity between the generations that offers longer-term solutions to fulfill the sustainable development promises.

But worth remembering is that in 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons (Resolution 45/106), simply to see how developed and developing countries' governments should take care of the elderly.

The UNGA resolution was preceded by initiatives such as the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, which was adopted by the 1982 World Assembly on aging and endorsed later year by the UNGA, but there are no frameworks henceforth that put to task governments that constrain the very commitments to the detriment of the senior citizens.

The number of older people (defined as those aged 65 or older) tripled from around 761 million in 2021 and it is estimated that between 2021 and 2050, the global share of the older population is projected to increase from less than 10 percent to around 17 percent.

According to the UN, by 2050, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons and 80 percent of them will be living in low and middle-income countries.

However, rapid growth in the number of people reaching older ages underscores the significance of promoting health and preventing and treating illnesses throughout the entire circle of life.

In societies with aging populations like China and India with over over 200 mil-

lion and over 100 million people over the age of 60 respectively, it is imperative to adjust to the increasing number of elderly individuals who possess diverse range of functional capacities.

The capability to carry out essential functions and take part in everyday activities is influenced not solely by an individual's inherent capacity but also the social and physical environment in which they reside.

Supportive environments play a pivotal role in assisting older individuals to maintain their activity levels and independence as they progress in age.

In recognition of the challenges faced by the elderly, President Samia Suluhu Hassan formed a ministry responsible for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups but things are not yet rosy for our senior citizens.

Tanzania's high cost of living is affecting almost everybody but it goes without saying that the situation is worse for the elderly because of the lack of support systems and safety nets with wide coverage.

With prices of food and other basic commodities skyrocketing, the elderly are more vulnerable because the traditional support systems that protected senior citizens before are largely nonexistent today.

Many older people are abandoned in villages by their children who move to urban centers in droves in search of employment or other sources of livelihood. Many homes nowadays have only two elderly parents fending for themselves. In some cases where a partner has died, you find only one elderly person living alone!

Unlike their counterparts in developed countries, the idea and system of homes for the aged has not quite taken root in Tanzania and many African countries as well as the developing world as a whole.

The few attempts made have proved disastrous as it emerged that most of those purporting to assist the elderly just prey on them. Old people deserve support from their children, families, communities and the government.

It is, of course, not sufficient as old age comes with a slew of problems, including diseases. It is, however, disheartening that despite our health ministry pushing for free medication, still a good number of them, especially in rural areas, cry for a lack of special attention at most health



facilities, thus compromising the very essence of caring for the senior citizens.

A German-American psychoanalyst, Erick Homberger Erickson, known for his theory on the psychological development of human beings, underscores the final psychosocial stage which occurs during old age.

If the 1991 UNGA resolutions alongside the commitments of governments were implemented to the letter, the elderly could live a much better life.

The psychologist notes

that in old age, people look back on the events of their lives and determine if they are happy with the life they lived or if they regret the things they did or did not do.

Older adults always need to look back on life and feel a sense of fulfillment and in case there is no fulfillment, interventions by responsible governments should be in place to make these individuals at least leverage the regrets.

The success at this stage can be recorded by ensuring medical attention for the elderly is not an issue.

The expert notes that having that kind of essential service leads to a feeling of wisdom, while failure results in regret, bitterness and despair.

The senior citizens reflect back on the events of their lives and take stock. Those who look back on a life they feel was well-lived normally feel satisfied and ready to face the end of their lives with a sense of peace. Those who are unsuccessful during their younger age feel that their life has been wasted and may be left with feelings of bitterness and despair.

A former executive director of Morogoro Elderly People's Organisation, Samson Msembo (86) was quoted as saying that discrimination against the elderly was ingrained in the country's culture so much but its impact goes unnoticed.

"It is heartbreaking to see that the elderly people are not given an opportunity to enjoy their aging process, after many years of contributing to the economic development of their families, communities and the nation at large," he said.

Dr Paul Fatty, Mzumbe University lecturer was quoted saying that gender discrimination and killing of the elderly people, especially women, was still a challenge in the country.

According to him, about 70 percent of all the killings of elderly people in the country affected women, citing incidents in the Tabora Region where most cases of elderly women being killed were reported.

Therefore, what senior citizens need is social protection, being sought for advice to exude their wisdom, being given access to medical care, and above all we should ensure they avoid regret in case they failed to fulfill their goals in life. We should all push for the improved welfare of the elderly.

For example, as our Parliament seeks to pass laws that meant to see retired senior politicians enjoy fringe benefits that bring a sense of peace and security, we as a nation should also think of the plight of the elderly, especially those in rural areas whose medical attention is a challenge, let alone food.

Old age is not inevitable. It is said that the only thing worse than growing old is the alternative, namely dying young. Therefore, everyone except those in uncertain situations hopes to grow old. Let's make old age enjoyable instead of regrettable.

Adonis Byemelwa is a teacher, writer and international relations expert based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at adomisyeme@yahoo.com

Are many children in Japan going hungry? How can we help?

By Momoko Harada, Rei Sato and Shunki Sometaya

PICTURE this: It's the scorching days of summer, and kids are flocking to the nearby mall, eager to bask in the cool air and hang out with friends. But among the laughter and chatter, one girl stands alone in the food court.

It's a scene we've heard of or, maybe, read about in an article, but it's not until we meet R, a mother in her 30s from the northern Kanto region, that the stark reality hits. "At home, we don't have air conditioning," she explains. "So, when I head to work, my kids head out. They spend their days at the library or the local children's center, keeping each other company until around 7 p.m. They play games, immerse themselves in comics, and for lunch, they share a 100 yen stick bread I bought from Daiso. Drinks? Well, they help themselves to the facility's water cooler."

Did you know that a staggering 20 million people in Japan struggle to put enough rice on their tables? Astonishingly, many are unaware of this stark reality, an issue often shrouded in the term hidden poverty, which has quietly become a significant problem in Japan. Furthermore, a troubling statistic reveals that 1 in 7 children in the country currently can't enjoy three square meals of rice. When we hear "child poverty," our minds might drift to images of undernourished youngsters in developing nations facing "absolute poverty" without homes or daily sustenance.

However, the poverty we discuss here is "relative poverty," affecting children in households with less than half the median income. The implications of this kind of poverty often go unnoticed. While they might not go to bed hungry, these children frequently struggle to enjoy a balanced diet. Meat and vegetables become rare luxuries, and carbohydrate-heavy meals, like cheap instant noodles, become the norm. Some can't even afford basics like school uniforms, bags, or gym clothes, making their lives considerably tougher.

Among these children, those from single-mother families face the harshest realities, with a surprising 50 percent of such households struggling in this way. The root cause can be traced to the wage gap between men and women, making it exceedingly difficult for single-mother families to make ends meet. Even when educational backgrounds match, a persistent gender pay gap persists, growing more pronounced with time. Shockingly, the annual income of female university graduates often parallels that of male high school graduates.

Japan grapples with a substantial gender wage gap compared to other prominent OECD countries.

In 2021, the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare reported that 78.6% of men held regular employment, whereas only 46.8% of women enjoyed the same status. This stark disparity contributes to children in single-mother households often going without enough food. It's natural to assume that Japan, as a prosperous nation, wouldn't face such pressing issues with childhood hunger.

Yet, parallel to this, there's been growing concern over food waste, encompassing the squandering of edible items and supermarket discards due to approaching expiration dates. Reflecting on these issues, we pondered how to utilize surplus food effectively.

Why toss something when others can eat it? We decided to visit Watashi Kitchen at Karuizawa, a facility that uses food from food banks to provide free, delicious meals to children. In an interview with Yoko Komiyama, she shared, "Some Japanese children rely on school lunches, but during extended school holidays, some only eat two meals a day. We're here to support them."

Additionally, there's Kodomo-Shokudo, which backs children's cafeterias offering free or low-cost meals. These cafeterias are for everyone, not just underprivileged children, ensuring that no one feels embarrassed to use them. Thus, we envisioned a welcoming kitchen where anyone could gather, much like their



Students from Dalton Tokyo Junior assist with cooking and serving in Watashi kitchen at Karuizawa. They found that in Japan, many children and adults don't get enough food to eat. IPS

own home kitchens. It's become a vital community hub, bringing together low-income families, children, working adults, seniors, and solitary diners to share meals and conversations.

On July 22, 2023, we visited the Watashi Kitchen, which operates on the third Saturday of every month, to assist with cooking and serving. We even brought along a team-supplied collection of sweets for the

children. The experience was incredibly rewarding. Witnessing people stand for three hours, cooking for 150 individuals, washing dishes, and relishing meals brought immense joy. With around 30 volunteers, all visibly enjoying their tasks, it dawned on me that lending a hand to others truly warms our hearts.

During the school year, children on welfare receive assistance for school lunches. However, when school's out for holidays, a significant gap emerges, and it's heartbreaking to hear stories of children returning to school after a break, visibly underfed and having lost weight. We couldn't help but empathize with parents in these situations, the anguish they must feel as they struggle to provide nourishment for their children while longing to share in their happiness over a meal we often take for granted.

A survey conducted by the NPO Kidsdoor, focusing on disadvantaged households, reveals alarming findings.

A staggering 49% of respondents reported cutting back on their own meals to ensure their children could eat. In fact, 17% of parents admitted to eating only one meal a day, while 47% managed just two. These statistics poignantly illustrate how parents prioritize their children's well-being.

In light of this disparity, where some have the luxury of discarding food they could eat while others struggle daily to put enough on the table, we initiated a food collection drive. We reached out to schools, community members, and those with food items still within a month of their expiration date but likely to go unused. This food, once collected, is then directed to those who need it most.

As part of the Dalton team, in our quest to find a suitable food bank to contribute to, we encountered a non-profit organization called Keep Moms Smiling, doing exceptional work.

Keep Moms Smiling is an organization that focuses on providing meals to parents with sick children who often find it impossible to sleep or eat while caring for their hospitalized little ones. Additionally, they collect surplus items from companies and restaurants, redirecting them to parents who find themselves in dire need.

According to Yuki Mitsuahara, the president of Keep Moms Smiling, "Parents don't need to be at the hospital with their sick children, but due to the shortage of nursing staff, they often have to take on caregiving roles. While hospitals provide meals for patients, they don't offer such provisions to caregivers, including beds or showers."

Consequently, many parents fall ill themselves due to lack of rest and often lose their jobs as they stay long-term at the hospital." Mitsuahara, drawing from personal experience, added, "I vividly recall the warmth of having a hot meal while my child was hospitalized for an extended period. I want to offer these parents a moment of joy through a good meal, one that renews their strength to continue caring for their children. With this mission, our restaurant chefs join hands to prepare and provide these much-needed, delicious meals to parents of sick children."

In today's world, it's clear that the divide between abundance and scarcity is stark. We, as youth, aspire to be that bridge, connecting those who wish to prevent waste, extend a hand of hope, and share joy with organizations like 'Keep Moms Smiling.'

We yearn for you to understand the potential that resides in each one of us. Together, we can spark a chain reaction of goodwill and empathy, proving that the youth can be formidable allies in tackling global issues. So, here's our question: What will you do today to make tomorrow brighter for someone else?

Note: Shunki Sometaya was the team leader

Edited by Hanna Yoon

IPS UN Bureau Report



Students from Dalton Tokyo Junior organise food bank donations. IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 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

KOICA donates 22m/- worth of facilities to Dar es Salaam-based Institute of Social Work

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has handed over outdoor learning facilities (Vimbweta) worth \$9,000 (22m/-) to facilitate smooth self and group learning to students at the Institute of Social Work.

Implemented through KOICA volunteer project, the initiative is a reflection of the power of international cooperation, strength of partnerships and commitment to education and social welfare.

Speaking during the handing over event in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, KOICA Country Director, Manshik Shin said that the structures will serve as invaluable assets for the students offering them a conducive environment for self-study beyond the confines of the classroom.

"The importance of education cannot be overstated, and providing students with a comfortable and functional space for self-study is a crucial aspect of their academic journey. The Vimbwetas we've constructed here are not merely pieces of concrete and steel; they are symbols of hope, protection, and opportunity for the young minds studying at this esteemed institution," he said.

He said the project embodies the essence of KOICA's mission, which is to make a positive impact on the lives of people and communities, both here in Tanzania and around the world.

"It is heartening to see that these Vimbwetas will not only provide shade and shelter from the sun and rain but will also stand as a testament

to our commitment to education, social welfare, and sustainable development."

The country director further said that the significance of this project is further underscored by the fact that it was initiated, designed, and coordinated by Ms. Naun Lee a dedicated KOICA volunteer who is working at the Institute of Social Work.

"Her commitment to leaving a lasting mark of her service during her time here speaks volumes about the impact of international cooperation in the field of education and social welfare. We are immensely grateful for her dedication and tireless efforts. Naun Lee's dedication is a shining example of the kind of positive impact individuals can make when they are driven by a passion for helping others and improving lives," he said.

Dr Dr Joyce Nyoni, the Institute's Rector commended KOICA for the generous support which will greatly improve outdoor learning for the students.

She said the outdoor seminar zones for enhancing students' capacity as they will be comfortable to stay and study even during rain and sunny.

"Today's ceremony is a reflection of the power of international cooperation, the strength of partnerships, and the commitment to education and social welfare. KOICA has been a good partner to our institute and we hope that this cooperation will continue to deepen. These Vimbwetas will serve as more than just concrete structures; they will be the cornerstone of knowledge, a shelter for dreams, and a symbol of hope for a brighter future," she noted.



KOICA Country Director Manshik Shin (L) with Dr Joyce Nyoni, Rector of the Institute of Social Work, soon after endorsing the handover of the outdoor learning facilities at the Institute's premises in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Africa must achieve stability, increase growth and create jobs to ensure economic growth, says WB

By Guardian Reporter

ECONOMIC outlook in Sub-Saharan Africa has remained bleak amid an elusive growth recovery, according to the World Bank's latest report.

The report cites rising instability, weak growth in the region's largest economies and lingering uncertainty in the global economy are dragging down growth prospects in the region.

Andrew Dabalén, World Bank Chief Economist for Africa said the region's poorest and most vulnerable people continue to bear the economic brunt of the slowdown, as weak growth translates into slow poverty reduction and

poor job growth.

He said: "With up to 12 million young Africans entering the labour market across the region each year, it has never been more urgent for policymakers to transform their economies and deliver growth to people through better jobs."

Nicholas Woolley, World Bank Economist and contributor to the report noted that the urgency of the jobs challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa is underscored by the huge opportunity from demographic transitions that we have seen in other regions.

Woolley said: "This will require an ecosystem that facilitates private-sector development and firm growth, as

well as skill development that matches business demand."

Economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to decelerate to 2.5 percent in 2023, from 3.6 percent in 2022. South Africa's GDP is expected to only grow by 0.5 percent in 2023 as energy and transportation bottlenecks continue to bite.

Nigeria and Angola are projected to grow at 2.9 percent and 1.3 percent respectively, due to lower international prices and currency pressures affecting oil and non-oil activity.

It said that increased conflict and violence in the region weigh on economic activity, and this rising fragility may

be exacerbated by climatic shocks.

In Sudan, economic activity is expected to contract by 12 percent because of the internal conflict which is halting production, destroying human capital, and crippling state capacity.

In per capita terms, growth in Sub-Saharan Africa has not increased since 2015. In fact, the region is projected to contract at an annual average rate per capita of 0.1 percent over 2015-2025, thus potentially marking a lost decade of growth in the aftermath of the 2014-15 plunge in commodity prices.

Despite the gloomy outlook, there are a few bright spots. In-

flation is expected to decline from 9.3 percent in 2022 to 7.3 percent in 2023 and fiscal balances are improving in African countries that are pursuing prudent and coordinated macroeconomic policies.

In 2023, the Eastern African community (EAC) is expected to grow by 4.9 percent while the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAE-MU) is set to grow by 5.1 percent.

However, debt distress remains widespread with 21 countries at high risk of external debt distress or in debt distress as of June 2023.

According to the report, current growth rates in the region are inadequate to cre-

ate enough high-quality jobs to meet increases in the working-age population.

Current growth patterns generate only 3 million formal jobs annually, thus leaving many young people underemployed and engaged in casual, piecemeal, and unstable work that does not make full use of their skills.

Creating job opportunities for the youth will drive inclusive growth and turn the continent's demographic wealth into an economic dividend, it stated.

The development of labour-intensive manufacturing seems to be missing in Africa, limiting further effects for the indirect job creation in sup-

port services and international trade.

While the region contributes 12 percent of the global working age population, Sub-Saharan Africa owns only 2 percent of the global capital stock. This means people have fewer assets with which to be productive in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to other regions.

Education of girls and access to jobs for women can reduce potential productivity loss from the misallocation of female labour. Cash transfers have proven effective in increasing girls' school enrolment and attendance, as well as in curbing pregnancies among school-age girls.

Critical minerals are critical for who? A global perspective about resource dependence

By Baraka Thomas

IN a world driven by technology, innovation, and sustainability, the demand for critical minerals has never been higher. These essential resources are the lifeblood of modern economies, powering industries ranging from electronics and defense to renewable energy and environmental protection.

Critical minerals includes the following. Aluminum which is used in almost all sectors of the economy. Antimony used in lead-acid batteries and flame retardants, Arsenic used in semi-conductors, Barite used in hydrocarbon production, Beryllium used as an alloying agent in aerospace and defense industries, Bismuth used in medical and atomic research, Cerium used in catalytic converters, ceramics, glass, metallurgy, and polishing compounds, Cesium used in research and development, Chromium used primarily in stainless steel and other alloys and Cobalt which is used in rechargeable batteries and super alloys.

Dysprosium, used in permanent magnets, data storage devices, and lasers Erbium, used in fiber optics, optical amplifiers, lasers, and glass colorants, Europium, used in phosphors and nuclear control rods, Fluorspar used in the manufacture of aluminum, cement, steel, gasoline, and fluorine chemicals, Gadolinium used in medical imaging, permanent magnets, and steelmaking, Graphite used for lubricants, batteries, and fuel cells, Hafnium used for nuclear control rods, alloys, and high-temperature ceramics, Holmium used in permanent magnets, nuclear control rods, and lasers and Indium that is used in liquid

crystal display screens.

Iridium is used as coating of anodes for electrochemical processes and as a chemical catalyst, Lanthanum used to produce catalysts, ceramics, glass, polishing compounds, metallurgy, and batteries, Lithium used for rechargeable batteries, Lutetium used in scintillators for medical imaging, electronics, and some cancer therapies, Nickel used to make stainless steel, superalloys, and rechargeable batteries and Tellurium which is used in solar cells, thermoelectric devices, and as alloying additive.

As nations jostle to secure their supply chains and gain a competitive edge, the question arises: Critical minerals are critical for who?

A Global Scramble for Critical Minerals

The United States of America, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and India have all recognized the pivotal role that critical minerals play in their strategic interests. Recent policy and strategy initiatives by these nations underline their determination to ensure a steady supply of these minerals. Therefore, critical minerals are critical to consumer countries seeking to secure their supply chains so often couched in geographical or strategic terms.

The United States through its the Energy Act of 2020 has identified critical minerals as vital to its national security, acknowledging their significance in military technology, renewable energy, and advanced manufacturing. In 2022 the United States Geological Survey released 50 lists of updated Critical Minerals.



The European Union has outlined its ambitious Raw Materials Initiative, aiming to reduce dependence on non-European Union sources and secure critical minerals for its Green Deal and digitalisation efforts. In March 2023, the European Union Commission put forward a critical raw minerals Act which listed 34 critical minerals for its green deal.

Canada has a list of 31 minerals in her Critical Mineral Strategy of 2022 it currently considers to be "critical", to be deemed "critical" in Canada, a mineral must be essential to Canada's economic security and its supply is threatened; or required for national transition to a low-carbon economy; or a sustainable source of highly strategic critical minerals for Canadian partners and allies.

The United Kingdom (UK), post-Brexit, seeks to establish itself as a leader in battery manufacturing, placing CMs like lithium and cobalt at the core of its strategy. In July 2022 UK government released its first Critical Minerals Strategy (the UK Strategy) listed 18 critical minerals with the aim of ensuring that the minerals needed for the future of electronics, energy generation, transport, and military op-

erations are extracted responsibly in sufficient quantities and are available through well-functioning and transparent markets.

Australia, rich in resources, is exploring ways to add value to its Critical Minerals (CMs) sector and reduce reliance on exports. The Critical Minerals Strategy 2023-2030 sets out the government's vision to grow Australia's critical minerals sector. It lists 24 critical minerals vital for modern technologies, economies, and national security, as well as whose supply chains are vulnerable to disruption.

India, as it strives for energy security and technological advancement, has outlined policies to ensure the availability of CMs for its burgeoning industries.

African Dilemma: Resource-Rich but Vulnerable

The stage is set for a global race to secure critical minerals. However, this race is not without consequences. Many of these critical minerals are found in abundance on the African continent, where nations like Tanzania hold substantial reserves. While this presents an opportunity for resource-

rich African nations, it also brings challenges.

African countries, including Tanzania, have historically faced challenges in fully benefiting from their resource wealth. Extraction, processing, and value addition have often occurred outside the continent, limiting economic benefits, and leaving them vulnerable to global market fluctuations.

In response to these challenges, the African Union has developed various policies to ensure that mineral resources found in Africa, including critical minerals, are used to foster industrialization. Such policy initiatives include the African Mining Vision (AMV) of 2009 and the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS), which is currently in development. The vision statement for AGMS is "an Africa that harnesses green mineral value-chains for industrialization and electrification, creating green technologies and sustainable development to enhance the quality of life of its people."

Tanzania has recently taken the initiative to attract foreign investment in the extraction of critical minerals. In April 2023, the Tanzanian government

signed contracts totaling \$667 million with three Australian companies to mine graphite and rare earths. The attraction of investments in the mining sector is a part of the government's program to ensure that the mining sector contributes significantly to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Moreover, as Western nations and emerging economies ramp up their CMs strategies, African countries must navigate complex negotiations to ensure fair trade terms, sustainable practices, and equitable distribution of the benefits. The risk of exploitation and environmental degradation looms large, making responsible resource management a pressing concern.

The Path Forward: Collaboration and Sustainability

As the global demand for CMs continues to rise, it is evident that securing these critical minerals is not just a matter of national interest but also a global imperative. A collaborative approach that includes African nations is essential to ensure that the benefits of critical minerals are shared equitably and sustainably.

The African Union and its member states have an opportunity to leverage their resource wealth for the broader development goals of the continent. By prioritizing sustainable extraction, value addition, and fair trade, African nations can play a pivotal role in the global critical minerals landscape.

In conclusion, the race for critical minerals highlights the intricate interplay between national interests and global dependencies. As countries like the United States, Canada, India, the United Kingdom, and Australia fortify their critical minerals policies, it is crucial to recognize the importance of responsible resource management and cooperation with resource-rich African nations. Critical minerals are indeed critical, not just for a select few, but for the entire world seeking a sustainable and technologically advanced future.

BUSINESS

How Ghana's central bank lost \$5bn in a single year



TikTok: Social media application shuts shop after Indonesia ban

By Mariko Oi

Social media app TikTok is suspending its online shopping service in Indonesia to comply with new rules in South East Asia's biggest economy.

The move will take effect at 17:00 Jakarta time (10:00 GMT).

The country's government says the regulations are aimed to help protect local physical and online retailers.

Indonesia was the first country to pilot the app's e-commerce service in 2021 and became one of the biggest markets for TikTok Shop.

Last week, Indonesia announced regulations that would force TikTok to split its shopping feature from the popular video sharing service in the country.

Announcing the measures, Indonesia's trade minister Zulkifli Hasan said: "Now, e-commerce cannot become social media. It is separated."

He also told social media platforms they had a week to comply with the new rules or risk losing their licence to operate in the country.

The announcement came after Indonesia's President Joko Widodo said last month: "We need to be careful with e-commerce. It can be very good if there are regulations but can turn bad if there aren't any regulations."

"Our priority is to remain compliant with local laws and regulations," TikTok said in a statement on Tuesday.

"As such, we will no longer facilitate e-commerce transactions in TikTok Shop Indonesia," it added.

Online retailing in Indonesia has soared in recent years. The value of e-commerce sales will have increased

more than sixfold between 2018 and next year to hit 689 trillion Indonesian rupiah (\$44bn; £36.5bn), according to the country's central bank.

TikTok Shop had been growing its market share since its launch two years ago into Indonesia's online shopping market, which is dominated by platforms such as Tokopedia, Shopee and Lazada.

The country of more than 278 million people is home to 125 million TikTok users. That includes 6 million sellers and millions more creators who earn money using TikTok Shop to promote goods.

In June, the company's chief executive Shou Zi Chew visited Indonesia, pledging to invest billions of dollars in the region over the next three to five years.

The growth of online retailers has had a major impact on the owners of physical shops such as Sukmalingga, who has had a store selling Muslim clothing such as kaftans at Tanah Abang Market in Jakarta for nine years.

"None of my customers from regions in Indonesia shop anymore, even though I often send photos of new models of clothes," he told BBC News Indonesia.

Government figures show there are more than 64 million smaller businesses - known as micro, small and medium enterprises - which account for almost two-thirds of Indonesia's economy.

The new regulations are another setback for TikTok, which has come under scrutiny in the US, European Union and the UK, where Parliament has banned the app from its network over security concerns.

WTO halves its 2023 trade growth forecast

GENEVA

The World Trade Organisation halved its growth forecast for global goods trade this year, saying that persistent inflation, higher interest rates.

The Geneva-based trade body said on Thursday merchandise trade volumes would increase by just 0.8 percent in 2023, compared with its April estimate of 1.7 percent.

For 2024, it said goods trade growth would pick up to 3.3 percent, a forecast virtually unchanged from its April estimate of 3.2 percent.

The WTO said the trade slowdown was broad-based, involving a larger number of countries and goods, though particularly iron and steel, office and telecoms equipment, textiles and clothing.

Cars were a notable exception, with surging sales this year.

The WTO said risks to its forecast were balanced. However, a rapid easing of inflation could raise the forecast.

The 164-member trade body repeated its warning that it saw some signs of trade fragmentation linked to global tensions, but no evidence of a broader de-globalisation that could threaten its 2024 forecast.

One sign was that the share of intermediate goods in world trade, an indicator of global supply chain activity, fell to 48.5 percent in the first half of 2023, compared to an average of 51.0 percent over the previous three years.

The WTO said it was not clear if the decline was due to geopolitical tensions or the general economic slowdown.

"The data suggest that goods continue to be produced through complex supply chains, but that the extent of these chains may have reached their high-water mark," the WTO said.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the expected slowdown of trade was a cause for concern because it could depress the living standards of people around the world, particularly in poor countries.

"Global economic fragmentation would only make these challenges worse," she said.

The WTO's forecast does not cover services, but the WTO said growth was moderating after a strong rebound in international tourism in 2022. Global commercial services trade rose 9 percent in the first quarter of 2023, down from 19 percent in the second quarter of 2022, the WTO said.

ACCRA

Ghana - once touted as a trailblazing African economic success story - is facing an unprecedented financial crisis.

This week, hundreds of protestors took to the streets in the capital Accra, calling on the governor of the Bank of Ghana and his two deputies to resign over the loss of about 60bn Ghanaian cedis (\$5.2bn; £4.3bn) in the 2022 financial year.

The demonstration, dubbed #OccupyBoG, was led by the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) party. The protesters, dressed in red shirts, scarves and berets, chanted songs and held banners - some reading "stop the looting, we are suffering".

The opposition claims the bank printed money illegally to lend to the government, leading to the depreciation of the currency and crippling inflation.

It has also criticised the bank for spending more than \$762,000 on domestic and foreign travel, an 87% increase on the previous year, and \$250m on a new office building. The opposition says these figures are recorded in an internal audit.

The NDC has accused the central bank governor, Dr Ernest Addison, of recklessness and mismanagement. And while the bank has been accused of mismanagement in the past, a loss of this magnitude is unprecedented.

"We have never seen anything like this in our history. If the Bank of Ghana wants to recover from this loss... it will take them more than 45 years," says economist Professor Godfred Bokpin, from the University of Ghana.

The bank denies charges of mismanagement and says the losses were a result of a fluctuating exchange rate and because of non-payment of loans by

state institutions.

It also says the government's decision to borrow \$700m from it and not pay it back in full has contributed to the crisis.

The bank's governors have also been accused of fanning rampant inflation and economic hardship by their actions. "The time when they were printing billions for the government, didn't they know that it will have repercussions?" asks lawyer Martin Kepbu.

Why has this happened?

Ghana is currently going through its worst economic crisis in a generation. Last year, the inflation rate hit a record high of 54% - and is still running at more than 40%. Multiple credit rating agencies have downgraded the nation, preventing it from borrowing money internationally.

By September 2022, Ghana's total debt had surged to \$55bn. This meant the government needed in excess of 70% of its income to service the debt, something it was unable to do. It subsequently defaulted on much of its debt payments.

The government was forced to approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance. To secure a \$3bn bailout earlier this year, the government had to agree to fulfil a number of requirements.

The most important of these was to reduce the nation's debt interest payments to a manageable level by 2028. This would leave them with enough funds to run the economy.

To achieve this, Ghana's government began debt restructuring by renegotiating terms with its creditors, proposing lower interest rates on their loans and longer repayment terms to relieve pressure on public finances.

However, some creditors refused to take part in this debt exchange programme.

On 9 August the Bank of Ghana issued a statement saying the government had told it that it didn't have enough money to meet the IMF's requirements and consequently would not repay half of the \$700m it had borrowed from the bank.

Instead the money would go towards the debt restructuring. It also said it would not pay any interest due to the bank.

The bank is the lender of last resort and experts say its status has been abused by the government, led by President Nana Akufo-Addo, and the rules of the bank have been broken.

"The Bank of Ghana Act is very clear that printing money or financing the government is limited to 5% of the previous year's fiscal revenue, which means that in principle supporting the government is not a crime but don't go beyond 5%," says Professor Bokpin.

The bank's officials are mandated by law to report to parliament if the 5% threshold is exceeded. A failure to report could lead to a fine or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years.

Implications for the bank

None of this means the Bank of Ghana has gone broke. It is not a commercial bank that has to make a profit, so the loss should not affect its routine operations and as the lender of last resort it can always create its own money.

But according to experts, the central bank's loss has significant ramifications. It undermines the moral authority of the bank to supervise Ghana's commercial banks. It also damages confidence in the country's financial system.

Although other central banks around the world have faced similar challenges, the difference in Ghana is the amount of money lost compared with the size of the economy.

In the UK, the Bank of England will be

making a net loss of about \$180bn over the next 10 years which will be funded by the UK government. But the size of the UK economy is in the trillions of dollars.

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Demonstrators in Accra called on the governor of the Bank of Ghana to resign

Metro Bank shares plunge on funds raising reports

Metro Bank's shares plunged after reports it is seeking to raise millions to bolster its finances.

The bank's shares sank by as much as a third after newspapers reported it needed to raise up to £600m.

Metro Bank sought to reassure investors about its financial position on Thursday.

It did not comment on the figure, but said it "continues to consider how best to enhance its capital resources".

The BBC understands Treasury officials have been in touch with the Prudential Regulation Authority, the financial services regulator, who is monitoring the situation at Metro Bank.

It followed earlier talks between the regulator and Metro Bank itself, which insiders at the company portrayed as routine conversations.

The bank has stressed that its finances remain strong and it continues to meet all regulatory requirements.

Customer deposits up to £85,000 are guaranteed by the Financial Services



Compensation Scheme, which guarantees that if a bank runs into trouble, depositors will get their money back up to that level.

Metro Bank was founded in the wake of the financial crisis and was the first to open in the UK in more than 100 years.

It positioned itself as a so-called "challenger" bank to the big High Street names when it was founded in 2010, with its promise of being open seven days a week, and it now has about 2.7 million customers.

Its shares were briefly suspended on Thursday morning and dropped more

than 25% by the time markets closed. They had already suffered hefty falls last month after regulators refused to approve a request to lower the capital, or cash, requirements attached to its mortgage business.

The bank is now considering a number of options to boost its balance sheet before some £350m worth of debt will need to be refinanced in October 2025.

share sale of some £100m is apparently on the table. The bank has also asked advisers at Morgan Stanley to work on a deal with the hopes of raising millions in an equity sale, borrowing up to £350m as well as looking at the potential sale of assets - the money and property owned by a bank.

Metro Bank stressed that no decision had been made as yet and that it was meeting all of the minimum cash requirements set out by financial watchdogs.

It is understood its chairman Robert Sharpe met with bosses at the Prudential Regulation Authority on Thursday

morning.

But there are some concerns that the High Street lender may struggle to raise the money it might need in the future.

It returned to profit in the six months to the end of June this year, partly helped by higher interest rates.

This marked the first half-year profit the bank had seen since an accounting scandal in 2019, when it emerged that risk attached to some of its loans had been underestimated.

Its current boss Daniel Frumkin said in July that 2023 would be a "transitional year" for the bank.

Ratings agency Fitch placed Metro Bank on negative watch on Wednesday, citing concerns over its capital strength and funding, as well as its business model.

Metro Bank's stock market value is now less than £100m, having been valued at around £3.5bn at its peak five years ago.

Agencies

Chan: Report on boosting HK stock market will be submitted

ALGIERS

HONG Kong Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po said the task force on enhancing stock market liquidity will submit its report to the government regarding how to boost trading liquidity of Hong Kong stock market very soon.

The finance chief was speaking at the Wealth Management Summit 2023 organized by Private Wealth Management Association (PWMA) in Hong Kong on Friday.

Chan emphasized that the government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has been working hard to enhance the competitiveness of the city's listing platform over the past few years.

"The task force will review the listing regime and the market's structure and trading mechanisms. It will also explore how to broaden fund flows, attract more quality enterprises to list in Hong Kong, promote product innovation and diversity, and enhance price discovery and trading efficiency," Chan said at the PWMA summit.

The task force was set up in August, with the aim of reviewing fac-



Paul Chan Mo-po (C) attends Wealth Management Summit 2023 organized by Private Wealth Management Association on Oct 6, 2023. Photo: Agencies

tors affecting stock market liquidity comprehensively and making improvement proposals to the chief executive. The task force comprises members from the financial ser-

vices sector, relevant government officials, as well as representatives from financial regulators and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX).

"Market liquidity is very important to the future of the Hong Kong stock market. Currently, about 15 percent of trading volume comes from mainland investors. If main-

land investors can trade Hong Kong stocks in renminbi through the stock connect programs, it will help stimulate them to participate more in Hong Kong stock-trading,"

HKEX Chief Executive Officer Nicolas Aguzin said at the summit.

READ MORE: Paul Chan: HK is already Asia's green finance hub

The bourse CEO said about 50 new companies listed their shares this year, which is better than some exchanges in Asia.

"HKEX needs to promote to the world that it can provide better price-discovery, single-market volatility hedging, and round-the-clock trading," said Andy Maynard, head of equities at China Renaissance Securities.

As Hong Kong offers a much larger liquidity base, Maynard thinks it makes more sense for HKEX to cultivate direct relationships with bourses in the United States and Europe as well as some larger Asian stock markets that can offer greater attraction for Hong Kong and Chinese mainland investors.

Ike Song Yang, managing director at China Renaissance, noted that getting

more overseas companies listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, for example ASEAN companies, can attract more investors and increase trading volume; reduce concentration risk by diversifying the current reliance on mainland companies; and solidify HKEX's top position in Asia region.

Meanwhile, media reports said that the administration is speeding up its study of the arrangements of the Hong Kong stock market to continue operation during extreme weather. The relevant working group will submit a feasible plan in the next few weeks.

HKEX responded that it is currently actively working with the government and regulatory agencies to study the arrangements, emphasizing that the safety of personnel remains the most important consideration of the exchange, and the bourse will announce the latest progress to the market in due course. **Agencies**



Hope on horizon for better days ahead for China's steel industry

Optimism is growing despite downward pressure on China's steel industry, with experts predicting a better supply-demand balance thanks to the country's efforts to stabilize growth, new policies for managing crude steel production, and increasing demand from emerging sectors like new energy vehicles and solar power.

Fan Tiejun, the head of the China Metallurgical Industry Planning and Research Institute, said there was an increasing need for some steel products.

"For example, in shipbuilding, the transition from oil-powered to gas-powered ships and the increasing use of liquefied natural gas transport vessels demands high-resilience steel that can withstand low-temperature and deep-cold environments," he said.

"In addition, surging vehicle exports are boosting new orders for steel used in car transport ships, leading to increasing demand for products like thin-spec shipbuilding plates."

In the first half of the year, the steel industry saw surplus production amid

sluggish demand, particularly due to the prolonged downturn in the real estate market. As a result, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, together with six other ministry-level authorities, released a plan in late August to stabilize the growth of the steel industry through measures such as promoting technological innovation to expand the use of high-tech steel products in emerging sectors to boost demand.

Experts said the implementation of such policies, incentives for the real estate market, and the traditional September-October peak season for sales would help drive up demand, especially in the special steel sector, and further stabilize prices, contributing to the industry's sustainable development.

Special steels are those with physical and chemical properties that provide higher strength and toughness than ordinary steels, and those that serve specific purposes in areas such as aerospace engineering and shipbuilding.

According to commodity price tracker Mysteel, in the first half of the year, 23 of the 36 A-share-listed steel companies

recorded profits, with seven seeing year-on-year growth. Five of those seven were special steel manufacturers.

Shenzhen-listed Jiangsu Changbao Steel Tube, a manufacturer of high-tech embedded steel tubes used for oil exploration and new energy vehicles, topped the profit-growth list with a 150.6 percent surge to 450 million yuan (\$62.35 million). The company said in its half-year financial report that a primary reason behind the growth was the development of new steel products in emerging sectors like new energy vehicles.

Experts said the development of high-end equipment manufacturing, automotive, green energy, aerospace, and other emerging industries in China would continue to drive up demand for special steels, and the sector still had ample room for optimization and improvement in terms of product structure and market applications.

Traditional steel companies have also stepped up efforts to seek growth opportunities by providing steel products for emerging sectors. Angang Steel, for example, has made breakthroughs in

key technologies and products, including its 690 megapascal low-temperature steel for carbon dioxide transport ships.

"In recent years, Angang has continuously enhanced its technological innovation capabilities and increased investment in research and development to stand above the industry average," said Liu Fengqiang, general manager of Angang's technology development department.

According to the China Iron and Steel Association, as policy incentives to boost infrastructure construction, consumption and the real estate sector take effect, the steel market's prospects will improve, and overall steel demand will find a new balance after a period of output reduction.

Fan also called for further efforts to set standards in the steel sector, which he said was a crucial lever for promoting the sector's high-quality development and a vital step for China to evolve from a big steel producer to a competitive steel powerhouse.

Bonds calm as investors hope for subdued US payrolls data

LONDON

Bonds were calmer on Friday after a pause in a relentless sell-off on 'higher for longer' interest rate worries, helping shares edge up as investors hoped for a subdued US payrolls number.

The firmer dollar was heading for a 12-week winning streak after hitting its best level in about 11 months earlier in the week.

After talk of oil hitting \$100 a barrel, crude was up 0.3 percent at \$84.31, but facing its steepest weekly decline since March, as markets worried that higher for longer rates would crimp global economic growth and hit fuel demand.

Ten-year US Treasury yields were steady at 4.746 percent after climbing 55 basis points in a five-week-long selloff that has dragged on bond markets and appetite for risk-taking worldwide.

Although the MSCI All-Country stock index was 0.2 percent higher, it has lost about 8 percent since its July peak, leaving it about 7 percent ahead for the year.

Investors were trying to decipher the implications of a retreat in oil and big sell-off in bonds for the dollar and the future course of interest rates, analysts said.

"The market is in two minds at the moment," said Mike Hewson, chief market strategist at CMC Markets.

In Europe, the STOXX 600 index rose 0.5 percent, up for a second straight session, but still on course for its third consecutive week of losses after hitting a six-month low this week, slashing its gains for the year to 4 percent.

Analysts said US job growth is likely to have slowed moderately in September while unemployment probably retreated from a 1-1/2-year high, underscoring the economy's underlying strength amid rising headwinds as the year winds down.

Nonfarm payrolls, due at 1230 GMT, are forecast to increase 170,000 in September, with unemployment seen dipping to 3.7 percent from 3.8 percent.

Patrick Spencer, RW Baird vice-chair of equities, said the decline in

bond prices, accompanied by an increase in the stock market "fear index", had been historic and due more to worries about high government deficits than expectations of more rate hikes.

"I certainly think it's overdone. I think you have seen the peak in interest rates. We are talking about the duration, rather than higher rates," Spencer said.

Firmer US stock futures, were also underpinning shares in Europe.

"Today's US labor market release will shape the near future, as market responsiveness this week shows the importance of every single piece of data related to employment," Uni-Credit bank analysts said.

Yen steadier

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.85 percent. Tokyo's Nikkei was down 0.3 percent.

Another round of bond selling would probably propel the dollar further along a weekly winning streak that is already its longest ever against the euro. The dollar index is up 12 weeks in a row, equaling a streak that ran from July to October 2014.

The run-up has the euro, at \$1.0548, pinned near an 11-month low and sterling not far from a seven-month trough.

The dollar index was steady on Friday at 106.4.

"A push through 107 would provide technical evidence of trend continuation," said Capital.com analyst Kyle Rodda.

Surprisingly, only the beleaguered yen has showed much of a fight, since a sudden jump in the Japanese currency during London afternoon on Tuesday stoked speculation authorities had intervened.

Japanese money-market data showed no anomalies of a kind that might have accompanied intervention. But the move was eye-catching enough to keep traders on guard.

The yen was last steady at 148.92 per dollar.

Gold was also steady at \$1,819 an ounce after nine days of losses driven by rising global bond yields.

Agencies

High US jobs growth fuels rate rise expectations

The number of US jobs surged more than expected last month, fueling expectations that interest rates could rise further.

Employers added 336,000 jobs in September, almost double the 170,000 estimated, according to figures released by the Labor Department.

Data for August was also revised higher to show 227,000 jobs were created instead of 187,000 previously reported.

The unemployment rate in the US remained at 3.8%.

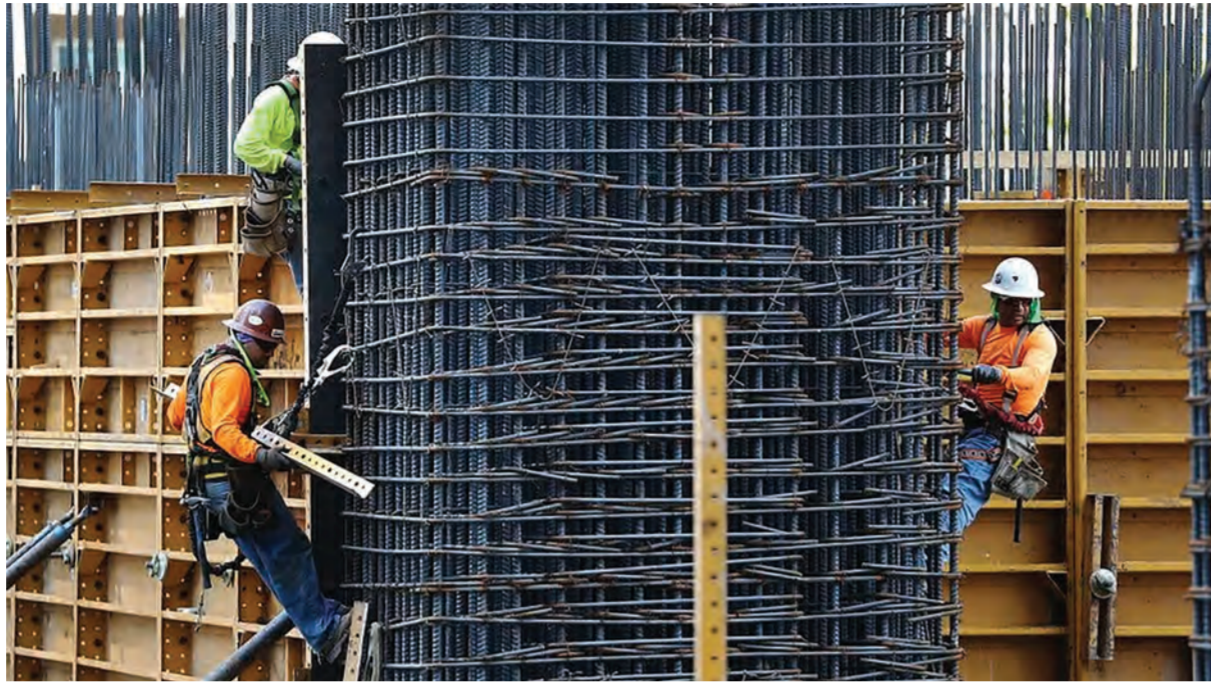
The leisure and hospitality sector added 96,000 jobs alone in September, above the average monthly gain, with employment in food services and bars rising by 61,000 over the month and returning to pre-pandemic levels.

But while job numbers surged, monthly wage growth remained moderate in September, with average hourly earnings rising 4.2% in the 12 months to September.

Last month, the US central bank kept its key interest rate unchanged as it considers whether it has done enough to stabilise inflation, which is the rate prices rise at.

The Federal Reserve's rate target at 5.25%-5.5% is the highest level in more than two decades. The bank has raised borrowing costs from near zero in March 2022 in a bid to bring rising prices under control.

But the jobs market's resilience in the face of the Federal Reserve's



attempts to cool down the economy has led to suggestions interest rates could remain tight for some time.

Janet Mui, head of market analysis at wealth manager RBC Brewin Dolphin, said the 336,000 job gains "blows past even the most bullish estimate".

Following Friday's figures, traders added to bets that the central bank will raise interest rates before the end of the year and keep them high for longer next year.

The US, like many countries, suffered huge job losses as the Covid pandemic swept across the world in

2020, but employment rebounded strongly in 2021 and 2022 as restrictions were eased.

Job growth has since levelled off, but September's 336,000 figure is well above the pre-pandemic average.

Brian Coulton, chief economist at ratings agency Fitch, said the strong jobs growth would "keep upward pressure on wages, making it more likely that the Fed has further to go in raising interest rates".

Seema Shah, chief global strategist at Principal Asset Management agreed the Federal Reserve would

"need to respond with more rate hikes", saying the figures reinforced the "higher for longer narrative".

Consumer prices in the US also rose more than expected in September due to higher costs for rent and fuel.

The inflation rate, which measures the pace of price rises, was 3.7% over the 12 months to August, up from 3.2% in July.

While inflation has dropped significantly from its peak last year, it is still higher than the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Electric car sales to private buyers register sharp fall

BY THEO LEGGETT

Sales of new electric cars to private buyers fell sharply in September compared with the same period a year ago, latest figures show.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said sales to private buyers fell by 14%, but overall registrations of electric cars rose almost 19%.

The growth was entirely driven by company fleet buyers.

The car market as a whole showed strong growth in September, but sales are still below pre-pandemic levels.

Overall, new car registrations grew by 21% last month compared with the same period in 2022.

September is a good opportunity to gauge the health of the sector, as the issuing of new number plates significantly boosts sales.

It was the 14th consecutive month of growth. The in-

dustry has been recovering from the impact of the Covid pandemic, as well as the subsequent shortage of parts - particularly semiconductors - which affected production and the availability of some models.

As with electric cars, the growth in the car market has been driven by company fleets renewing their stock, with registrations up 40%.

Sales to private buyers grew 5%, but the market as a whole remains significantly smaller than it was before the Covid crisis.

For company car drivers, electric cars attract a much lower tax bill than petrol or diesel models, and this has boosted their popularity.

But there are fewer benefits for private buyers.

The Plug-in Car Grant, which provided discounts on the purchase price of EV's and plug-in hybrids was withdrawn last year, while an exemption from vehicle excise duty for electric cars is

due to end in 2025.

For manufacturers, this is a serious concern.

The government is pushing ahead with its zero-emissions vehicle mandate, despite its decision to defer a complete ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030, to 2035.

Under the mandate, manufacturers will be obliged to ensure that by 2030, eight out of 10 cars sold will have to be battery or hydrogen powered. That will mean a significant increase in sales to private buyers.

"With tougher EV targets for manufacturers coming into force next year, we need to accelerate the transition, encouraging all motorists to make the switch," said the SMMT's chief executive Mike Hawes.

"This means adding carrots to the stick - creating private purchase incentives aligned with business benefits."



UK regulator asks for Amazon and Microsoft antitrust probe

LONDON

Britain's media regulator on Thursday asked the country's antitrust authority to investigate US tech giants Amazon and Microsoft's dominance of the UK cloud market.

Oftcom said it had identified features that made it more difficult for UK businesses to use multiple cloud suppliers.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Microsoft had a combined 70-80 percent share of Britain's public cloud infrastructure services market in 2022, Oftcom said. Google was their closest competitor with 5-10 percent.

"The CMA (Competition and Markets Authority) will now conduct an independent investigation to decide whether there is an adverse effect on competition, and if so, whether it should take action or recommend others to take action," it said.

Amazon said it disagreed with Oftcom, whose findings were based on "a fundamental misconception of how the IT sector functions, and the services and discounts on offer".

"Any unwarranted intervention could lead to unintended harm to IT customers and competition," a spokesperson said.

But it said it would work constructively with the CMA.

Microsoft said it was committed to ensuring the UK cloud industry remained innovative and highly

competitive. "We will engage constructively with the CMA," a Microsoft spokesperson said.

Oftcom said in April it was worried about the practices of AWS and Microsoft because of their market positions, and planned to ask the competition regulator to investigate.

Reuters reported on Tuesday that Oftcom was expected to push for an antitrust investigation.

UK businesses told Oftcom they were concerned it was too difficult to switch or mix and match cloud providers.

"So, we're referring the market to the CMA for further scrutiny, to make sure business customers continue to benefit from cloud services," Oftcom Director Fergal Faragher said.

The CMA welcomed the move, saying many businesses relied on cloud services, making effective competition in the 7.5 billion pound (\$9.1 billion) market essential.

Cloud computing has also attracted the French antitrust authority's attention. It said in June that various practices in the sector could potentially restrict competition, which could pave the way for investigations in the future.

EU antitrust regulators are also scrutinising Microsoft's cloud computing practices following a complaint by trade group Cloud Infrastructure Services Providers in Europe (CISPE) whose members include Amazon.



MONDAY - WEDNESDAY FROM 10:30 PM

SATURDAY 7 Oct			
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6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari
8:00	Ai Jazeera	9:00	Watoto wetu
10:05	Shika Bamba 5	10:35	Mjuzi Zaidi
11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Ai Jazeera	12:30	Jungu Kuu
13:20	Art and Lifestyle	13:40	Art and Lifestyle
14:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	14:30	Mjuzi Zaidi
15:00	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	15:30	Mjuzi Zaidi
16:10	Igizo: Mzengwe	16:40	Kumekucha
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:30	HABARI
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:30	HABARI
19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:30	Soap: In Love with Ramon
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Revocation of CTBT ratification does not mean intention to conduct nuclear tests – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE possible revocation of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) does not mean that Russia plans to conduct nuclear tests, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has told the media.

"This is not tantamount to a declaration of the intention to conduct nuclear tests," he said, commenting on State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin's statement that the lower house of parliament intended to discuss the revocation of ratification at its next session.

Peskov explained that Putin was primarily referring to the need for



bringing the de facto situation to a common denominator.

"A long time ago we signed and ratified the treaty, but the Americans did not ratify it. As a means to bring the situation to a common denominator, the president mentioned the possibil-

ity of withdrawing this ratification, which Volodin said he was ready to do," Peskov explained.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was approved by the UN General Assembly on September 24, 1996. It prohibits test explosions of nuclear charges, as well as nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

The ban applies to tests in all media (in the atmosphere, outer space, underwater and underground) and is absolute and comprehensive.

The treaty has not entered into force because it has not been ratified by the United States, Egypt, Israel, Iran and China. India, the DPRK and Pakistan did not sign it.

UK's plan to deport migrants to Rwanda heads to top court

LONDON

THE British government will try next week to persuade judges at the country's top court to overturn a ruling which declared unlawful its divisive plan to deport to Rwanda asylum seekers who arrive in small boats across the Channel.

In a blow to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government and his pledge to "stop the boats", London's Court of Appeal concluded in June the scheme to send tens of thousands of migrants more than 6,400 km to East Africa was not lawful, saying Rwanda could not be treated as a safe third country.

On Monday, government lawyers will argue at the Supreme Court this ruling was wrong, while those representing migrants from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam and Sudan want the judges to conclude the scheme itself is flawed.

The stakes for Sunak are high, as he has made dealing with immigration one of his five priorities. Successfully addressing the issue could revive his Conservative Party's ailing fortunes as it languishes some 20 points behind in opinion polls ahead of an election expected next year.

"A government that doesn't deliver on what you promised will always get punished. We need to get a grip on this issue," Conservative lawmaker Brendan Clarke-Smith told Reuters at the party's annual conference this week.

Sunak and his ministers argue that the Rwanda scheme, launched last year by then Prime Minister Boris Johnson, would smash the business model of human traffickers, and deter people from the perilous cross-Channel journey in inflatable boats and dinghies. Six people drowned in August while 27 perished in November 2021.

Opponents say it is immoral, expensive and simply will not work. Their number includes human rights groups, lawmakers, including some Conservatives, and the Archbishop



Britain's Home Secretary Suella Braverman (C), Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure Ernest Nsabimana (center left), and Mayor of Kigali Pudence Rubingisa (R) inspect a model during a visit to a building project for accommodation for migrants, in Gahanga, Rwanda, March 19, 2023. AP

of Canterbury, the head of the Anglican communion. Even King Charles is reported by media to have privately expressed reservations.

The fate of the scheme now lies in the hands of five judges, including the Supreme Court's President Robert Reed, who will begin hearing mainly technical legal argument over three days starting on Monday.

Immigration

Like many nations across Europe, Britain has been wrestling with how to deal with the influx of migrants often fleeing war zones in the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan.

In a speech on Tuesday to Conservative Party members, interior minister Suella Braverman said that a "hurricane" of migrants was threatening to hit Britain and she vowed to stop what she called "bogus asylum seekers".

Immigration was one of the main factors behind the 2016 vote to leave the European Union, with the promise that Britain would take back control of its borders.

But despite Conservative government pledges to cut arrivals, overall net migra-

tion has continued to rise, reaching a record high of 606,00 last year. This year, more than 25,000 people have arrived in Britain on small boats, while a record 45,755 were detected in 2022.

Britain says the cost of its broken asylum system, with some 135,000 people waiting for a decision, is more than 3 billion pounds (\$3.6 billion) a year. Housing some of those migrants in hotels costs about 6 million pounds a day.

A new law, passed in July, now makes it a legal duty on the interior minister to deport migrants arriving without permission either back to their homeland or to a safe third country. Britain has only signed such an agreement with Rwanda.

Sending each asylum seeker to the African country would cost on average 169,000 pounds, the government has said.

Other measures brought in to cut costs by housing claimants on military bases have met strong opposition - often from local Conservative lawmakers, while a barge moored off the south coast to house hundreds of migrants was emptied after days following the discovery of Legionella bacteria in the water supply.

Agencies

Donald Trump says he would temporarily be speaker 'if necessary'

WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING Kevin McCarthy's ouster, former president Donald Trump said he would accept a temporary position as Speaker of the House of Representatives in order to act as a "unifier" for the Republican Party until lawmakers decide on a candidate for the position.

In an exclusive with Fox News Digital, Trump made the statement saying that as he has many friends in Congress, he won't mind taking up the role 'temporarily'.

"I have been asked to speak as a unifier because I have so many friends in Congress...If they don't get the vote, they have asked me if I would consider taking the speakership until they get somebody longer term because I am running for president," Trump told Fox News Digital.

Trump added, "They have asked me if I would take it for a short period of time for the party until they come to a conclusion -- I'm not doing it because I want to -- I will do it if necessary, should they not be able to make their decision."

Following the first-ever vote to remove a Speaker from office on Tuesday, Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) was replaced as Speaker by McHenry. McCarthy served as House Speaker for 269 days before being removed.

His tenure began on January 7, 2023, and lasted until Tuesday (US local time) - the second-shortest for a speaker in the country's history.

The mutiny, led by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), came days after McCarthy averted a government shutdown by putting a stopgap measure on the floor that garnered Democratic support - a move that infuriated hardline Republicans.

Both House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, have declared candidatures for speaker since McCarthy's removal, according to Fox News.

In the event that Republicans are unable to agree, Trump emphasised he would assume the speakership for a brief "30, 60, or 90-day period. Republican Representative Patrick McHenry of North Carolina will now temporarily lead the House of Representatives after the Speaker's position was vacated on Tuesday this week.

ANI



Nobel Peace Prize awarded to women's rights activist

STOCKHOLM

IMPRISONED Iranian human rights activist Narges Mohammadi has won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize.

Announcing the decision, the Norwegian Nobel Committee said Ms Mohammadi (pictured), 51, was honoured for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran.

Her struggle has come at a "tremendous personal cost," committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said.

She said Ms Mohammadi was currently serving a 31-year jail term in Iran, and had been subjected to 154 lashes.

At yesterday's ceremony in Oslo, Ms Reiss-Andersen said the prestigious award was given to Mohammadi for "her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all".

She began her address with the words "woman - life - freedom" - a reference to the motto of recent mass protests sweeping Iran.

She went on to describe the prize as recognition of the hundreds of thousands of Iranians who have demonstrated over the past year against the "theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women" - a movement headed, she said, by the new Nobel prize winner.

Millions of Iranians will be cheering this award along with human rights activists around the world.

The Nobel committee decision also sends a very strong signal of disapproval to the Iranian authorities.

At the ceremony, Reiss-Andersen also urged Iran to release Ms Mohammadi from jail so she could attend the prize ceremony in December.

"If the Iranian authorities make the right decision they will release her so she can be present to receive this honour, which is what we primarily hope for."

But it seems highly unlikely that the activist will actually be able to pick up her prize.

The UN said the award highlighted "the courage and determination of the women of Iran and how they are an inspiration to the world".

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratliffe, a British-Iranian national who spent time in Tehran's Evin jail with Mohammadi until she was released in March 2022, said she was pleased for her friend.

"It makes me cry. She did so much for all of us in Evin. Narges is an inspiration and a pillar to the women in the female ward in Evin for her fearless fight against violations of women's rights, the use of solitary confinement and execution in the judicial system in Iran."

"This award belongs to every single Iranian woman who, one way or another, has been and remains a victim of injustice in Iran."

As well as her lengthy jail term, Mohammadi has been arrested 13 times and convicted five times.

Last December, she wrote from prison to give the BBC harrowing details of how Iranian women detained in demonstrations were being sexually and physically abused.

She said such assaults had become more common during the protests, triggered by the death in police custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in September 2022.

The unrest later spread across the country, with demands ranging from more freedoms to an overthrow of the state.

Images of Iranian women defiantly setting their headscarves on fire captivated the world.

The Iranian authorities have brutally cracked down on the protests and they have largely subsided.

Mohammadi is deputy head of the Defenders of Human Rights Center.

Last year, she was included in the BBC's 100 Women - a high-profile list of 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world.

Agencies

Who is Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi?

By Raffi Berg

NARGES Mohammadi, who has won the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize, has for years been a prominent human rights figure in Iran.

She was awarded the prize for her fight against the oppression of women in the country, with the head of the Nobel committee calling her a "freedom fighter". She has also tirelessly campaigned for the abolition of the death penalty in Iran, which

has one of the highest execution rates in the world.

Despite being in jail almost continuously since 2010, Ms Mohammadi has managed to publicise abuses even from inside prison.

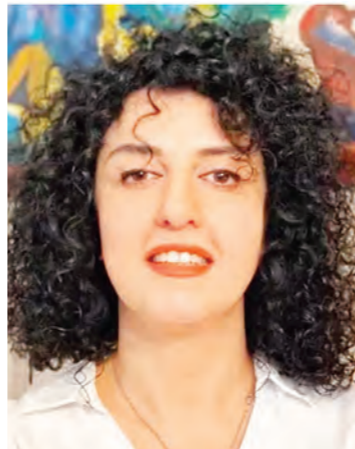
Ms Mohammadi, 51, has been arrested 13 times, convicted five times, and sentenced to a total of 31 years in prison. She is currently in jail for "spreading propaganda".

Her husband, political activist Taghi Rahmani, lives in exile

in Paris with their two children and they have not seen one another for years.

Rahmani told BBC Persian his wife was "a representative of all those whom this prize has gone to. It belongs to Woman, Life, Freedom [the slogan adopted by protesters], which was a huge movement in Iran and still continues to exist. It makes us very happy."

In awarding Ms Mohammadi the prize, the head of the Nobel committee noted that she



fought for women against systemic discrimination and oppression.

Despite her incarceration, Mohammadi has not been silenced. Last year, in a letter from Evin Prison in Tehran she detailed how women detained in the anti-government protests which were then sweeping the country were being sexually and physically abused.

The protests were triggered by the death in custody in September 2022 of 22-year-old

Mahsa Amini, arrested for allegedly violating strict dress codes.

Mohammadi also wrote a book, *White Torture: Interviews with Iranian Women Prisoners*, documenting her own and 12 other inmates' experiences of solitary confinement.

"I declare once more that this is a cruel and inhumane punishment," she wrote. "I will not rest until it is abolished."

Mohammadi's achievement comes 20 years after the peace prize was awarded to another

the criminal use of Information and Communication technology.

The Indian delegation was led by Muanpui Saiawi, the Joint Secretary of the Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs.

In the context of the vibrant Strategic Partnership between India and the EU, the two sides expressed appreciation for the Cyber Dialogue mechanism as it provides a platform to discuss a wide range of issues related to cyberspace. Both sides exchanged views on cyber policies, strategies and areas of mutual interest, the MEA stated.

ANI

Agencies

WHO: Dengue to take off in Africa, S. Europe, US this decade

LONDON

DENGUE fever will become a major threat in the southern United States, southern Europe and new parts of Africa this decade, the WHO's chief scientist said, as warmer temperatures create the conditions for the mosquitoes carrying the infection to spread.

The illness has long been a scourge in much of Asia and Latin America, causing an estimated 20,000 deaths each year. Rates of the disease have already risen eight-fold globally since 2000, driven largely by climate change as well as the increased movement of people and urbanization.

Many cases go unrecorded, but in 2022 4.2 million cases were reported worldwide and public health officials have warned that near-record levels of transmission are expected this year. Bangladesh is currently experiencing its worst-ever outbreak, with more than 1,000 deaths.

"We need to talk much more proactively about dengue," Jeremy Farrar, an infectious diseases specialist who joined the World Health Organization in May this year, told Reuters.

"We need to really prepare countries for how they will deal with the additional pressure that will come... in the future in many, many big cities."

Farrar previously spent 18 years working in Vietnam on tropical diseases including dengue. He later headed



Patients suffering from dengue receive treatment at Mugda Medical College and Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Aug 10, 2023. AP

up the Wellcome Trust global health charity and advised the UK government on its COVID-19 response before joining the WHO in May this year.

Farrar said the infection is likely to "take off" and become endemic in parts of the United States, Europe and Africa - all regions where there has already been some limited local transmission - as global warming makes new areas hospitable to the mosquitoes that spread it. That will put acute pressure on hospital systems in many countries, he warned.

"The clinical care is really intensive, it requires a high ratio of nurses to patients," he said. "I re-

ally worry when this becomes a big issue in sub-Saharan Africa."

Most people who get dengue do not have symptoms, meaning case rates are thought to be far higher than the reported numbers. Those who do can experience fever, muscle spasms and joint pain so severe it is known as "break-bone fever." In severe cases - less than 1 percent - it can be fatal.

There is no specific treatment for dengue, although there is a vaccine available. Earlier this week, the WHO recommended Takeda Pharmaceuticals' Qdenga vaccine for children aged 6 to

16 in areas where the infection is a significant public health problem.

Qdenga is also approved by the EU regulator, but Takeda withdrew its application in the United States earlier this year, citing data collection issues. Takeda said it was still in talks with the US Food and Drug Administration about the vaccine.

Preparing new regions of the world to deal with dengue means ensuring that any public health funds get spent in the right areas, Farrar said, including on the best way to control the mosquito.

Dengue is spread by infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which behave differently to the malaria-carrying kind. For example, they bite people indoors, and they bite all day rather than overnight. They also breed in very shallow water.

Farrar said proper prevention would include triaging plans for hospitals as well as scientific innovation alongside other key factors, such as urban planning, to avoid areas of standing water near or in houses.

"We need to combine different sectors that are not used to working together," he said.

Agencies

Hangzhou Asian Games presents openness, inclusiveness to world

SINCE the opening of the Hangzhou Asian Games, many touching moments and brilliant stories have unfolded both on and off the fields.

All-out competitions as well as heart-warming behaviors have emerged. These inspiring stories have shown the splendor of sport and brought people together in friendship.

In the women's 1500m freestyle final, as all other swimmers reached the finish line, one athlete from Vietnam remained alone in the pool, striving tirelessly to the end. The crowd cheered for her with shouts again and again, paying tribute to her indomitable spirit.

Even finishing last, she forged ahead with all her strength. The competitive arena glorifies not just victory but the sporting ethos of exceeding one's limits. In the tennis women's singles match, Ushna Suhail of Pakistan still wore a radiant smile after her loss. Departing the court, she enthusiastically exchanged badges with Chinese player Zhu Lin.

Though having varied performances, athletes from across Asia united in Hangzhou with a common wish to foster exchange and friendship.

In the men's 3x3 basketball, players from the Maldives were at a significant

height disadvantage compared to their opponents, which made it extremely difficult for them to score inside. Yet the team persevered, tirelessly running outside to seek opportunities to shoot.

One of them said after the game that the opponents were far more competitive, but he and his team still battled on and made progress. Striving bit by bit, they wrote their own story of perseverance at the Asian Games.

In the men's volleyball final, against the formidable Iranian team, China's young squad battled with every ounce of effort. Though the long-sought vic-

tory eluded them, earning an Asian Games silver after 17 years marked the team's growth.

"We will depart tomorrow for the Paris Olympic qualifying tournament," said head coach Wu Sheng of the Chinese team. Continuously learning from its experiences and charting a path for advancement, this young team is setting out afresh with hope, he added.

The stories of perseverance at the Hangzhou Asian Games inspire people with their transcendent spirit and hopeful visions. The interactions fostering bonds of friendship between athletes, and between athletes and spectators, have sown the seeds of "Heart to Heart, @Future." The Hangzhou Asian Games has presented the ethos of openness and inclusiveness to the world.

People's Daily

Putin: Russia-China cooperation important in global affairs

SOCHI

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is "promising" and that Russia-China cooperation is an important stabilizing factor in global affairs.

Putin (pictured) made the remarks when answering a question from Xinhua at the plenary session of the 20th Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi.

Referring to China's impres-

sive economic growth, Putin said that China has become "one of the leading locomotives of the global economy."

As to bilateral cooperation, Putin said that the two sides will implement infrastructure development plans for the construction of a Greater Eurasia, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the development of the "promising BRI."

Putin also stressed that both countries are not looking to create military blocs against any-

one.

Cooperation between Russia and China has become an important stabilizing factor in international affairs, he said.

Under the theme of "Fair Multipolarity: How to Ensure Security and Development for Everyone," the 20th Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club took place on Oct 2-5, and was attended by about 140 specialists, legislators, and diplomats from over 40 countries and regions.

Xinhua



US House Speaker's ouster showcases political chaos in Washington

WASHINGTON

THIS week's unprecedented ouster of the U.S. House Speaker has pushed the U.S. party infighting to a climax, the fallout of which will undoubtedly complicate the trajectory of the U.S. House and potentially shape the country's wider political landscape, already mired in partisan wrestling.

Apart from disrupting the legislative process, the ouster could also impact the 2024 presidential elections, experts have said.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (pictured) was booted out of his position by lawmakers on Tuesday, in a move initiated by a member of his own party, marking the first time in U.S. history that a House speaker has been voted out of office in the middle of a term.

This occurred in a 216 to 210 vote, in which eight GOP lawmakers sided with Democrats. McCarthy was voted out after he cut a deal with Democrats to avoid a looming government shutdown, which a handful of GOP lawmakers viewed as giving in to the opposition.

Matt Gaetz, the fellow Republican who led the ouster, had earlier accused McCarthy of caving to what he described as Democrats' excessive spending agenda.

McCarthy initially attempted to pass a stopgap funding bill with spending

cuts and border security provisions. But conservative Republicans opposed any "patchwork" funding package and refused to cooperate, forcing him to turn to Democrats for support.

The vote to oust McCarthy came nearly nine months after he won the position in a dramatic 15-round floor fight. In many ways, McCarthy's ouster was set in motion when, in deal-making with hard-right holdouts at the start of the year, he agreed to a series of demands, including a House rule change that allows any one member to file a motion to vacate.

CHAOTIC LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Republican Representative Patrick T. McHenry from North Carolina has been named acting speaker of the House after McCarthy's ouster. The House now needs to elect a new speaker, with a vote expected next week.

It remains unclear who will fill the vacant slot for speaker - third in command after the president and the vice president. Republican Representative Jim Jordan, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and House Majority Leader Steve Scalise both announced Wednesday that they plan to join the race.

McCarthy has said Tuesday that he would not seek the position again, setting up an expected intense intraparty battle for the speakership. The ab-



sence of a speaker will mean nothing gets done in the House as the closure of certain government departments inches closer. Rep. Tom McClintock from California predicted that "the House will be paralyzed, we can expect week after week of fruitless ballots while no other business can be conducted."

Christopher Galdieri, a political science professor at Saint Anselm College, told Xinhua: "Until a speaker is elected there's not going to be anything meaningful happening in the House, and the clock is ticking on the 45 days the government will stay open." In a last-minute effort to avert a government shutdown, McCarthy released a "clean" stopgap funding bill Saturday morning, which would keep federal agencies funded at current levels until mid-November.

"The legislative process is going to be chaotic as the two parties are strongly divided in their policy objectives," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua. "Democrats will argue this shows Republicans are out of control and not able to govern effectively," West said.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Jason Smith, a Missouri Republican, said in a statement that the chaos could weaken the GOP negotiating position in the fights to come, arguing that the actions to remove the speaker actually "empower those who want to increase spending."

IMPACT ON ELECTIONS

The week's events could impact next year's presidential elections, with Democrats using the ouster as fodder to make the case that Republicans are disorganized and incapable of governing. Hakeem Jeffries, the top House Dem-

ocrat, already said in a statement on Tuesday that under the Republican majority, the House "has been restructured to empower right-wing extremists, kowtow to their harsh demands and impose a rigid partisan ideology."

"House Republicans have undermined that principle at every turn and unleashed chaos, dysfunction and extremism on hardworking American taxpayers," said Jeffries.

After last year's midterm elections, the Republican Party retook the House, with control of 221 seats, just nine more than the Democratic Party's 212 seats.

"If the discord in the House continues - resulting, say, in a government shutdown or another impasse over the debt ceiling - so that real citizens are hurt where they live, then I think there is a real potential for this to negatively impact Republican hopes at the polls," Greg Cusack, a former member of the Iowa House of Representatives, told Xinhua.

Other experts believe the unprecedented event could lead some voters to view the GOP as factionalized.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that a likely path is that the GOP "continues to be factionalized and gets a corresponding reputation among independent voters."

Xinhua

'India under PM Modi's dynamic leadership is considered one of strongest economies in world'

ABU DHABI

LULU group chairman and MD Yusuff Ali MA said that India under the "dynamic leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is considered as an emerging power and one of the strongest economies in the world.



At the meeting with top business leaders from India and UAE hosted by Abu Dhabi Chamber, Yusuff Ali MA said that the common focus of UAE and India is peace, stability and economic progress. He said that 3.54 million Indians form an integral part of development of UAE's economy.

"Today, the common focus of both UAE and India is peace, stability, and economic progress.

UAE under the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan is a dynamic and one of the most advanced nations in the world. On other hand, India under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji is considered as an emerging power and one of the strongest economies in the world," Yusuff Ali MA said.

"More than 3.54 million Indians form an integral part of growth and development of UAE's economy and society. Indians are also earning their present better with that most dignity and respect here," he added.

He said that India and UAE will continue to move forward with greater cooperation. He called Abu Dhabi a safe and secure place to work and live and an incubator for talents, innovators and entrepreneurs.

"There are no limits of relationship between both our countries as rightly our minister mentioned. So, we would continue to move forward with greater cooperation.

Today UAE, Abu Dhabi, particularly has become a key economic hub and the preferred go to destination due to its advanced world class architecture and huge investment opportunities in key sectors, including energy, IT, logistics, food medicine, tourism, and....," he said.

Heaping praise on PM Modi for his leadership, he said that India has liberalized a lot of policies, especially the investment policy for non-resident Indians.

"In India, under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, they liberalized a lot of policies, especially the investment policy for non resident Indians. We had non resident Indians had a lot of problems in Western India.

But under the dynamic leadership of our prime minister Narendra Modi Ji. They liberalised and now NRI investment is treated as domestic investment. This is a great opportunity for non-resident Indians back home to invest in India," Yusuff Ali MA said in his address.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) are aiming to expand the bilateral trade to make it USD 100 billion.

"Basic foundation on which I believe we are looking to expand the trade between our two countries, significantly, at least to make it USD 100 billion, very quickly, said Goyal at the meeting with top business leaders from India and UAE hosted by Abu Dhabi Chamber.

In UAE, Goyal co-chaired the 11th Meeting of the India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force to boost investments between the two countries, which saw the signing of several MoUs in different sectors.

"I'm very convinced that the incredible love and affection that the people of India and the people of the UAE have for each other, the immense contribution that businesses are making to further strengthen this geopolitical strategic partnership is going to truly make this that defining partnership and brotherhood..." Goyal said.

"Clearly, India is a vibrant nation, on the move to become an economic powerhouse. Today the fifth largest economy in the world...it was only nine years ago, that we were a fragile five economy, amongst the weakest five economies in the world.

Today as I stand before you, we are amongst the top five economies, the fifth largest GDP. In the next four years, we expect to become the world's third largest GDP," he added.

ANI



Alaf Aces Cricket Club's Ankit Baghel (L) receives the Player of the Match prize from Gymkhana Cricket Club's official when the cricketer's team came up against Pak Stars in a 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) GP Gymkhana Shield's tie recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALAF ACES CRICKET CLUB

Alaf Aces cricketers clobber Pak Stars in 2023 DC GP Gymkhana Shield

By Guardian Reporter

ALAF Aces' cricketers have bounced back in the 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) GP Gymkhana Shield showdown, commanding a 62-run victory over Pak Stars early this week.

It was a second victory for Alaf Aces Cricket Club which had opened its campaign on a high, having defeated Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLPS) by 59 runs last month, and later lost to Strikers Cricket Club.

Pak Stars won the toss and invited Alaf Aces Cricket Club to bat in the Group A clash held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

It was done in a way in which Pak Stars wanted to offer Alaf Aces Cricket Club the opportunity to bat because the latter had a bad game several days ago.

Pak Stars wanted to put pressure on Alaf Aces Cricket Club's batting lineup that missed the services of skipper Asif Butt, who happens to be the formidable opener.

That bought the veteran opener, Ankit Singh Baghel, who had a lovely game and he complimented his displays with 32 runs off 22 balls whilst blasting seven boundaries, partnering Nasibu Kelvin.

With 46 runs on the board after the Powerplay, Baghel got out having hit the ball straight back to Pak Stars' bowler Nisar Ahmed who made no mistake with a catch.

The Alaf Aces Cricket Club opener was thereafter followed by fellow opener, Kelvin, who also had a decent outing of 22 runs- getting out with the outing amassing 64 runs in 9.2 overs.

The flow of runs was still good even after Ejaz Aziz and Mohammad Ali, who was again given a run back in the middle order, were sent back to the pavilion.

After the duo's dismissal, the batting side's top two partners Ali Mpeka and Salum Jumbe, known for executing quick runs, put on 30 runs before Mpeka got out trying to execute a big shot- he scored 12 runs off eight balls.

The same could be said of Jumbe who notched 31 runs from 17 balls- blasting two big sixes and three boundaries- he was given a life by Pak Stars' Ayaz Mustafa- who had a tense outing against a club he played for last year.

With Jumbe getting out with Alaf Aces Cricket Club posting 112 runs in 16 overs, the side had a bit of a less convincing finish, with Tanmay Das facing issues reading the pitch and Pak Stars' Zafar Khan balls.

Hamza Ally thereafter compensated by hitting two huge sixes on his way to posting 24 runs from 15 balls and that summed up Alaf Aces Cricket Club's innings, which ended with the club posting 144 runs in 20 overs.

Ivan Ismail played a part in Pak Stars' efforts to see to it that Alaf Aces Cricket Club finished its innings with an achievable target, as the cricketer ended with three wickets in four overs.

Nisar Ahmed as well made his presence felt for the fielding outfit, notching two wickets in four overs and a 9.75 economy rate.

In response, Pak Stars came with all guns blazing courtesy of Ismail who had a life in the very first over, having been dropped by Alaf Aces Cricket Club's Kibwana Salum- the outfit's best fielder who had a bad judgment.

Ismail went on a rampage in the next over, registering four boundaries from Alaf Aces Cricket Club's medium pacer Salum, but the former could not control his big-hitting style.

The opener went on to slog a ball that was bowled with a lot of technique by Mpeka and was out having been bowled by Mpeka.

After that, Alaf Aces Cricket Club got Pak Stars' Abdulla, Mohammed Omary, and Khan out in no time and that led to the batting outfit being skittled for 82 runs with 17 balls left.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club's bowling unit showed a good spirit in keeping Pak Stars in check, with the former's fielder running hard and executing some clean hits on the stumps.

The fielding outfit's efforts had it getting Ahmed and Mustafa out, Mohamed Ali got Khan out after the latter had attempted to hit a big six off the former's delivery and was safely caught by Mpeka.

Ayoub Hamisi, Ali, and Baghel posted two wickets each for Alaf Aces Cricket Club, efficiently containing Pak Stars' batting unit.

Alaf Aces Cricket Club has successfully turned around its fortunes, thanks to the victory that had the side putting behind the disappointment of defeat to Strikers Cricket Club in the second duel.

The win has made Group A wide open as now Alaf Aces Cricket Club, Gupta Upanga SC-A, or Pak Stars can sneak into the semi-finals.

The 2023 DC GP Gymkhana Shield, organized by Gymkhana Cricket Club under the supervision of Dar es Salaam Cricket, is proudly sponsored by GP, Harab Wazir Motors, Makita Bank of India.

Robertinho grip on the wheel: Praises players, skips failings

By Correspondent John Kimbute

ONE recurring theme of the weekend's continental tourney derbies was how ambition seems to be switching sides, no longer with Simba SC rated as within the top 10 in Africa, and switching to Young Africans SC.

Pundits appear to see the Jangwani Street side as doing all the good things they are supposed to do, and their archivals show precisely the opposite tendency, which means that there is a difference in technical approaches.

This may finally come down rather negatively on the part of Roberto Oliveira, he appears not quite up to the situation.

One way of figuring out how far a coach is on level terms with what happened on the pitch is the way he explains the situation thereafter.

Listening to the head of the Msimbazi Street side technical bench, one gets the impression that he is definitely positive about his players and not explicitly informative on what was lacking or was not expected from his side or the opponents.

When the side drew away in Ndola his praise of the players was breathtaking, like his evaluation of the return match.

To be on the safe side, it can be asserted that the Msimbazi Street atmosphere has been overwhelming for the Brazilian tactician, being inserted in a club side that believes that reaching the quarterfinals is not news anymore.

This is an error that the coach has to live with, as in competitive football nobody is always at the top, in which case the club side keeps thinking about what happens in the quarterfinals and forgets that the first round has to be won first. That is before the group stage arrives.

The once boisterous roller coaster side when it comes to the lower stages of the continental tourney is now a bit of a whimper to their old self and in great pressure to see the team performing even as well as their



Simba SC head coach, Roberto Oliveira. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

archivals.

To be sure the road to the qualification would have been more perilous for their next street rivals had the strife in Sudan not whittled the side to a shadow of its former self, denuded of most international players.

Pundits said just one South Sudanese and a Colombian (which has teething problems too) remain in Al Merrikh shirt.

This unforeseen advantage reduced Yanga's sleepless nights as to meeting a bigger club to qualify for the CAF Champions League proper, the Group Stage.

Simba SC drew out Power Dynamos as they were

the second in the Premier League, despite having a better ranking on CAF books.

Now Yanga looks like it is the champion. The task that the coach faces is to return the smiles on the faces of the fans, and with soccer generally, the second chances tend to be of short duration, hence raising chances of a replacement if anything unsavory happens for instance in the Premier League

Disquiet has been building up that the side is just not putting up the sort of performance that the fans expect, or say, deserve from the most well-oiled and best

recruiting side in the city.

So far the management quarter is eerily silent, though the technical bench will remember what key sponsor Mo had to say.

He pointedly reminded the fan base and leadership, not to say the technical bench and players - that he had spent three billion shillings in player recruitment, and is thus expecting them to perform to that level.

It means he can understand if there is trouble from some North African sides or top clubs from South Africa as is the case usually, but not from Power Dynamos.

And Simba SC qualified

on a technicality in the same way as Yanga last year lost the CAF Confederation Cup final, by away goal rules.

What is noticeable is that Yanga head coach Miguel Ángel Gamondi is having as good a honeymoon as his predecessor Nasreddine Nabi, and some would say he is having a more sumptuous time at the club.

Listening to what the pundits have to say in an all-round manner, it appears that the problem is match fitness, not because they have said so but rather on account of what they say about Yanga.

For some of the players, 90 minutes is sort of insufficient, they are still brimming with energy.

That would be the case and it comes down to a psychological problem of trusting that the players have all that it takes, such that the discussion fosters on who starts and who comes as a substitute, not the overall level of performance.

In a sense, the fact that Yanga started with the modest goal of reaching the Group Stage helped the side to be keen on match fitness, not just techniques, while the CAF top 10 side, Simba SC, had little of such worry.

Now they need to re-examine their playing level and how far it is up to the task - and whether the coach is up to the task, too.

From the look of it, it may not be altogether out of place to try an exchange of coaches, where Ernst Middendorp goes to the Msimbazi Street side and Robertinho takes over at the now bereaved side, smarting from a painful thrashing.

He would improve on where van Pluijm left off, the German tactician can use a new challenge.

Gamondi aims to add new players ahead of CAF CL campaign

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA head coach Miguel Gamondi has expressed his desire to strengthen his squad with new signings ahead of the 2023/24 CAF Champions League Group Stage fixtures.

The Jangwani-based outfit made a historic stride to the continental showdown's round-robin stage, following a sweeping 3-0 aggregate victory over Sudan's Al Merrikh in the Second Preliminary Round.

It marked a new chapter for the Tanzanian football giants who became the first club from the country to reach the final of the CAF Confederation Cup last season.

Gamondi said that after his team qualified for the CAF Champions League Group Stage, he still needs more improvements to add better players to the team.

The Argentine explained that the Group Stage will not be easy as he wants to strengthen his squad through the next registration window. "Qualifying is one step but we have to make a detailed assessment of our squad, we will face the biggest and toughest teams that have qualified like or more than us," Gamondi stated.

Gamondi noted: "We will look at how and what areas we will improve after the meetings with my club's leaders while we wait to know which

teams we will be assigned to after the Group Stage draw."

The Argentine maintained it will not only depend on the club's budget but also compel them to make an accurate calculation of players to be released since Yanga has already completed the number of foreign players.

"Registration has many aspects to consider, we must first meet the leaders. There is a budget needed, we moreover have 12 players, we all know that there must be a process," he said.

Although Gamondi did not want to directly issue more information, the coach is reported to be keen on bringing in a new central striker with

what it takes to score goals.

Yanga's new forward, Hafiz Konkoni-formerly an attacker for Ghana's Bechem United- has been out battling injuries after he scored for his new outfit as it garnered a comprehensive 5-1 victory over Djibouti Télécom of Djibouti in this season's CAF Champions League First Preliminary Round last month.

His lack of fitness may have triggered Gamondi to look for an out-and-out striker ahead of the Group Stage fixtures.

Konkoni scored his very first goal for the club in this season's Mainland Tanzania Premier League clash, as Yanga smashed Kinondoni Municipal Council FC 5-0 in Dar es Salaam.

Katwila elated by his players' tactical switch against Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IHEFU SC's head coach Zubeir Katwila has hailed his players for their tactical interpretation that led to the side's 2-1 win over Yanga in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League match at Highland Estate Stadium, Mbeya on Wednesday.

The Mbeya squad handed the reigning NBC Premier League champions- who have since managed to collect nine points in four games- the first defeat.

It is the second win of the season for Ihefu SC and the squad has since claimed six points in four games.

Katwila hailed his players for their hard-fought victory while maintaining their team structure, especially in the midfield.

"I told my players to be very compact, especially in the midfield, and make it difficult for Yanga midfielders to have limited access passing towards their strikers, the first goal they scored against us was the result of the same mistake,

we let them play freely and they scored a goal," Katwila noted.

The coach revealed: "They also use wingers to hurt opponents and we had to do our best and contain them. We could have scored the third goal to kill the match but I am pleased with our performance."

Katwila pointed out why he subbed off Zimbabwean Never Tigere during the match after he was in much control of the midfield.

"Tigere and Saadun came on as super subs in our pre-

vious games, I decided to start the partnership so they could be effective from the first minute and I later had to substitute them to bring in fresh legs because Yanga had quality midfielders coming on," the gaffer revealed.

"We used a lot of energy during the match, I had to bring in Shaban Msala and Hezekiah Mwashilindi to improve our midfield, Charles Ilanfy had a muscle pull, we had to play with 10 men during the closing stages of the tie, I am pleased with the results and I hope for more in

the coming fixtures," Katwila stated.

Katwila said he aims to rotate his squad ahead of Saturday's fixture against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC as he senses fatigue among his players after spending much energy against Yanga.

Ihefu SC has traveled to Dar es Salaam to confront Kinondoni Municipal Council FC at the Uhuru Stadium for match day 5 of the NBC Premier League. Last season, Yanga lost to Ihefu SC by the same margin at the Mbeya side's venue.

Real Sociedad's Kubo hitting top gear ahead of Atletico clash

MADRID

REAL Sociedad winger Takefusa Kubo has waited a long time to make good on his potential but finally he is shining in La Liga.

The Japan international has scored four goals in his last four league games and is the Basque team's key figure ahead of the visit to face Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

Imanol Alguacil's side have plenty of other dangerous weapons, including Brais Mendez, Mikel Oyarzabal and Mikel Merino, but Kubo is playing particularly well.

With victory on Sunday La Real, fifth, could overtake Atletico and climb into fourth place, which is where they finished last season to qualify for the Champions League.

Atletico are in formidable form after a convincing derby win over rivals and league leaders Real Madrid and two impressive comeback wins over Cadiz and Feyenoord, the latter in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Real Sociedad have started well in Europe themselves, dominating last season runners-up Inter Milan albeit in a draw before pocketing a 2-0 win at Salzburg on Tuesday.

Kubo has five strikes in La Liga, with only Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham ahead of him on six.

The 22-year-old's most recent came in the 3-0 Basque derby win over Athletic Bilbao which cemented La Real's status as the region's current best side.

Kubo celebrated in humorous fashion, appearing to pull up injured before breaking out into a "twerk" dance move.

Athletic defender Yuri Berchiche twice clipped him around the head as he jogged back for the restart.

"I was calmly going back to my own half and I was hit twice, I realised it was Yuri who was very angry," said Kubo. "I didn't want to get involved... if I go down there it's probably a red, but I didn't want to."

The winger has become known for his honest post-match interviews, which he conducts in a chatty and jovial demeanour.

AFP

Leverkusen face derby rivals Cologne with Alonso revolution in full swing

BERLIN

XABI Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen are dreaming of a Bundesliga title challenge, just a year since the Spaniard took over as coach with the club languishing near the relegation zone.

Alonso joined Leverkusen on October 5, 2022, with the club having won just one of their opening eight league fixtures and having been dumped out of the German Cup.

Leverkusen, who have never won the Bundesliga, sit top of the table 12 months on, having won five of their first six games, only dropping points in a pulsating 2-2 draw at champions Bayern Munich.

Alonso won three Bundesliga titles, one La Liga title, two Champions League crowns, the World Cup and two European Championships as a player.

Hopes are high that he will help Leverkusen, who lost in the Europa League semi-finals last season, shake their 'Neverkusen' moniker.

Despite strong financial backing and a scouting network which has repeatedly unearthed some of the best German and global talents, Leverkusen's trophy cabinet remains sparse, with just one German Cup and one UEFA Cup title.

The club's nadir came in 2002, when Leverkusen found themselves in Champions League and German Cup finals, as well as atop the Bundesliga table with two matches remaining, before finishing runners-up in all three competitions.

"A lot has happened this year, mostly good things," Alonso said on Wednesday. "It's been a very, very good experience so far, but I don't want to look back, I want to look forward."

Leverkusen's Rhine Derby opponents on Sunday, Cologne, have endured a horror start to the season, losing five and drawing one despite some typically dogged performances under firebrand coach Steffen Baumgart.

One of several fiery rivalries in Germany's Ruhr region, things boiled over between Leverkusen and Cologne after the former signed then-youth team prodigy Florian Wirtz from the latter.

Wirtz has since developed into one of European football's brightest stars but Cologne fans have not forgotten, booing the then teenager whenever he touched the ball in Germany's 3-2 loss to Belgium in Cologne in a March friendly.

Baumgart described his side's plight on Sunday as a "shitty situation" but promised to "lift our butts up, fight for every inch and get the necessary points".

Fixtures (1330 GMT unless stated)

Today

RB Leipzig v Bochum, Stuttgart v Wolfsburg, Borussia Dortmund v Union Berlin, Augsburg v Darmstadt, Werder Bremen v Hoffenheim (1630)

Tomorrow

Bayer Leverkusen v Cologne, Bayern Munich v Freiburg (1530), Eintracht Frankfurt v Heidenheim (1730)

AFP

Arsenal now target Man City scalp as Man Utd seek spark

LONDON

ARSENAL could leapfrog Manchester City in an early season showdown for the Premier League title on Sunday as crisis-hit Manchester United seek some respite at home to Brentford.

Tottenham have the chance to go top when they travel to Luton on Saturday thanks to a controversial win over Liverpool last weekend.

The Reds are looking to channel their fury at being wronged by a VAR error at Spurs to bounce back at Brighton.

AFP Sport picks out three talking points ahead of the action in the English top flight.

*Arteta sweats on Saka fitness as City loom

Arsenal's dreams of a first Premier League title since 2004 were shattered by City's strong finish to last season.

That included two victories for Pep Guardiola's men over the Gunners and Mikel Arteta's record against his former mentor does not read well.

Arteta has lost all seven league games against Guardiola during his time in charge at the Emirates, with the aggregate score reading a painful 19-3.

Arsenal smashed their transfer record to beat City



Pep Guardiola

Mikel Arteta

to the signing of Declan Rice with the aim of wresting the title away from Manchester.

And City gave the contenders to their crown a huge boost when the champions suffered a shock 2-1 defeat by Wolves last weekend.

But the Gunners could be without the talismanic talent of Bukayo Saka for Sunday's clash.

The England winger, who has started 87 consecutive league games, limped out of the midweek Champions League defeat by Lens.

City are also without one of their key men as Rodri completes a three-game ban for his red card

against Nottingham Forest last month.

*Man Utd at low ebb United were supposed to be in the middle of a run of winnable fixtures that would get their season back on track.

Instead, they find themselves battling to avoid a third straight defeat when Brentford visit Old Trafford on Saturday after painful home losses to Crystal Palace and Galatasaray.

Erik ten Hag's men are already seven points off the top four after losing four of their opening seven games of a Premier League season for the first time.

Brentford have only beaten United once since

1938 but that came last season, when Thomas Frank's men won 4-0 at their London ground.

Ten Hag did not expect an easy ride after an encouraging first campaign at the helm but the problems are piling up.

An injury-ravaged defence and error-prone goalkeeper Andre Onana continue to leak goals, while Marcus Rashford looks a shadow of the player who scored 30 goals last season.

United desperately need a win to settle their restive fans and avoid their season spinning out of control.

*Brighton face fuming Liverpool Liverpool travel to Eng-

land's south coast full of righteous anger after falling victim to an embarrassing VAR blunder last weekend.

Jurgen Klopp's men were wrongly denied an opening goal at Tottenham and went on to lose the match 2-1 -- their first defeat of the season.

The German manager wants a replay of that match but accepts that he is unlikely to get his wish. More likely is that he will try to channel a sense of injustice as he targets a sixth win in eight Premier League games.

It is tricky to judge which Brighton team will turn up. The Seagulls beat Newcastle, Manchester United

and Bournemouth by a combined score of 9-3 but have now failed to win in three games in all competitions, including a chastening 6-1 defeat at Aston Villa last week.

Manager Roberto De Zerbi admits he is playing a "different sport" this season as he grapples with a crowded fixture list and growing injury concerns in the club's debut European campaign.

The Italian hopes last week's pummeling will be a one-off after an impressive start to the season.

"I don't speak about the result, but the attitude and the passion we will show from now until the end of the season will be completely different," he said.

"The defeat against Villa was important, it could be a crucial day for us."

Fixtures Today (1400 GMT unless stated)

Luton v Tottenham (1130), Burnley v Chelsea, Everton v Bournemouth, Fulham v Sheffield United, Manchester United v Brentford, Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest (1630)

Tomorrow (1300 unless stated)

Brighton v Liverpool, West Ham v Newcastle, Wolves v Aston Villa, Arsenal v Manchester City (1530)

AFP

Klopp says Liverpool are over VAR row: 'We're not children'

By Chris Bascombe

NO Var hiccups, no red cards, no controversies and no need to hear audio tapes of confused officials. Jurgen Klopp must have thought there was an outbreak of normal football at Anfield.

His side put one of the most curious week's of his reign behind them with a routine Europa League victory over Belgium's Union SG.

One must never take a European victory for granted - it is testimony to the standards of the Klopp era that there was so little jeopardy beyond a hint of scoreboard pressure before a late second goal - but the manager will not be seeking out a replay of this particular evening.

In truth, the excitement level never extended much beyond that of listening to Darren England and Dan Cook's ramblings on Monday night. This second tier of European competition has not yet quickened the pulse of the six-time Champions League winners.

Ryan Gravenberch's 44th minute goal - his first for Liverpool - ensured his side rarely left third gear. Diogo Jota settled some nerves with a second in injury time as the hosts made the evening more anxious than it needed to be. With consecutive group wins, Liverpool can already start planning for the knockout rounds.

They were far from their best. Klopp might consider his side has looked more impressive with ten and nine men during parts of this season. They were still as good as they needed to

be against a Union side full of endeavour while lacking the class to genuinely threaten an upset.

Given the events of the past six days, on the approach to Anfield one might have imagined seeing foot soldiers pulling up the drawbridge and those in charge of heavy artillery readying themselves for a terrifying counter offensive against an opponent destined for a Liverpool backlash.

Instead, there was little evidence of a siege mentality given Liverpool's sense of grievance since Saturday. Indeed, Klopp seemed to extinguish earlier inflammatory comments about replaying the Premier League fixture with Tottenham Hotspur. There was no sense of this being a club under siege.

"If I made the impression that I was still in (Saturday's) game, we are not," said Klopp.

"We are over it. We are not children. That is it. From a focus point of view there was not a problem."

Perhaps the most extreme emotions have been parked for a later date. The visit of the Belgian side could not generate an atmosphere to rival this stadium's most celebrated wins, the fixture feeling more like the third round of the FA Cup than a famous Euro night. All that was missing was the traditional balloons in the away end as the Union SG supporters savoured their visit and created most of the noise.

Klopp's line-up had a decidedly back-up feel to it, too. Sure, there was Mohamed Salah, Darwin Nunez and Trent Alex-



Jurgen Klopp

ander-Arnold, but for others the competition has become an opportunity to

showcase their potential. Gravenberch - the final signing of last summer -

has been recruited as a work in progress but there are signs Liverpool are already unlocking the talent which failed to flourish at Bayern Munich.

The Dutch midfielder sparked early with his ability to dribble with giant strides, retaining possession when it seemed to be out of reach, and eye for a cute pass.

Gravenberch thought he had created Liverpool's first on 10 minutes when - in a sneak preview of later action - his shot was fumbled by keeper Anthony Moris and Nunez tapped in. The assistant referee flagged for offside. The Var swiftly confirmed the decision. The replays showed both were correct. The Kop must have briefly considered a standing ovation for the execution of a 'good process'.

Initially, Liverpool looked like they might score at will, Salah denied by goalkeeping of greater efficiency by Moris, and Nunez missing a sitter after a gorgeous move involving the most senior players.

Then the Belgians settled into a defensive shape and even dared to venture forward. That proved their undoing as shortly before half-time Liverpool counter attacked and Moris mishandled Alexander-Arnold's shot for Gravenberch to earn the reward his performance deserved.

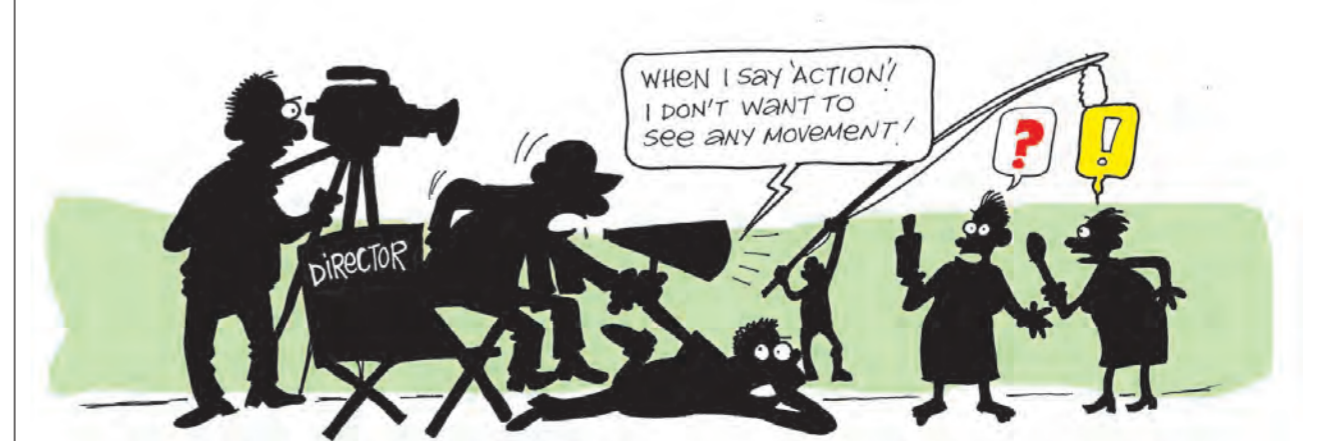
"It is really obvious what a talent he is," said Klopp. "He is enjoying it. Step by step he is getting his confidence back. He fits the age group of the squad. He was very good and he is going in the right direction."

As the game meandered to its climax, Luis Diaz raced through and looked certain to score, only for the assistant to belatedly raise his flag. As in Liverpool's last game, there was also an injury time goal as Jota erased any doubts about the victory with a cunning finish.

With that, any similarity to the drama of last weekend was extinguished. As he insists he is 'moving on', Klopp will be thankful.

THE TELEGRAPH

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal now target Man City scalp as Man Utd seek spark

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Geita Gold FC head coach Hemed Suleiman

Yanga, Simba SC in tricky CAF CL groups



Yanga's players are pictured participating in drills in Mbeya recently in preparation for the 2023/24 NBC Premier League and 2023/24 CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's soccer big gun, Young Africans SC, has been paired against Egyptian powerhouse, Al Ahly SC, in this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage, following the showdown's draw held in South Africa yesterday.

The two sides will be facing each other for the first time in the Group Stage of the premier continental club showdown, having been put in Group D which is also made up of CR Belouizdad (Algeria) and Medeama SC (Ghana).

Young Africans SC, popularly known as Yanga, last played against Al Ahly SC in the 2016 CAF Champions League second round, which culminated with the Egyptian side defeating Yanga.

The two sides shared the spoils with a 1-1 draw in the first tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on April 9, 2016, as Amr Gamal Sayed netted for Al Ahly and Yanga registered an equalizer via an own goal by Al Ahly central defender, Ahmed Hegazy.

In the rematch which took place in Egypt on April 20, 2016, Al Ahly defeated Yanga 2-1. Hossam Ghalay and

Abdallah Said netted for Al Ahly whereas Zimbabwean Donald Ngoma scored Yanga's goal.

South Africa's big guns Mamelodi Sundowns have been put in Group A with Egypt's Pyramids FC, DR Congo's TP Mazembe, and Mauritania's FC Nouadhibou.

Yanga's compatriot, Simba SC, has been put in Group B with giants Wydad AC of Morocco, ASEC Mimosas of

Ivory Coast, and Botswana's Jwaneng Galaxy FC.

Group C is made up of Tunisia's duo of Espérance de Tunis and Étoile Sportive du Sahel, Sudan's Al Hilal, and Petro de Luanda of Angola.

Following an intense preliminary round that kicked off in August, 16 clubs for both the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup have now secured their respective places in the Group

Stage.

Both champions of the two competitions, Al Ahly SC (CAFCL) and USM Alger (CAFCC) featured in the draw along with other household names of African football who will be looking at achieving continental glory this season.

Amongst some of the exciting names in the CAF Champions League include Mauritania's FC Nouadhibou who surprised Real Bamako of Mali while Jwaneng Galaxy of Botswana eliminated 1995 champions, South Africa's Orlando Pirates.

TotalEnergies CAF Champions League qualified clubs are Al Ahly SC (Egypt), Al Hilal (Sudan), ASEC Mimosas (Cote d'Ivoire), CR Belouizdad (Algeria), ES Sahel (Tunisia), Esperance (Tunisia), FC Nouadhibou (Mauritania), Jwaneng Galaxy (Botswana).

Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Medeama SC (Ghana), Petro de Luanda (Angola), Pyramids (Egypt), Simba SC (Tanzania), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), Wydad AC (Morocco), and Young Africans (Tanzania) are the other competitors.

TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup qualified clubs consist of Abo Selim, (Libya), Al Hilal Benghazi (Libya), APC Lobito (Angola), Club Africain (Tunisia), Diables Noirs (Congo), Dreams FC (Ghana), Future FC (Egypt), and RS Berkane (Morocco).

The list moreover has Sagrada Esperanca (Angola), Sekhukhune United (South Africa), Stade Malien (Mali), SuperSport United (South Africa), SOAR (Guinea), Rivers United (Nigeria), USM Alger (Algeria), and Zamalek (Egypt).

Suleiman confident of stopping Yanga in Mwanza

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

GEITA Gold FC head coach, Hemed Suleiman, is confident his team will register positive results against Yanga although the game will be difficult leading to clinical assessment that will lead to dominate them and win the match.

The gold miners of Geita are today hosting Yanga in a 2023/24 NBC Premier League duel at the CCM Kirumba Stadium, Mwanza.

Suleiman, alias Morocco, revealed both teams meet after losing their respective previous league games with either willing to fight to win.

The gaffer said he is done analyzing Yanga with his players, with the morale in the group currently high. The tactician added he has great faith that they are going to end their winless against Yanga.

He said that for the three days, they have been training in Mwanza, his players have followed the instructions that will give them victory because the team is in good condition and is ready for the game.

Suleiman revealed: "We have all lost previous matches, we know the match will be difficult, but I have tried to shape my players psychologically, therefore, we are focused on

the match, I believe we will come out with a victory."

"Yanga is a good team, it has a good flow of level and results, and heading into the game will have a strategy. Therefore, the one with a good strategy will win," the gaffer noted.

Suleiman stressed: "I trust my players, as we have prepared, we have looked at weaknesses (shown by) Yanga, I believe we exploit them."

Geita Gold FC midfielder, Samwel Onditi, pointed out they are elated they get to come up against Yanga early on after falling to Kinondoni Municipal Council FC and Kagera Sugar.

The midfielder revealed they are well prepared to win due to the instructions issued by the coaches who have worked on the players' deficiencies and the ones that Yanga has.

Onditi stated: "We have spoken individually and as a group on how to end a series of defeats, we can have a boost of confidence if we get a win against Yanga which is very possible if we are tactically disciplined during 90 minutes."

Yanga is heading into today's game after suffering a 2-1 defeat to Ihefu SC at Highland Estate Stadium in Mbarali, Mbeya on Wednesday.

Yanga eyes recovery whilst Geita Gold FC plots an upset

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

ROUND five of 2023/24 NBC Premier League sees Geita Gold FC host Young Africans SC at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Saturday afternoon.

Host Geita Gold FC is winless in the club's last three games, while Young Africans SC, alias Yanga, suffered a shock defeat away to Ihefu SC in Mbeya on Wednesday evening.

Following a 1-0 defeat to Kagera Sugar on the road, Geita Gold FC suffered a 2-1 loss against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC in their first home game of the season, recording back-to-back defeats.

Unfortunately for Geita Gold FC, Yanga has won each of the squad's last four NBC Premier League meetings with the Lake Zone side.

In his pre-match press conference, Geita Gold FC head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco'

acknowledged the gulf in quality but stressed games are won on the pitch.

The gaffer pointed out: "First of all, we thank the almighty God, we are safe, the players are fine, we did our last training this morning and we are ready to play against Yanga."

"The match will be difficult, we respect them because they have been a good team for the last three seasons, but we have started well in the league and we want to continue to do better," 'Morocco' said.

The tactician noted: "We have both lost our previous matches, you can lose anywhere. When you finish one match you focus on the next."

Suleiman stated: "We know we are going to play with Yanga who also lost the last match so it will be difficult. We respect Yanga, we are trying to prepare our players psychologically to ensure that we are



Yanga's winger, Denis Nkane (L), outfoxes Geita Gold FC's midfielder, Yusuf Kagoma, as the clubs locked horns in a previous season's NBC Premier League clash in Mwanza.

better than the last match."

Miguel Gamondi's team suffered a shock defeat away to Ihefu SC on Wednesday.

The results ended Yanga's perfect run of three victories in the league. It was also the squad's first defeat in 10 games

in all competitions this season.

Still, the reigning NBC Premier League champions have won eight of their previous 10 encounters across all competitions, scoring 24 goals in the process.

As a result, Yanga is among the top

goal scorers in the NBC Premier League, and they also boast the second-best defensive record in the division, having so far conceded two goals in four games.

It is early days in the campaign but Yanga understands momentum is crucial, the club will be aiming for a swift return to the win column to stay in touch with title rivals Azam FC and Simba SC.

Ahead of today's encounter, Gamondi took time to defend his players and decision. He talked about players' welfare and the need to see them as human beings first rather than mere players.

The Argentine said: "Sometimes the fans and the people in general think it is easy for the players and coaches. But looking back at what we did this week, we have no time to rest and prepare."

"I need to make squad rotation because, before Aboutwalib Msherry was a football player, he was a human being," the gaffer stated.

Gamondi noted: "He has a family, tiredness, and problems like everyone else but, when he is inside the pitch and makes a mistake, they complain... nobody cares about that."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

