



MWINYI PLEDGES IMMEDIATE ACTION AFTER HEALTH SUMMIT PAGES



EAC CALLS FOR COORDINATED RESPONSE AGAINST MARBURG PAGE 4



ARTISANAL MINERS PICK NEW LEADERS PAGE 5

Samia outlines tasks for tax review panel

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has tasked members of the presidential commission on tax reforms to develop strategies aimed at promoting voluntary tax compliance, expand the tax base and addressing public grievances regarding taxation.

During the swearing-in ceremony for members of the new commission at the State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the president acknowledged the challenges facing tax administration, underlining that this hinders execution of development plans.

There is disconnect between the country's economic growth, population increase and tax revenue collection, she said, explaining that currently, out of approximately 36 million eligible taxpayers, only two million are actively paying taxes, a situation she qualified as 'concerning.'

"There is a substantial informal sector - up to 60 percent of all economic activity



Many taxpayers have expressed concerns over the use of abusive language and coercive tactics by some revenue officers, which undermine voluntary compliance

- that is not officially registered as taxpayers. We must work to include them," she stated.

Outlining the government's commitment to fostering an inclusive and rapidly growing economy aimed at eradicating poverty at the individual level, she stressed the establishment of a fair justice system and effective administrative policies that encourage voluntary tax payment.

Addressing complaints received from key taxpayer groups, she acknowledged the recurrence of issues such as high tax rates and negative interactions with tax administrators.

"Many taxpayers have expressed concerns over the use of abusive language and coercive tactics by some revenue officers, which undermine voluntary compliance," she said.

Despite previous reforms that increased tax revenue collection from 700bn/- in 2015 to approximately 2trn/- in 2022, there is significant room for improvement, she said, setting a target for tax revenue to account for 14 percent of total revenue by 2026 while acknowledging existing challenges.

Dr. Moses Kusiluka, the chief secretary, announced that the commission will op-

TURN TO PAGE 2



President Samia Suluhu Hassan delivers address moments before launching the Presidential Commission for Tax Reforms at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Experts want trans-fats standard to combat surging heart diseases

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEALTH and legal experts have called on the government to enact regulations limiting unsaturated fatty acids, including trans-fatty acids (TFA) in food products to address the rising cases of heart-related diseases.

Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) is commonly found in processed foods, margarine and baked goods and is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular diseases.

Tike Mwambipile, executive director of the Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association (TAWLA) said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that they were advocating for regulations to ensure that TFA levels do not



The organization has developed the replace action package to help governments eliminate industrially produced TFA from the food supply

exceed 2.0 percent in food products.

TAWLA in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCIDA), and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) have initiated a national campaign to push for the elimination of TFA from the country's food supply.

"Despite global progress, many Tanzanians remain exposed to industrially produced TFAs, unknowingly risking their health," she said.

She said that lack of a comprehensive national standard regulating TFA con-

TURN TO PAGE 2

PM stresses urgent need to combat child stunting

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has highlighted the ongoing challenge of stunting in the country, calling for enhanced joint efforts as one-third of the country's children are affected.

Nutrition is a critical priority for the government in enabling the implementation of development plans and economic

activities within communities, including agriculture, fishing, livestock and trade, he said on Thursday.

He made the remarks in Mwanza city while closing the 10th annual general meeting of nutrition stakeholders.

Citing statistics from the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) 2018, the PM underscored the seriousness of the situation manifested in part in a rise

in the prevalence of non-communicable diseases linked to poor nutrition.

He appealed to stakeholders to intensify efforts in implementing nutritional initiatives and called for a comprehensive national dialogue on ways to fast-track the implementation of existing plans.

Majaliwa rooted for the integration of nutrition education into various plat-

TURN TO PAGE 2

WHO nods to first lab mpxv test for a quick diagnosis

GENEVA

MORE than 30,000 suspected mpox cases have been reported across Africa this year, but fewer than half have been confirmed through a test.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved the first diagnostic test for the disease where the results can be immediately known, saying that could prove pivotal in helping to stop the rise in the number of global cases of the deadly virus.

The new PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test enables the detection of the mpox DNA taken from skin lesion swabs.

Currently, samples have to be sent to a laboratory for testing and the patient and medics have to wait days for the result.

Limited testing capacity and delays in confirming cases continue to be a challenge in Africa, worsening the spread of a disease previously known as monkeypox.

WHO says barely 40 per cent of the 30,000-plus suspected cases reported in Africa this year have been confirmed through a test.

Yukiko Nakatani, WHO's assistant director-general, described the new diagnostic test as "a significant milestone".

"Increasing access to quality-assured medical products is central to our efforts in assisting countries to contain the spread of the virus and protect their people, especially in underserved regions," she said.

The breakthrough comes as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the highest number of cases has been reported, prepares

TURN TO PAGE 2

SPORTS

Page 20



Miguel Gamondi praises Yanga's depth after 4-0 victory over Pamba Jiji

Page 19



Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag



Samia outlines tasks for tax review panel

FROM PAGE 1
erate for six months, with his office coordinating its efforts. The commission was set up in August to review and advice on tax matters.
The commission is chaired by Ambassador Ombeni Sefue who is former chief secretary, as well as notable members like Prof. Florens Luoga - the former central bank governor, Prof. Mussa Assad who is a former controller and auditor

general, along with Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi, a former principal secretary.
Other members include Abou-bakar Mohamed Aboubakar from Zanzibar University, Ambassador Mwanandi Sinare Maajar who is a veteran law consultant, tax advisory executive David Tarimo, and Rished Bade, a former commissioner general at the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

PM stresses urgent need to combat child stunting

FROM PAGE 1
forms, including making it a national agenda in places of worship and through media outreach.

“The government is continuing with these efforts under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has directed all regional commissioners to ensure that these initiatives are implemented effectively,” he said, calling on the Regional Administration and Local Governments wing of the President’s Office to oversee implementation.

The PM also called on Tanzania’s development partners to enhance food fortification programmes, particularly in rural areas.

“The goal is to ensure the availability of affordable equipment for mixing nutrients and thus facilitate the local production of the nutrients at a low cost,” he added.

He said that the government is committed to eradicating all forms of malnutrition in the country, also calling on all nutrition stakeholders to make good use of the findings from the mid-term review report “to assess themselves and take appropriate measures to improve the implementation of nutrition interventions”.

Further, the PM directed regions and local government councils across the country to utilise the national guidelines for providing food and nutrition services to primary school students, ensuring that the use of fortified foods is included and budgeted for in annual plans and budgets.

He urged ministries, agencies, institutions and public organisations to make full use of the National Comprehensive Nutrition Action Plan and Budget, ensuring that nutrition issues are integrated into plans and adequately funded for full implementation each year.

William Lukuvi, Minister of State

WHO nods to first mpox test for a quick diagnosis

FROM PAGE 1
to begin an mpox vaccination programme today.

Mpox, a highly contagious disease, has killed at least 635 people in that country this year.

In August, WHO declared the outbreak of the virus a global public health emergency for the second time in two years, following a rise in cases in DR Congo and its spread to neighbouring Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda.

Some Western countries have donated doses of mpox vaccines to combat the outbreak of the disease in Africa but reports say that more

are urgently needed.

Rwanda, which was the first to administer mpox vaccines in Africa last month, was set to receive 5,000 more doses yesterday, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

In Nigeria, a vaccination drive against the virus is set to be rolled out next Tuesday, the Africa CDC said.

It said that frontline healthcare workers and close contacts of infected patients are set to be given priority in DR Congo, which has 200,000 vaccines donated by the European Commission.

MOZAMBIQUE

AMANI Abeid Karume, a former President of Zanzibar and Head of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Election Observation Mission (SEOM) in Mozambique, has called on the Mozambique Police Force to bolster security measures to ensure a peaceful and orderly general election on October 9.

Karume made the appeal following a meeting with Deputy Police Commissioner General Julho Amal Bonicila, during which they discussed the current security situation in the country.

The Police Commissioner assured

Karume that the atmosphere leading up to the elections remains stable, with citizens carrying on with their daily activities without concern.

“The Police Force has been actively enhancing security throughout the country, and citizens are preparing to participate in the general election with confidence,” Bonicila stated.

Accompanying Karume were



Dr Omar Chilo (L), founding president and chairman of the Tanzania Health Summit, presents an award to Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi in recognition of his contribution to the Tanzania’s health sector. It was shortly the opening of the agency’s 11th meeting in Zanzibar yesterday. Looking on are Zanzibar’s Health ministry, Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (2nd-R) and Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinyi. Photo: Zanzibar State House

FROM PAGE 1

tent in Tanzania exacerbates the problem leading to preventable deaths and placing a strain on the healthcare system.

She cited countries like South Africa and Thailand, which have successfully implemented regulations banning or significantly reducing TFAs in their food supply.

“Developing a legally binding national standard on TFA is a critical step in protecting public health,” she stated.

The proposed regulations would

Experts want trans-fats standard to combat surging heart diseases

limit TFA levels in food products with the ultimate goal of eliminating industrially produced TFAs, she asserted.

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) must play a pivotal role in creating a healthier food environment by encouraging food manufacturers to reformulate products and reduce TFA content.

MUHAS honorary lecturer Hassan Rusoby presented findings from a study conducted in Dar es Salaam between 2021 and 2022 revealing that many diets contain unsaturated fatty acids and exceed the recommended limit of 1.0 percent.

Industrially produced TFAs are not part of a healthy diet and should be avoided, he emphasised,

pointing at WHO recommendations limiting trans-fat intake to less than 1.0pc of total energy intake, approximately 2.2 grams per day in a 2,000-calorie diet.

The organization has developed the replace action package to help governments eliminate industrially produced TFA from the food supply, he added.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango and Lesotho’s King Letsie III (L) share a light moment at the Royal Palace in the Lesotho capital, Maseru, yesterday shortly before talks on the strengthening cooperation between Tanzania and Lesotho. The VP is representing President Samia Suluhu Hassan at celebrations to mark the southern African kingdom’s 58th independence anniversary. Photo: VPO

Karume urges enhanced security ahead of Mozambique’s Oct 9 General Election

representatives from the Troika, including members from Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi, as well as officials from the SADC Secretariat and the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC).

Prior to the elections, Karume plans to engage with various stakeholders, including the Mozambique National Electoral Commission (CNE), political parties, civil society

organizations, religious institutions, and the media.

On the previous day, Karume officially launched the SADC Election Observation Mission in Mozambique, emphasizing its importance for the electoral process. Following the elections, he is expected to present a preliminary report assessing the mission’s observations.

Karume was appointed to lead the

mission by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who serves as the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. His appointment, which took effect on September 25, aligns with Article 8 of the SADC Principles and Guidelines.

The SEOM will be deployed across Mozambique’s provinces to monitor both the pre-election and post-election

phases, as well as polling day. The mission aims to evaluate the electoral process against the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which stress the importance of citizen participation, the prevention of political violence and intimidation, and the promotion of equal access to state media and information for all political parties involved.

The SEOM will be deployed across Mozambique’s provinces to monitor both the pre-election and post-election



Tanzania Commission for Universities executive secretary Prof Charles Kihampa briefs journalists in Dodoma city yesterday on the immediate start of the third phase of undergraduate admissions at universities across the country to run until October 9. Photo: Correspondent Renatha Msungu

TCU unveils last 2024/2025 undergraduate admissions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Commission of Universities (TCU) yesterday announced the opening of the third and final window for the admission of undergraduate students for the 2024/2025 academic year.

This is to enable those who did not apply or failed to gain admission in the first and second rounds for any reason to apply for places in the higher learning institutions of their choice.

In the same spirit, the commission has appealed to all higher learning institutions in the country to announce the existing undergraduate programmes following the two previous rounds.

Addressing a press conference, TCU executive secretary Prof Charles Kihampa stated that the window, opened today (5th October), will last for a few days to 9th October.

The decision to extend the admission window was reached following requests from the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organisation (TAHLISO), as well as from students who missed registration in the earlier phases and from higher learning institutions that still have available slots in various courses, he stated.

"Following these requests, TCU has extended the admission period by five more days and appeals to all those who missed registration in the last two phases to apply," he specified.

Those who received admissions in more than one institution need to confirm admission at just one of them from 5th to 21st October, he directed.

Confirmation should be done using a personal identification number sent to the respective applicants via the mobile numbers or email addresses they provided during the application process.

"Those who do not receive the notification on time are required to access the admission system

and lodge a request in an effort to obtain the PIN," he explained.

Applications via the TCU website are directed at www.tcu.go.tz.

All higher learning institutions will announce the names of those registered in the third window between 13th and 15th October, and from 19th to 21st October, all registered students are required to confirm their registrations.

For this academic year, student registration is conducted in three phases: the first phase involves students who have Form Six qualifications, the second phase involves students with an Ordinary Diploma or its equivalent, and the third phase includes students with a Foundation Certificate from the Open University.

"Applicants are advised to read about the requirements in the Bachelor's Degree Admission Guidebooks for the 2024/2025 Academic Year, which can be accessed through the TCU website at www.tcu.go.tz," he reiterated.

Interested applicants can send their applications directly to the higher learning institutions of their choice, where they will receive relevant information on the joining process and the qualifications required.

Following these requests, TCU has extended the admission period by five more days and appeals to all those who missed registration in the last two phases to apply

By Guardian Reporter

New science-based high school launched in Tanga

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Doto Biteko, has inaugurated the newly renovated and expanded Miles and Kimberly White High School in Mapatano, Mkinga District, Tanga Region.

The school, developed in partnership with the global healthcare firm Abbott Fund, will focus on science-based education and accommodate 800 pupils per year.

During an inauguration event earlier this week, Dr Biteko praised Abbott for their longstanding support in fostering healthier and stronger communities across Tanzania.

"I want to congratulate all stakeholders who have contributed their time and investment, especially the Abbott Fund, for their generous support to Tanzania. We are very grateful for your contributions

to this community," he solemnly declared.

Dr Biteko urged citizens to take responsibility for the school, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for future generations.

The school was renamed in honour of Miles White, former CEO of Abbott, and his late wife Kimberly, recognising their contributions to education and community development in Mkinga District, where they previously assisted in constructing a primary school in Buntu Village.

He expressed gratitude to development stakeholders for their commitment to improving citizens' lives and building healthier communities.

Robert Ford, chairperson and

CEO of the Abbott Fund, pledged ongoing collaboration with the government in various sectors, including capacity building for medical equipment specialists.

"Alongside health, education is the foundation of our development and prosperity. That is why we have made education the primary goal of our long-term partnership in the country," he stated.

Ford expressed confidence that this investment in education would empower more Tanzanians to live fulfilling lives.

The Abbott Fund provided over \$4 million to support the establishment of the school and is offering ongoing technical assistance to ensure the long-term

sustainability of the facilities. For over two decades, Abbott and the Abbott Fund have partnered with the Tanzanian government to strengthen the healthcare system and build healthier communities.

Since 2001, the Abbott Fund has worked with the government to enhance the country's healthcare system. A significant partnership began in 2009, focusing on emergency medicine after upgrading outpatient care and completing a nationwide hospital lab modernisation programme. Additionally, the Abbott Fund has invested in creating training centres in five regions, including Dodoma, Mwanza, and Mbeya, to teach emergency medicine to health workers.



Deputy Prime Minister and Energy minister Dr Doto Biteko inaugurates recently refurbished Miles and Kimberly White Secondary School at Mapatano in Tanga Region earlier this week in part so as to have capacity to accommodate 800 science stream students. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Zanzibar seeks out health partners after 11th summit

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has pledged to address all issues discussed at the recently concluded 11th Tanzania Health Summit, emphasising the urgency of implementing necessary changes to improve public health.

The summit, held at the Nyamanzi Business Centre in Unguja, brought together health experts, government officials and stakeholders to discuss critical health challenges facing the nation.

In his closing remarks yesterday, Dr Mwinyi underscored that the summit serves not merely as a forum for dialogue but as a catalyst for actionable plans aimed at enhancing health outcomes for all citizens.

He affirmed the government's commitment to collaborating with the Union government, the private sector and development partners to

tackle pressing health issues.

Key challenges identified during the summit include reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, ensuring the availability of essential medicines, strengthening health infrastructure, improving access to health information, and effectively controlling both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

"The resolutions and recommendations arising from this summit will not end here; they will guide us in strengthening the health sector across the country," he stated.

The Health ministry needs to incorporate these recommendations into their annual

action plans to ensure effective implementation, he directed.

Health minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui said that the summit provided a platform for analysing health challenges and fostering collaboration among health experts.

Hosting the summit in Zanzibar was meant to catalyse improvements in health services, ensuring that care is accessible from small health centres to district and referral hospitals he said.

The government has been actively collaborating with the private sector to enhance healthcare services across various areas, ensuring that residents of Zanzibar receive quality healthcare.

He encouraged all participants to leverage the training and discussions from the summit to improve healthcare services, urging those yet to engage in health research to begin, as research has proven effective in addressing various health challenges.

Dr Omar Chillo, the president of the Tanzania Health Summit, called for ongoing cooperation among stakeholders to drive meaningful change in the health sector across Tanzania.

The summit concluded with a renewed commitment from all parties involved to prioritise health issues and work collectively towards a healthier future for all Tanzanians.

Minister stresses localised mineral resources managing

By Guardian Correspondent, Kampala

MINERALS minister Anthony Mavunde has urged African nations that are key producers of strategic minerals to establish robust management systems to boost the continent's economy.

He made the call on Wednesday here during the 13th Annual Mineral Wealth Conference, themed "Leveraging Critical Minerals for Sustainable Development and Economic Transformation."

Emphasizing the importance of developing strong strategies for adding value to minerals within producing countries, he said the conference served as a platform for stakeholders in the mining sector to engage in high-level discussions, network, and explore business opportunities related to critical minerals.

He applauded host President Yoweri Museveni for his decisive action to ban the export of raw minerals outside the country. "This is a significant step for the development of Uganda's mining sector," he declared.

He cited similar efforts locally, asserting that the government made it clear that any investor seeking to engage in strategic mineral extraction in Tanzania must present a comprehensive value addition plan.

The minister highlighted the mining sector's strong performance, noting its contribution to Tanzania's GDP reached 9 percent in 2023. Additionally, it yielded 56.2 percent of the country's total export value, estimated at \$3.5bn.

Large-scale miners contribute 60 percent of revenues from the sector and small-scale miners 40 percent. "This has prompted the Tanzanian government to focus on supporting small-scale miners to enhance productivity and their contribution to the national economy," he stated.

He further stressed the necessity

for countries to invest in research to understand available mineral quantities and attract investors.

Tanzania's Vision 2030 plan aims to expand exploration efforts, increasing aerial survey coverage from 16 percent to 50 percent by 2030, he told the gathering.

"It is a fact that Tanzania has made significant strides in developing its mining sector compared to Uganda," he remarked, expressing Tanzania's willingness to cooperate and share experiences with Uganda to help them benefit from their mineral resources.

He emphasized the need for African nations to develop joint strategies to capitalize on the increasing global demand for strategic minerals such as graphite, nickel and cobalt.

Extraction and value addition should occur within their borders to protect jobs, increase revenue and promote overall economic growth, he emphasized.

Dr Ruth Ssentamu, the host Energy and Minerals Development minister, reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to ensuring the mining sector, particularly for strategic minerals, benefits the nation.

She expressed Uganda's readiness to learn from Tanzania's progress and attract substantial investments in research to enhance the efficiency of its sector, which currently comprises over 80 percent small-scale miners.

It is a fact that Tanzania has made significant strides in developing its mining sector compared to Uganda

EAC appeals for coordinated response on marburg outbreak

By Guardian Reporter

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has called for a swift and coordinated regional response to contain the ongoing Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak declared in Rwanda. The outbreak poses a serious threat to regional health security and requires urgent action from all EAC Partner States to prevent its spread across borders.

On 27 September 2024, Rwanda's Ministry of Health declared the Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) outbreak, and as of 30 September 2024, there were 29 confirmed cases and 10 deaths, with more than 297 contacts under close monitoring. Healthcare workers have been disproportionately affected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised concerns about the potential regional spread of the disease due to confirmed cases in districts near the borders of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda and Tanzania.

Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, the EAC deputy secretary-general for infrastructure, productive, social and political sectors, issued a strident appeal.

"There is an urgent need for a coordinated regional response to contain the spread of this highly infectious virus through swift identification, isolation and treatment of cases, as well as enhanced screening at borders and health facilities," he said in a statement.

Partner states need to strengthen their public awareness and infection control protocols, including handwashing, avoiding physical contact with symptomatic individuals, and enhancing surveillance at borders and health facilities, he specified.

The marburg virus is a severe zoonotic disease, similar to Ebola, and is associated with a high fatality rate that varies from 24 percent to 88 percent depending on the virus strain and case management. Transmission occurs through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected individuals or contaminated surfaces. As there is no specific vaccine or treatment, supportive care remains the main form of medical intervention.

Tanzania's previous experience with a marburg outbreak in the Kagera region in 2023 highlighted the importance of rapid contact tracing and community engagement. The EAC is urging the partner states to share lessons learned and technical expertise to inform ongoing

response efforts. Meanwhile, Rwanda, recognised for its robust healthcare infrastructure, is currently managing the outbreak with international support, but the scale of the challenge underscores the need for regional collaboration.

Marburg symptoms typically include fever (often high), severe headache, muscle aches and pains, fatigue and weakness. Gastrointestinal symptoms such as severe diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and bleeding from various parts of the body may occur in the later stages of the disease.

To reduce the risk of contracting marburg, the public is advised to practice proper hand hygiene using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers, avoid contact with fruit bats and their excretions (as these are considered the natural hosts of the virus), and practice safe burial practices to minimise exposure to bodily fluids of individuals who have died from MVD.

Individuals are also advised to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when caring for infected individuals or handling animals that may be reservoirs of the virus, and to avoid contact with non-human primates in endemic areas, as these can also transmit the virus.

The EAC Secretariat, in collaboration with partners including the German development agency GIZ and its KfW financial wing, is supporting the partner states' response and preparedness efforts to the ongoing MVD and mpox outbreaks. It aims to further enhance pandemic preparedness efforts with a focus on improving regional resilience to health emergencies.

The major intervention areas include the development of a pool of rapidly deployable experts (RDE) to ensure the quick deployment of specialists in outbreak areas, as well as strengthening risk and crisis communication.

They also administer 43 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities in border areas, prioritising the training of border staff and health workers.

Furthermore, the EAC Secretariat is supporting the partner states' laboratory testing capacities through the supply of diagnostic PCR kits for marburg virus (filoviruses) and mpox virus, facilitating the field deployment of existing mobile laboratories at strategic locations, and donating additional laboratory equipment such as sequencers.

New health centre to ease medical access for 7,000 residents in Tukuyu

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 7,000 residents in Masoko Ward, Rungwe District, Mbeya Region, are set to breathe with a sigh of relief in the wake of establishing a new health centre, significantly reducing their reliance on distant medical facilities.

Previously, residents faced the daunting challenge of transporting patients over 18 kilometers to Kalebela Dispensary or more than 20 kilometers to Makandana District Hospital, often using makeshift stretchers.

Excitement filled the community recently as the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Prof. Palamagamba Kabudi, laid the foundation stone for the Masoko Health Centre, with construction already underway and some buildings nearing completion.

Mariam Mwakalinga, a resident, noted the dangers posed by the area's mountainous terrain, with patients being carried long distances on stretchers. Tragically, pregnant women have faced perilous journeys, with some giving birth en route and others losing their lives along with their babies.

Tulinaghwé Kanyamale expressed gratitude to the government for bringing healthcare services closer to the community, stating that the new centre will significantly reduce both the costs and time required to access medical care. He emphasized that the lack of healthcare in the area has disproportionately affected women, particularly expectant mothers, as long-distance transport on stretchers poses serious health risks.

Rungwe District Executive

Director Rhenatus Mchau said that the government has allocated 800m/- for the project, with 500m/- earmarked for construction and 300m/- for medical equipment to make the centre operational. The construction is being managed under the emergency fund "Force Account," with some buildings in the final stages of completion, he said.

The outpatient building is expected to be completed by the end of November and may start serving the public, even while other parts of the centre remain under construction. "The community has embraced the health centre with open arms and is actively participating in its construction. Our goal is to ensure that some services are available by January to alleviate the burden of long-distance travel," he stated.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera noted that significant funds have been allocated for development projects in Rungwe District, encompassing health centres, educational facilities, road infrastructure, and agricultural initiatives.

In his address to residents, Prof. Kabudi urged the district council to expedite the centre completion and ensure services begin by December, given the pressing healthcare needs in the area. He instructed the district director to remain on-site to oversee construction and ensure the timely completion of all essential facilities.

Prof. Kabudi is currently in Mbeya for an official visit, during which he will tour all councils, inspect ongoing development projects, inaugurate new ones, and engage with local citizens.



Opposition National League for Democracy Secretary General Hassan Doyo (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam on Thursday presenting a party membership card to Schola Kahana, a former parliamentary seat candidate on the opposition Alliance for Democratic Change ticket. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

Ngaramtoni township council status 'likely'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MOHAMED Mchengerwa, Minister of State in the President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), has tasked authorities in Arusha Region to assess whether Ngaramtoni Township Authority meets the criteria for elevation to town council status.

He issued this instruction when visiting Arusha District Council in Arumeru on Thursday, inspecting ongoing development projects.

He tasked the regional administrative secretary, Misaile Mussa, to collaborate with council leaders to carry out this assessment.

The review process should begin at the district level, with findings presented to the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) before being forwarded to PO-RALG, he said.

If the criteria are met, a formal

request for elevation will be submitted to the cabinet for approval.

"Initiate the review of all established criteria, and if you identify areas requiring further attention, communicate with PO-RALG so we can promptly address the issues," he stated.

Upgrading Ngaramtoni to town council status would facilitate accelerated development and economic growth in the area. Once elevated, the council would improve its economic standing, as township authorities often face financial challenges that hinder development efforts, officials say.

The minister asserted the government's commitment to strengthening administrative authorities to ensure citizens receive government services closer to home.

"Regional and district administrative secretaries should

commence the process at the district level, present the proposal for establishing a Town Council Authority to the region, and then submit it to us," he directed.

Upgrading sub-villages to villages and villages to towns is possible, and the Ngaramtoni Township Authority is a viable candidate for elevation, he stated.

In addition to the elevation discussions, Mchengerwa announced significant government funding for the renovation of Kiutu Secondary School and Olturumeti District Hospital.

The latter is one of 129 hospitals nationwide that have received renovations, with 50 being older facilities.

He also addressed the issue of damaged roads in Arumeru District, pledging to coordinate with the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) to ensure

that roads remain passable.

"We will evaluate which roads need urgent repairs and decide how to proceed, as the government has allocated 1.5 trillion shillings for road rehabilitation across the country," he stated.

Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda emphasised the need for collaboration to drive development, pointing out that the district requires special attention concerning road infrastructure.

The township authority status and the 200-metre boundary dispute between Arusha District Council and Arusha City hinder economic opportunities for citizens, he said.

Arusha District Council intends to establish a zoo in partnership with an unnamed investor, aimed at boosting the local economy and showcasing various animal species along with their historical significance, he added.



Rehabilitation of Kamata section of Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road in progress yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumane Juma

By Guardian Correspondent

'Parents must equip children with skills for economic independence'

Parents and guardians have been urged to equip their children with practical skills to foster economic independence and reduce reliance on employment.

Rehema Yahaya, chairperson of the Tanzania Women Engineers, made this assertion at a Kilimani Primary School graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, where 164 Standard Seven students graduated, including 98 girls.

She emphasized the importance of active parental involvement, for parents to engage in meaningful conversations with their children.

"Proper parenting, discipline, integrity, persistence and self-control are essential for helping children develop the life skills necessary for a productive future,"

she emphasised.

Highlighting the need for parents and teachers to encourage girls to pursue science subjects, she said that this would empower them to become future scientists and contribute to national development.

"I commend the teachers for their dedication to instilling strong morals, discipline, and a work ethic in these children. Such qualities will nurture a generation passionate about development and committed to their nation," she asserted.

She acknowledged the government's efforts to empower girls through education in science

and urged parents to support these initiatives, to ensure girls play an active role in the country's development.

She tasked those finishing school to uphold the values and skills they have acquired. Hard work and commitment are crucial for becoming competent individuals who positively reflect on their communities, she stated.

Francis Njoroge, a teacher, noted that the 14th graduation ceremony had 164 pupils completing their studies, exuberant in the school's performance since its establishment in 2019, preparing pupils well for their future careers.

"All these efforts align with government initiatives to cultivate energetic youth capable of using their skills to generate income and lessen dependency on public sector jobs," he said.

He advised those graduating to carry forward the discipline they have learned and to show respect to their parents and teachers in all aspects of their lives.

Evelyn Mnzava, one of the parents, appreciated the school's efforts in nurturing children, particularly the skills they have developed. Such mentorship fosters self-control and equips youth to manage their daily lives effectively, she added.

Njombe allocates 2.7bn/- for youth, women, PwDs loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NJOMBE Town Council has allocated over 2.7bn/- in loans aimed at empowering youth, women and people with disabilities.

Kissa Kasongwa, the district commissioner, announced this move during a seven-day training session for ward-level officials, set to educate beneficiaries about the council's 10 percent loan programme.

Stressing the council's readiness to distribute the loans, he said it had been a long wait before lending started. "The funds remained untouched, awaiting instructions," she asserted.

This initiative represents an important opportunity for citizens, as loans will now be accessible even if each member within a group operates their own business, the DC noted.

Previous loan distribution efforts showed dishonesty among youth when applying for loans hindered progress in promoting self-development. The community needs to change their behaviour and ensure responsible use of the funds, he pointed out.

Kuruthum Sadick, the council director, said that community development officers are currently undergoing training to effectively mobilize and register beneficiary groups. This approach aims to ensure an efficient loan distribution process that reaches those in need, he stated.

Enembora Lema, the council head of community development, described changes in loan issuance procedure. "We will be going street

by street and village by village to provide education and guidance to potential beneficiaries," she said, invoking the council's commitment to community outreach.

Samwel Mgaya, chairman of the CCM Youth Wing, expressed optimism that young people would use the loans responsibly to enhance their livelihoods and stimulate economic growth in the region. "This is a vital opportunity for our youth to engage in productive ventures," he said.

Benjamin Mwendu, a resident, voiced gratitude for the reinstatement of the loans, suspended in April 2023, causing many businesses to stall. "We are very grateful to the government for reinstating these loans because they helped us a lot. However, we urge officials to ensure that the loans reach the right people," he added, reflecting the community's hopes for economic revival.



We are very grateful to the government for reinstating these loans because they helped us a lot. However, we urge officials to ensure that the loans reach the right people



Dr Olive Sabiiti (with microphone), acting Vice Chancellor of Cavendish University Uganda, speaks at a two-day Education Collaborative 2024 East Africa Hub conference in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The focus was on collaborative strategies to help African higher education institutions become more resilient and better equipped to navigate the evolving education landscape in East Africa and across the continent. Photo: John Badi

Artisanal miners pick new leaders

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

MEMBERS of the Artisanal Miners' Association in Ruvuma Region have elected Isack Ngelangela as chairman for a five-year term, with Kassimu Pazi serving as vice-chairman.

The poll, held during the annual general meeting, also resulted in Johnbosco Mvula becoming secretary and Christoph Simkoko treasurer, working with five members of the regional executive committee.

Election supervisor Alfred

Luvanda, the vice-chairman of the Federation of Miners' Associations of Tanzania (FEMATA), emphasized the numerous opportunities available for miners, encouraging those not yet involved to join the associations.

The government has now a significant role in supporting small and medium-scale miners, in contrast with past struggles when miners lacked reliable markets for their minerals, he stated.

"The absence of a reliable market forced many miners to sell their minerals to middlemen at prices

well below their actual value," he said. The newly elected leaders need to remain accessible to their members, address their concerns and assist small or medium-scale miners in finding legitimate markets for their products, he stressed.

After his election, Ngelangela acknowledged the positive changes brought about by the government, which have enabled miners to achieve significant profits and contribute to government revenue. "Minerals used to be sold without following proper procedures,

but now small and medium-scale miners know where to sell their minerals, thanks to government-designated minerals markets," he specified.

He appealed for extension of water services to mining areas to ensure access to clean and safe water, highlighting that Ruvuma Region is rich in coal, copper and gold, plus rare earth minerals.

These are beryllium, tantalite, sapphires, graphite, niobium, alongside gemstones and fluorite, found in all districts of the region, he added.

US lays sanctions on four Ugandan police chiefs on violation of rights

KAMPALA

THE US Department of State on Wednesday announced travel sanctions on four officers of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) on allegations of gross violation of human rights, including torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment.

Matthew Miller, Department of State spokesperson, identified the designated individuals as Bob Kagarura, former Wamala Regional Police Commander, and Alex Mwine, former District Police Commander for Mitanya.

Others are Elly Womanya, who at the time of the alleged human violation was senior commissioner and deputy director of UPF's Criminal Investigations Division in charge of the Special Investigations Unit (SIU), and Hamdani Twesigye, previously deputy inspector of police assigned to the SIU.

"As a result of today's action, Kagarura, Mwine, Womanya, Twesigye and their immediate family members are generally ineligible for entry into the United States," the statement said.

Kagarura, Mwine, Twesigye and Womanya were allegedly involved in "serious and credible" gross violations of human rights, as documented by Ugandan civil court documents, civil society organisations and independent journalists, it said.

Some of the officers designated have since retired from the force, transferred or appointed to new roles. The statement did not mention when the alleged human rights violations were committed.

This round of sanctions adds to the growing list of Uganda government officials, including senior officers of the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and Uganda Prisons

Service, who have been slapped with visa bans for alleged violation of human rights while others were placed under financial sanctions over economic crimes claims.

The list includes former Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura, Maj-Gen Abel Kanduh, former head of the chieftaincy of military police, and Johnson Byabashajja, the current commissioner-general of Uganda Prisons Service.

The UK and US in April and May this year designated the Speaker of Uganda Parliament Anita Among, as well as former and current cabinet ministers on claims of engaging in serious corruption and violation of human rights, including stealing from vulnerable communities.

The US says that by publicly designating these individuals, it reaffirms its commitment to advancing the human rights of all Ugandans and promoting accountability for those responsible for human rights violations.

These sanctions are made under Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024.



As a result of today's action, Kagarura, Mwine, Womanya, Twesigye and their immediate family members are generally ineligible for entry into the United States



Motorists find the going rough and tough what with this Akiba section of Dar es Salaam's Bibi Titi Mohamed Road hardly passable yesterday mainly courtesy of several hours of unseasonable light rain. Photo: Correspondent Imani Nathaniel

JOHANNESBRUG

TRAVEL to South Africa is all set to become a bit easier, following plans to reform its stringent visa policies to facilitate travel of skilled workers and boost tourism.

This was updated by South African Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber.

This move is a considerable departure from previous immigration practices, which have been heavily criticised. According to sources, important changes include the implementation of a points-based system for work visas, with automatic eligibility for persons with particular skills.

Furthermore, a new remote work visa will most likely be approved within days.

Schreiber informed that the said visa reforms are aimed at drawing more tourists, and skilled

South Africa set to ease visa rules to extend skills tourism

workers which could significantly contribute to the nation's economic growth.

Currently, foreigners with job offers in South Africa face prolonged waiting periods for visa approvals, with many denied visas for unclear reasons.

While Western tourists often acquire visas on arrival with ease, potential visitors from key markets like China and India face lengthy bureaucracy, deterring travel. South Africa has also been accused of being particularly unfriendly to immigrants from other African countries, who are frequently blamed for taking jobs in a country

with a 30 percent unemployment rate.

Schreiber elaborated that bringing skilled workers into the country can help create jobs.

Schreiber, a member of the Democratic Alliance party, which just formed a coalition government with the African National Congress, noted that both parties had received criticism for using anti-immigrant language in election campaigns.

Schreiber described the present immigration system as a 'catastrophic failure,' revealing that when he took office in July, there was a backlog of 306,000 visa applications that had been built

over the previous decade.

His team has since resolved 62 percent of these issues by enlisting additional resources and spending extra hours. According to Schreiber, a lack of trained labour is the second-largest impediment to economic progress, after only the country's protracted power issue.

Schreiber intends to digitise the current paper-based visa process within five years in order to streamline it even further. This initiative is expected to reduce potential for fraud and bias in visa approvals while also shortening processing times, while funding limits may provide obstacles.

Dozens of migrants thrown into the sea unaccounted for

DJIBOUTI

RESCUERS are searching for dozens of African migrants still missing after smugglers apparently forced them off two boats in the Red Sea off the coast of Djibouti earlier this week, the Djiboutian coastguard said.

At least 48 people are believed to have drowned. The boats had set off from Yemen, across the Red Sea on the Arabian Peninsula and were carrying 310 people, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

It is unclear why the migrants were forced to leave the boats while they were still at sea.

IOM initially said that both boats carrying the migrants had capsized, but later dropped the mention, saying instead that smugglers had forced people off the boats and told them to swim.

The coast guard said the tragedy occurred about 150 metres (500 feet) from a beach in the Khor Angar region in the northwest of the East African nation. It said 115 survivors had been rescued.

Moktar Abdi, a member of the Djibouti coast guard, told the Associated Press by telephone Thursday that the search was now focusing on open waters and nearby beaches. He said the coast guard would provide an update on the number of bodies found later.

On Wednesday, the IOM said 111 people were still missing, while the Djibouti coastguard put the figure at 61.

"A woman drowned, but her four-month-old baby survived, as did 98 others from the first boat," said the UN agency, which is helping with search and rescue efforts.

Every year, thousands of migrants from countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia attempt illegal emigration in search of a better life in Europe.

Smugglers fill ships with desperate people willing to risk their lives to reach continental Europe.

Yemen has been embroiled in civil war since 2014, when Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa and much of the country's north, forcing the internationally recognized government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition of mostly Arab states entered the conflict the following year to support government forces.

In recent years, the war has largely bogged down along established front lines, while efforts to find a negotiated solution have stalled.



A woman drowned, but her four-month-old baby survived, as did 98 others from the first boat

South Africa's top court to rule on reviving Ramaphosa's impeachment

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's Constitutional Court announced on Thursday that it will hear a petition next month filed by two opposition parties seeking to revive impeachment proceedings against President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The petition centres on a scandal involving over \$500,000 in cash that was hidden in a sofa at his ranch and subsequently stolen.

Ramaphosa narrowly avoided an impeachment vote in 2022 when his party, the African National Congress (ANC), used its parliamentary majority to block the motion, despite an independent report raising serious questions about his conduct and recommending a full investigation.

The ANC has since formed a broad coalition with nine other parties to govern South Africa, which has somewhat mitigated the criticism directed at Ramaphosa over the scandal. However, the far-left Economic Freedom Fighters and the Movement for the Transformation of Africa—two parties not part of the unity government—have filed papers with the Constitutional Court. They argue that Parliament has failed in its constitutional duty to hold the president accountable.

The scandal first emerged in June 2022, threatening Ramaphosa's leadership. It was revealed that at least \$580,000 in US banknotes, hidden at his Phala Phala farm, had been stolen more than two years prior and kept secret.

Opposition parties have accused Ramaphosa of tax evasion, money laundering, and violating foreign exchange laws. He has denied any wrongdoing, claiming the money came from legitimate sales of animals on his ranch, but he has not clarified why it was hidden in furniture.

The president has faced scrutiny regarding whether the theft was properly reported to law enforcement. While Ramaphosa stated he informed the head of his security detail about the theft, critics have alleged attempts to cover up the incident and the existence of the cash.

The Reserve Bank and a state watchdog have cleared Ramaphosa of wrongdoing, although these decisions have been questioned by some opposition parties.

At 71, Ramaphosa was re-elected for a second term in June, but only with the assistance of opposition MPs, as the ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994.



Kai Molle, Head of the Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Business Incubator Unit, explains to students of Dodoma's Makulu Primary School earlier this week on the importance of saving money. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

South Sudan faced with national disaster with floods crushing more communities

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan is poised to declare a national disaster as catastrophic floods have ravaged large parts of the country, displacing nearly 200,000 people and causing widespread destruction to essential infrastructure, including schools and hospitals.

In an extraordinary Cabinet meeting chaired by President Salva Kiir Mayardit on Thursday, the Council of Ministers approved the disaster

declaration for flood-affected areas. President Kiir is expected to issue the formal order soon, following the Cabinet's endorsement.

Dr Jacob Maiju Korok, the Information, Communication, Technology and Postal Services deputy minister, confirmed that the flooding, which began in July, has affected more than 772,000 people across 38 counties and the Abyei administrative area. Approximately 198,000 individuals have been confirmed as displaced.

"The floods have impacted both people and animals, with significant damage to schools, hospitals, and other critical infrastructure in states like Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, and Abyei," Korok told reporters after the meeting.

Albino Akol Atak, the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management minister, had earlier urged the Cabinet to recommend the disaster declaration, which was unanimously approved. This move will enable South Sudan to

mobilize resources from international donors to aid in relief efforts.

Korok emphasized the urgency of the situation, noting that while the government and humanitarian partners are already responding to the crisis, the peak of the flooding is expected in November.

The devastating floods continue to pose a severe challenge to the nation, where many communities are struggling to cope with the aftermath as rains persist.



Tanga district commissioner Japhari Kubecha briefs journalists on Thursday, the thrust being on the need for people to participate in the local government elections lined up for later this year. Photo: Correspondent Ashrack Miraji

Libya oil production being resumed fully

TRIPOLI

LIBYA'S state oil company said on Thursday that it was resuming full oil production, nearly two months after halting operations at two of its main fields amid a political crisis.

The National Oil Corporation said in a statement that it would resume production at the Sharara and El-Feel oil fields, as well as exports from Es Sider, the country's largest port.

In August, the company declared "force majeure," a legal manoeuvre that allows a company to walk away from its contracts due to extraordinary circumstances.

As part of the review of the force majeure situation, the NOC confirmed in its statement that it "can resume crude oil production operations and export operations to its customers."

The National Oil Corporation had previously blamed the Fezzan

Movement, a local protest group, for the shutdown. The shutdown comes as rival authorities in the country are locked in a dispute over governance of the central bank, which distributes the country's oil revenues.

In August, the United Nations warned that the country was on the verge of even greater instability because of the conflict. But the problem was resolved in recent days when parliament appointed a new governor to the bank.

Libya produces more than 1.2m barrels of oil per day, and Sharara is the country's largest field, producing up to 300,000 barrels per day.

The oil-rich country has been gripped by political turmoil since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Since then, Libya has been divided between rival administrations in the east and west, each backed by militias and foreign governments.

DR Congo: Death toll from Lake Kivu shipwreck rises

GOMA

AT LEAST 78 people died when an overcrowded boat capsized on Lake Kivu in eastern Congo on Thursday, a local governor confirmed. A frantic search and rescue operation continued hours later, as many passengers remained unaccounted for from the vessel, which was believed to be carrying 278 people.

Jean-Jacques Purusi, the governor of South Kivu province, said the death toll was provisional and that the number of fatalities could rise. He stated that local authorities had reported 278 people were on board.

The boat departed from the port of Minova in South Kivu earlier in the day and was en route to Goma, in North Kivu, Purusi said in a phone interview.

"We do not yet have the full picture, but we should have it by tomorrow," he told the Associated Press.

According to witnesses, the boat sank while attempting to dock just metres from the port of Kituku. Rescue services were seen recovering at least 50 bodies from the water.

This is the latest in a series of deadly boat accidents in the central African nation, where overcrowding on vessels is a frequent cause. Maritime regulations are often ignored.

Congolese officials have repeatedly warned against overloading and vowed to punish those violating safety measures for water transport. However, in remote regions where most passengers come from, many cannot afford alternative public transport on the few available roads.

"We will establish accountability, impose sanctions, and offer recommendations to improve navigation on the lake," Purusi told AP.

The lack of adequate equipment, including the absence of life jackets, along with overcrowding and negligence, likely contributed to the tragedy, he specified. There had also been a strong storm in the area that morning.

In June, another overloaded boat sank near Kinshasa, killing 80 passengers. In January, 22 people died on Lake Maï-Ndombe, and in

April 2023, six were killed and 64 went missing on Lake Kivu.

Witnesses to Thursday's disaster said the boat was visibly overcrowded.

"I was at the port of Kituku when I saw the boat arriving from Minova, full of passengers," Francine Munyi told AP. "It started to lose balance and then sank into the lake. Some passengers jumped into the water."

"Many died, and only a few were saved," she said. "I couldn't help because I don't know how to swim."

Victims' families and local residents gathered at the port, accusing authorities of negligence amid rising insecurity in the region.

Due to fighting between armed forces and M23 rebels, the road between Goma and Minova has become impassable, halting truck transport and forcing traders to turn to maritime routes on Lake Kivu, which are considered safer than the dangerous roads.

But shipping agent Elia Asumani, who works on this route, described the situation as precarious.

"We are afraid," he said. "This shipwreck was inevitable."

Bienfait Sematumba, 27, said he lost four family members in the disaster.

"They are all dead. I'm alone now," he said, sobbing. "If the authorities had stopped the war, this would never have happened."

Around ten survivors were taken to Kyeshero hospital for treatment. One survivor, Neema Chimanga, said she was still in shock.

"We saw the boat start to fill with water halfway through the journey," she recalled. "The door of the boat opened, and we tried to close it, but the water was already coming in, and the boat tilted."

"I jumped into the water and started swimming," she said. "I don't know how I survived."



The door of the boat opened, and we tried to close it, but the water was already coming in, and the boat tilted

Ghana confirms first mpox case this year, variant testing ongoing

ACCRA

GHANA has confirmed its first case of mpox this year, as announced by the country's health service. The specific strain of the virus has not yet been identified. Health officials say tests are being conducted to determine whether the clade 1b strain that has attracted global attention due to its rapid transmission and limited research is the base of the noticed infection. The patient, a young man, is experiencing fever, rash and body aches. Health authorities have traced 25 contacts, who are now under observation.

According to health officials, the patient had neither a history of travel over the past 21 days nor engaged in sexual encounters with a potentially infectious person during this period. The district and regional health directorates have thus activated public health emergency management systems and response measures to control the possible spread and transmission of the disease.

A total of 230 suspected cases of mpox have been reported from 88 districts in all 16 regions of the country so far this year. The Greater Accra Region has the most suspected cases, with 87, followed by the Central Region with 26, and both the Ashanti and Volta regions with 20 each.

The current confirmed case is the first for Ghana in 2024, although the country recorded 120 and eight cases in 2022 and 2023, respectively. It is worth recalling that on 14 August, the WHO, under the International Health Regulations (2005), declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) following an

upsurge in cases, particularly in the African region, and the likelihood of it spreading beyond the continent.

So far, the disease has affected more than 15,000 people in 18 countries on the continent, claiming over 150 lives. A more contagious variant known as clade 1b is said to be highly responsible for the recent surge in cases, particularly among children through routine contact. In Ghana, four deaths have been recorded due to mpox since 2022.

Mpox is a zoonotic disease caused by a virus that belongs to the same family as that which causes smallpox. It is mainly transmitted to humans through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected rodents or primates.

Human-to-human transmission primarily occurs through close personal contact with an infected individual via respiratory droplets, direct contact with bodily fluids, or indirect contact with lesion material (e.g., contaminated clothing or bedding). Symptoms of mpox typically appear within five to 16 days after exposure but can develop up to 21 days. Symptoms generally include fever, headache, muscle aches, backaches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, and a distinctive rash characterised by lesions that progress through several stages before falling off.

Most people fully recover from the disease within four weeks, depending on the severity of the symptoms. However, it can cause death in extreme cases. There are currently two circulating strains of mpox: clade 1, which is common in parts of West and Central Africa, and clade 1b, which is more easily transmitted, especially through close contact, including sexual interactions.



Home Affairs minister Hamad Masauni (C, with microphone) speaks shortly after laying the foundation stone for a building at Class B Police Station in Chemba District, Dodoma Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Maulid Mmbaga

Ship of foreigners fleeing Lebanon arrives in Turkey

BEIRUT

A ship carrying hundreds of foreign nationals fleeing violence in Lebanon arrived in Turkey on Thursday as the Israel-Hezbollah conflict intensified. The ship departed from Tripoli and docked at a port on Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

According to Turkish news agency IHA, those aboard will now proceed to their home countries. The agency also reported that this was the third such ship to arrive at the port in recent days.

The past two weeks have seen a sharp escalation in fighting between Israel and Hezbollah,

with Israeli airstrikes killing over 1,000 people in Lebanon, according to local authorities. The violence has displaced around one million people from their homes.

Several governments have urged their citizens to leave Lebanon immediately.

Israel says that its military

campaign aims to ensure the safe return of thousands of northern Israeli residents who fled due to Hezbollah rocket attacks.

Hezbollah began exchanging fire with Israel following the October 7th Hamas attack.

The Iran-backed militant group claims its actions are in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.



It's yet another road crash involving a car and motorcycle, this time around in Dar es Salaam city's Chamazi suburb earlier this week. It left the motorcyclist injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Envoy for Somalia in humanitarian situation profiling at UN, for greater financial support

MOGADISHU

ACTING UN envoy for Somalia, James Swan, highlighted the dire humanitarian situation in the country while seeking increased financial support during his address to the Security Council.

Swan emphasized that intensifying climate shocks, conflict, disease outbreaks, and widespread poverty continue to affect millions in the Horn of Africa nation.

"I call for further support for the \$1.6bn 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, which is only 37 percent funded," he stated.

He also praised Türkiye's efforts

to mediate tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia regarding the Red Sea access agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia.

"I commend the mediation efforts of our partners, including the talks hosted by Türkiye in Ankara in July and August," he said.

Swan urged both Ethiopia and Somalia to engage in sincere diplomatic efforts and to avoid actions that could escalate tensions.

"This is crucial given the potential negative ramifications for stability in the region, particularly regarding the post-ATMIS transition," he added, referring to the African Union Transition Mission in

Somalia.

Somalia has faced years of insecurity, primarily from threats posed by al-Shabaab and the Daesh/ISIS terror groups.

"I commend the mediation efforts of our partners, including the talks hosted by Türkiye in Ankara in July and August," he said. Swan remarked that al-Shabaab continues to show a blatant disregard for civilian life through its use of indirect fire on populated areas, improvised explosive devices, and suicide attacks against civilians, including the horrific attack on Lido Beach in Mogadishu on August 2.

"I underscore the condemnation issued by the Secretary-General regarding such attacks and reiterate the United Nations' support for the government and people of

Somalia as they stand against terrorism and violent extremism. I also express concern over the increased presence and activities of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Daesh) affiliate in Somalia," he added.

Since 2007, al-Shabaab has been engaged in conflict with the Somali government and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia, a multidimensional mission authorized by the African Union and mandated by the UN Security Council.

The terror group has intensified its attacks since Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud declared an "all-out war" against them.

Food security not an isolated matter meriting SADC regional action plan

AFRICA Region Legislators grouped under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association have just spent a day meeting in Arusha city for an institutionalised annual review.

A clear theme arising from the meeting was the need for national legislative bodies across the continent to prioritise agriculture in their central budgetary estimates to address food insecurity on the continent.

That was good on the surface, but it clearly avoided some sticking points, firstly that it is governments, not MPs, that plan.

If that remark was intended to be a strategic input, it would follow that MPs use their positions as a unified bloc to impede the endorsing of central government estimates that do not prioritise agriculture to satisfaction.

That would be a gesture against nature, as budget allocations are decided by presidential directive, parliamentary committee input and Treasury expertise largely basing on revenue implications of specific policy measures.

In rejecting central government budget, MPs would in effect be dissociating themselves after having participated in its design.

There is an additional problem on the food security issue as the subject of discussion for the MPs gathered in Arusha, though it must be noted that the wider focus on climate change was more strategically placed.

Food security isn't merely about everyone farming and being in a position to harvest but more importantly about grain availability in the market at prices which most people can afford.

The latter dimension works best when markets are freed and production is good, which risks forcing traditional producers to sell their land to those excelling in the market at lower grain prices. It

is much like sugar: cheap outside but expensive locally.

Not surprisingly, the idea that African countries need to start prioritising farming especially now, at a time when climate change is taking a heavy toll on food production owing to unpredictable weather and rain seasons is sentimentally convincing but has clear gaps.

We have since Independence heard of the need to emphasize agricultural production, which is consonant with political appeals as it addresses those who vote, and indeed it is a promise to help resolve the challenges they meet. It isn't a position that is even distantly prepared to admit that the farmers could be the problem.

The reason this outlook is dominating policy discussion is the global 'inclusion' economic paradigm, which developed out of the chaos of the structural adjustment programme of the Bretton Woods institutions in the 1980s, ending in the late 1990s with global activist demonstrations.

Various UN agencies brought up the 'human development index' in 1974 to tone down the global 'hegemony' of gross domestic product (GDP) indices, and 17 indices or so in the then eight global 'millennium development goals'. These - this time 17 - were to be given another lease of life in the name 'sustainable development goals' stretching to 2030.

Thus, the 2014 Malabo Declaration on "accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods" falls through as it simply wants more financing for farmers instead of having them taxed for wider public needs.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been rightly asking farmers to uplift their practices to attain resilience, stressing that subsidised inputs will not always remain there.

Empowerment has limits even as 19bn/- disbursed to 11,000 people in six months

REPORTS that the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) reached 11,382 people across Tanzania over the past six months with 19.9bn/- issued as loans were heartwarming indeed.

A briefing by the agency's chief executive indicated that the loans were issued in the September to March period, enabling 1,906 businesses to be registered, 8,826 people to be given start-up advice and 11,893 top to be undergo training.

This effort is doubtless consonant with empowerment but it is altogether different if one were to seek out its efficiency level, as start-ups are more predisposed to failure than standing businesses.

The issue is thus one of due diligence at the policy level rather than at the project one: whether it is better to disburse 19bn/- to start-ups, including training, or make it available to banks as cushioning funds, to permit extensive lending to real businesses, which would employ upwards of 10,000 people if they are successful in their business expansion. It is a matter of checking up comparative job creation data.

What is not contestable in data proximity is that, apart from empowering their owners, many of the startup businesses as well as auxiliary job creation are at the risk of failure. Meanwhile, jobs created by expanding businesses face a diminished risk of being lost.

That is why bank lending is a better indicator of business expansion than start-up initiatives,

as that is probation or incubation enterprise, noticeably as actual return of empowerment loans is often hypothetical.

Using vast public resources to empower individuals is contestable as economic policy and incontestable as a feel good tactic for the public authorities, as wealth or job distribution is what people commonly see.

Not much in the form of assurance could be fathomed from the presentation that, to ensure effective economic empowerment, NEEC has developed guidelines for all institutions managing projects to enhance their support for beneficiaries.

Contractors have been presented with a version of the 'Riot Act' on availing job opportunities for skilled and unskilled local youths when executing projects.

Such provisions are included in the contracts and local councils are instructed to monitor compliance, irrespective of the fact that holding a job because of a political fiat is precept for acute irresponsibility.

The point is that there is plenty of effort for inclusion and empowerment needs, but once there is a move to foster overall economic efficiency it is battled all through the corridors of power ostensibly for unsettling popular dispositions tied to 'inclusivism'.

We have a doctrine that when state-run entities control the pillars of economic activity that is consonant with defence of or support for patriotism, this oblivious of the fact that it could end in inefficiency - or worse.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: DENNIS NTAITA
feedback@guardian.co.tz

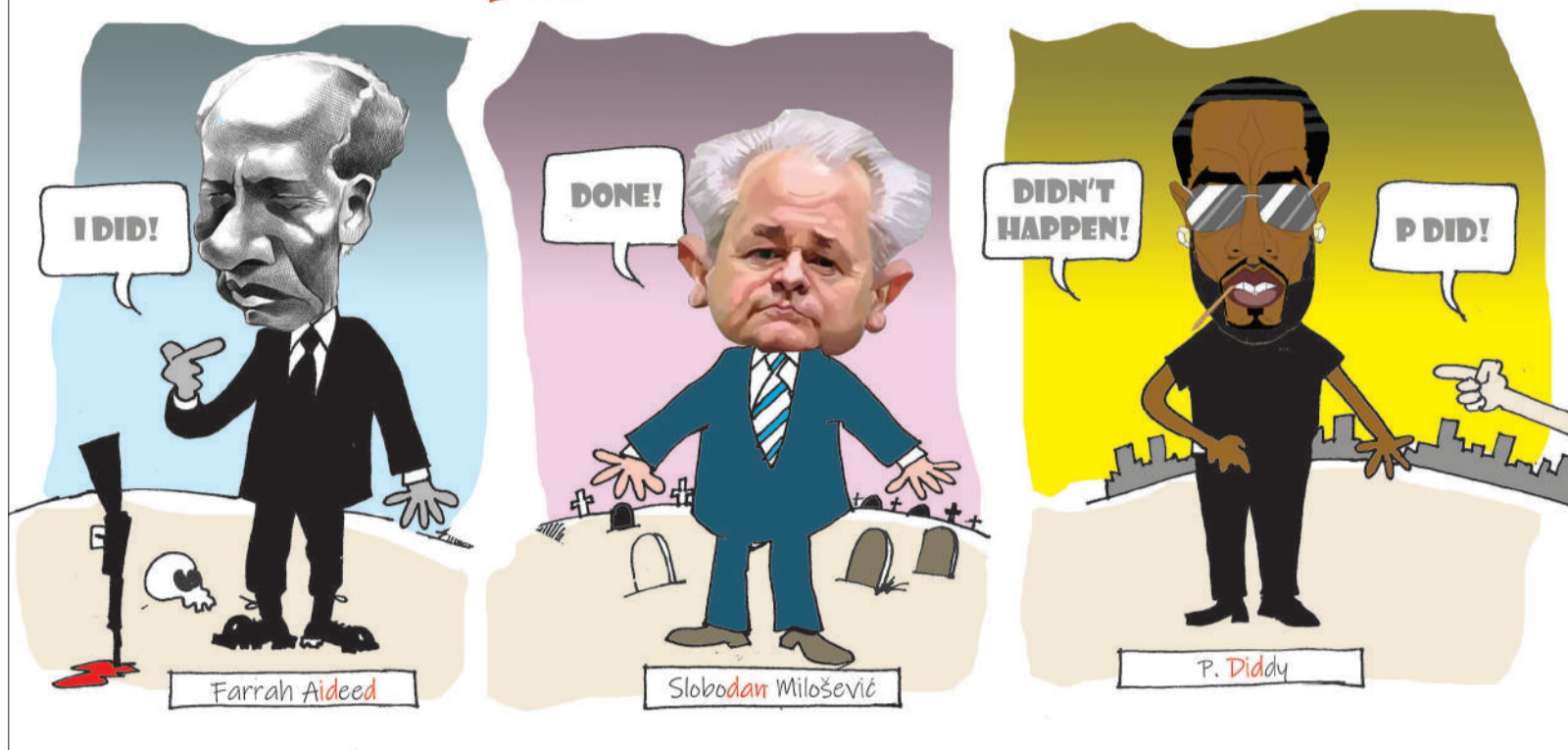
Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0677020701
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Letting your name judge your deeds



By Deepak Chopra

ONE of the main reasons that any religion or spiritual tradition exists is to reassure people about dying. Fear of dying is universal but hidden from view in daily life.

Religion and spirituality offer hope that this fear is baseless. Something happens after death - this is the primary message - and this something is good, or at least it is better than nothing.

Despite all of its advances, science has stripped away any reassurances about life after death, and most people in the modern world accept the scientific model.

In doing so it logically follows that when the physical body dies, in all likelihood the immaterial aspects of being human - mind, soul, memory, personality, thoughts, feelings, etc. - are extinguished at the same time.

What this set of beliefs doesn't offer is proof, in the form of facts, data, information and so on. In place of religious certainty, modern people face death not only with fear, doubt, dread and foreboding but without a shred of empirical evidence about what happens after death.

The reason that we casually believe that life ends with nothing isn't because that's true. Nothing is simply the absence of facts. When facts end, science has nothing to say.

If you follow this train of thought, both world views - the religious/spiritual and the scientific - amount to stories built around assumptions that can't be proven. When you ask: "Where do we go after we die?" the two main stories - we go to heaven/hell or we vanish into a cloud of atoms and energy waves - are hollow. They confront a mystery that refuses to reveal its secrets.

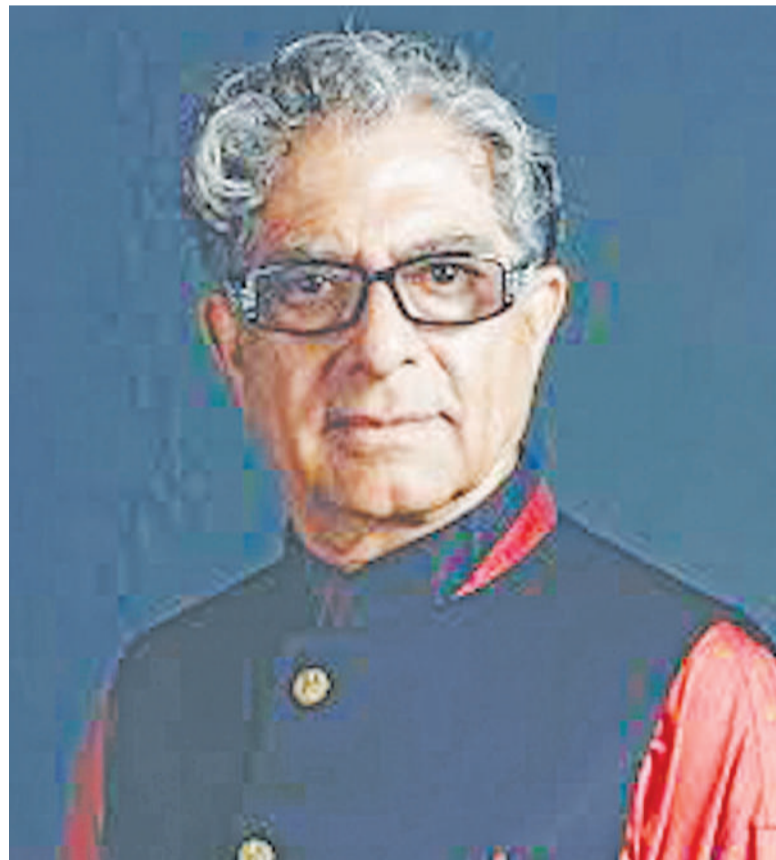
Where this leaves us is really where we begin, with the individual knowing that death is inevitable but leading a life dedicated to avoiding that fact.

Fear of death isn't necessary. At worst, we go to sleep just as we do every night, and going to sleep isn't fearful. "I'll know what happens when it happens" is a good working attitude, but let's see if there is a better way.

A better way is hinted at in T.S. Eliot's famous line of poetry: "In my end is my beginning." This isn't a religious or mystical statement, although Eliot was deeply religious. What these words mean is true for everyone, atheists and believers alike.

[Thomas Stearns Eliot OM was a poet, essayist and playwright. He is considered to be one of the 20th century's greatest poets as well as a central figure in English-language Modernist poetry. His use of language, writing style and verse structure reinvigorated English

Where do we go after we die?



poetry.] You can't know how things end until you know how they began. This looks like a simple statement of cause and effect.

If you observe that putting a jar upside down over a candle makes the flame go out, you cannot explain this until you know the laws of chemistry, which reveals that fire needs oxygen to keep going. Use up the oxygen, and the flame goes out.

But there's a deeper meaning to "You can't know how things end until you know how they began." What really matters about death is the survival of consciousness.

We observe the flame (the physical body) go out (die), but the mystery revolves around what happens to the non-physical part of ourselves. The things previously listed - mind, soul, memory, personality, thoughts, feelings, etc. - are all experiences in consciousness.

No matter how unique anyone's life is, consciousness brings every human being together in the same place. Life is experienced in consciousness. Therefore, if we know how consciousness begins, we know how it ends.

The opposite is also true. If we don't know how consciousness begins, we can't possibly know how - or if - it ends.

Suddenly there is an opening for a true revelation. If consciousness has no beginning, then it has no end. In other words, the cause-and-effect model doesn't work when it comes to consciousness. It can only be explained as existing on its own, independent of everything that does obey the rule of cause and effect.

the wrong question. We are, period.

Packaged in with being here now is consciousness. In a basic, irrefutable way, existence and consciousness go together. They are our home. We didn't invent or create this home. It is our beginning and therefore our end, wrapped into one.

Except that the words "beginning" and "end" are deceptive. There's no reason to assume that existence had a beginning. Whatever you imagine as non-existence is a concept, and concepts, being mind-made, exist.

Trying to nullify existence becomes circular. We are all at home here and now. We couldn't be conscious without consciousness, the infinite, causeless, invisible, inconceivable origin of everything.

Where do we go after we die? Nowhere in physical terms. We never leave home because there's no alternative. Non-existence is a fantasy born of fear.

I realise that making existence the same as consciousness sounds alien. I have tried to state the argument in simple statements that anyone is free to ponder.

The answer has to be personal. You have to look at what life is, here and now, to gain anything like a stable set of conclusions. Explore what it is like to be at home, and you will realise that you can never leave home. A new world view emerges if you look deep enough.

A medium-com dispatch. Deepak Chopra (pictured) MD, FACP, FRCP is founder of The Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global, a whole health company at the intersection of science and spirituality. He is a world-renowned pioneer in integrative or alternative medicine and personal transformation. The Indian-American new age guru and alternative medicine advocate is a prominent figure in the New Age movement, his books and videos having made him one of the best-known and wealthiest figures in alternative medicine. A Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health at the University of California, San Diego, Deepak Chopra also serves as a senior scientist with Gallup Organisation. He is the author of over 90 books translated into over forty languages, including numerous New York Times bestsellers. He has been at the forefront of the meditation revolution for the last thirty years or so. TIME magazine has described Dr Chopra as "one of the top 100 heroes and icons of the century".

There are more controversial examples of things that have no cause. Many of your thoughts aren't caused by the thoughts that preceded them. Thoughts spring up unpredictably from a state that isn't a thought. It is a silent domain of possibilities.

Here we are at the crux of the answer. If you don't know how thoughts arise from total silence, you can't possibly know how or if thoughts end. You already rely on the domain of silent, invisible possibilities all the time.

You fetch memories from this domain, along with your vocabulary, your next desire, and your identity, which is nothing more than a constant process of filing away the experiences you identify with, calling them "me".

The nice thing about existence is that it can be relied upon even when you have no idea where it came from. "To be or not to be" is

By Telesphor Magobe

TODAY, I invite you to briefly look at Article 18 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977, as amended until 2005) in relation to the right to access and disseminate information. The Constitution provides for basic rights (Articles 12-24). Four basic rights (Articles 12, 13, 22 and 23) are expressed in absolute terms, while nine of them (Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24) are expressed in qualified terms. Article 18 (freedom of expression) can be lawfully circumscribed.

Article 30 provides for general circumscription on the exercise of basic rights. It states that: "Let it be understood that conditions contained in this Constitution, interpreting the rights, freedom and human responsibilities do not illegalise in any way the established law or prevent any law from being enacted or any legal action being taken in accordance with that law so as: (f) to allow any other activity to take place, activity which will help develop and preserve the interests of the nation in general." This means basic rights are not entrenched in the Constitution as it is, for instance, in the Constitution of Namibia.

Article 21 of the Constitution of Namibia provides for fundamental rights and Article 25 provides for the enforcement of fundamental rights and freedoms. Article 25(1) in particular provides that: "Save in so far as it may be authorised to do so by this Constitution,

Just how expensive is it to protect sources of journalists in Tanzania?



basic conditions for press freedom...Without such protection, sources may be deterred from assisting the press in informing the public on matters of public interest. As a result, the vital public-watchdog role of the press may be undermined, and the ability of the press to provide accurate and reliable information be adversely affected...[A]n order of source disclosure ... cannot be compatible with Article 10 of the Convention unless it is justified by an overriding requirement in the public interest."

Article 10(1) states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

A case of *Ressiot and Others v France* [June 28, 2012] concerned investigation carried out at the premises of *L'Equipe* and *Le Point* newspapers and at the homes of journalists accused of breaching the confidentiality of judicial investigation. The authorities wanted to identify the source of the leaks in an investigation into possible doping in cycle racing.

The European Court of Human Rights held that there had been a violation of Article 10 of the Convention. It found in particular that the French government had not shown that a fair balance had been struck between various interests involved. It held that measures taken had not been reasonably proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued, having regard to the interest of a democratic society in ensuring and maintaining press freedom.

This can inform national courts on orders requiring the disclosure of journalistic sources because the protection of journalistic sources (confidentiality) is fundamental to the practice of journalism.

Today's inspiring quote: "When freedom does not have a purpose, when it does not wish to know anything about the rule of law engraved in the hearts of men and women, when it does not listen to the voice of conscience, it turns against humanity and society." - Pope John Paul II.

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

The Law and You



parliament or any subordinate legislative authority shall not make any law, and the executive and the agencies of government shall not take any action which abolishes or abridges the fundamental rights and freedoms conferred by this chapter, and any law or action in contravention thereof shall to the extent of the contravention be invalid..."

Article 131 provides for the entrenchment of fundamental rights and freedoms. It states: "No repeal or amendment of any of the provisions of chapter 3 (fundamental rights and freedoms) hereof, in so far as such repeal or amendment diminishes or detracts from the fundamental rights and freedoms contained and defined in that chapter, shall be permissible un-

der this Constitution, and no such purported repeal or amendment shall be valid or have any force or effect." The protection of journalistic sources is fundamental to the practice of journalism. It makes journalists trusted in society and get the support they need when they seek information for dissemination. If journalistic sources know that there will be a breach of confidentiality, they won't be willing to provide any information and members of the public will be denied access to information.

Article 18(d) states that "Every person - has a right to be informed at all times of various important events of life and activities of the people and also of issues of importance to society." Sometimes sensitive information is published in a

media outlet and the government would like to know the source so that it takes action against such a source. For instance, information sought and obtained may concern grand corruption, miscarriage of justice or information the government is not happy with. This happens in many countries - in both developing and developed countries.

A case of *Goodwin v the United Kingdom* (1966) concerns a disclosure order imposed on a journalist (working for *The Engineer*) requiring him to reveal the identity of his source of information on a company's confidential corporate plan.

The journalist appealed to the European Court of Human Rights and the court said: "Protection of journalistic sources is one of the

High tech, high yields? Kenyan farmers deploying AI to increase productivity

By Carlos Mureithi

SAMMY Selim strode through the dense, shiny green bushes on the slopes of his coffee farm in Sorwot village in Kericho, Kenya, accompanied by a younger farmer called Kennedy Kirui. They paused at each corner to send the farm's coordinates to a WhatsApp conversation.

The conversation was with Virtual Agronomist, a tool that uses artificial intelligence to provide fertiliser application advice using chat prompts. The chatbot asked some further questions before producing a report saying that Selim should target a yield of 7.9 tonnes and use three types of fertiliser in specific quantities to achieve that goal.

"My God!" Selim said upon receipt of the report. He had planned to use much more fertiliser than Virtual Agronomist was recommending. "I could have wasted money."

In Kericho and other parts of Kenya, AI-powered tools have become increasingly popular among small-scale farmers seeking to improve the quality and quantity of their produce.

Pests, diseases and a lack of technical knowhow mean farmers have become accustomed to suffering crop losses on a large scale. They used to rely on advice from agricultural extension officers - professionals deployed by local governments to provide educational services to farmers - but their numbers have declined in recent years due to inadequate funding.

Selim started using Virtual Agronomist on his 0.4-hectare (1-acre) farm in 2022, with the help of another farmer who had a smartphone at the time. Following its recommendations, his farm produced 7.3 tonnes of coffee, his highest yield ever. He's optimistic that the new recommendations will work too. "Technology helps," he said.

Before adopting Virtual Agronomist, Selim would simply apply fertiliser using what he described as "general farmer's knowledge", putting different types at different times of the year without knowing the soil health. The farm's productivity was low. In one season, he managed to produce only 2.3 tonnes of coffee.

At other times, he'd take samples of his soil for testing at labs far from Sorwot, but the results would take months to come back and sometimes they wouldn't arrive at all.

"A big challenge for farmers is not knowing exactly what their soil needs," said Florah Maritim, factory manager at Sorwot Coffee Farmers Cooperative Society, which buys coffee from local farmers.

The story is similar for farmers trying to determine what pests and diseases have affected their crops.

Musau Mutisya, from Kwa Mwaura village in Machakos county, said he used to rely on his own knowledge to identify pests and diseases, but he wasn't always accurate.

On a recent sunny morning on his 0.6-hectare (1.5-acre) farm, he stood next to a maize plant, pointing his phone's camera at a ragged, torn leaf using PlantVillage, an AI-powered app for diagnosing pests and diseases.

A voice assistant instructed him on where to hold the phone, identified the pest as the fall armyworm, then



Farmer Sammy Selim (centre) with two employees from the nonprofit organisation iSDA, which created the Virtual Agronomist app.

gave him advice on how to control it. "We were doing guesswork in the past," he said. "You'll end up using more money treating what you don't know."

Both tools work by training AI models on images and data. Researchers at PlantVillage fed their model thousands of images of healthy and diseased crops to help it learn how to identify pests, while for Virtual Agronomist researchers trained a model to predict pH and other soil properties using continent-wide satellite data.

There are seven and a half million small-scale farmers in Kenya. But the country has an extension officer-to-farm household ratio of 1:1093, far lower than the 1:400 ratio that the Food and Agriculture Organization recommends.

Farmers need information to succeed, said Enock Chikava, director for agricultural delivery systems at the Gates Foundation, which supports the nonprofit outfit iSDA that created Virtual Agronomist. Technology can help fill the gap left by the lack of extension officers, he said. "We believe in the power of digital," Chikava said. "It can really, really disrupt things."

A report released in July by the GSM Association found that most use cases of AI in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa were in agriculture and food security.

The report said the potential for the technology to support socioeconomic growth on the continent was massive, but to realise it efforts needed to be made to tackle digital skills shortages

and get more smartphones in people's hands.

Both PlantVillage and Virtual Agronomist use a "lead farmer" model, whereby farmers with smartphones are trained to use the tools not only on their own farms but also on neighbouring plots. PlantVillage is free to use, as is Virtual Agronomist for all crops apart from coffee, for which it charges KSh300 (about £1.70) for advice.

Despite the promise, some scientists caution about dependence on AI tools for agriculture. Angeline Wairegi, who has researched the use of the technology in agriculture in east Africa, said most AI training datasets exclude indigenous knowledge, meaning the information they provide can exclude suc-

cessful localised practices.

"Heavy reliance on AI tools to set farming practices may result in the erosion of long-held, and tested, indigenous agricultural practices," said Wairegi, founder and research director at Athene Research Group.

But for farmers such as Boniface Nzivo in Mua village in Machakos county, AI is a game changer. He uses a system called FarmShield to monitor temperature, humidity and soil moisture and advise him on when to water his cucumbers - aspects that he used to struggle with.

"I don't waste time trying to figure out how much water to use," he said while inside a greenhouse for growing the plant, which needs consistent water supply. "It's a great technology."

By Special Correspondent

Packaged food: Convenience, innovation and health



THE demand for quick, easy, and nutritious meals has grown exponentially. Enter the packaged food industry, a sector that has evolved dramatically over the last few decades, driven by innovation, sustainability, and a growing focus on health-conscious consumers. Let's dive into the transformation of packaged foods, exploring their benefits, challenges, and future trends.

The evolution of packaged food

Packaged food has come a long way from the days of canned vegetables and preservative-laden TV dinners. Originally seen as a compromise between nutrition and convenience, today's offerings are often just as healthy as fresh food—if not more so in some cases. Advances in packaging technology and preservation techniques have allowed food manufacturers to offer nutritious, shelf-stable options that cater to a variety of dietary needs.

The rise of "clean label" packaged foods—those free from artificial ingredients, preservatives, and additives—reflects a growing consumer demand for transparency and health. Organic, gluten-free, and non-GMO options now dominate the shelves, showing that health-consciousness and convenience are no longer mutually exclusive.

Benefits of packaged food

Convenience: One of the most obvious benefits of packaged food is its convenience. Whether you're rushing out the door or need a quick dinner after a long day, packaged foods provide an easy, time-saving solution. Pre-prepared meals, snacks, and even complete meal kits can help consumers maintain a balanced diet without spending hours in the kitchen.

Portion Control and Nutritional Information: Many packaged foods come with clear labeling, including portion sizes, calories, and detailed nutritional information, making it easier to maintain a balanced diet. This transparency can be particularly helpful for those looking to manage their weight or track their intake of specific nutrients, like protein or fiber.

Longer Shelf Life: Modern packaging technologies, such as vacuum-sealed and freeze-dried products, have drastically extended the shelf life of many foods without the need for preservatives. This not only reduces food waste but also ensures that nutritious meals are available anytime.

Innovation and Customization: The rise of personal-

ized nutrition has led to more customized packaged food options. Whether it's meals tailored to specific dietary preferences (like keto, vegan, or paleo) or functional foods that support specific health goals (like immunity or brain health), the industry is constantly evolving to meet consumer needs.

Challenges facing the packaged food industry

While the packaged food industry has made great strides, there are still challenges that manufacturers face. One major concern is environmental sustainability. The rise of single-use plastic packaging has contributed to environmental pollution, and the industry is under pressure to adopt more eco-friendly solutions.

Health perception is another challenge. Despite improvements in the nutritional quality of many packaged foods, some consumers

still perceive these products as unhealthy, associating them with high levels of sugar, sodium, and preservatives. Overcoming this stigma will require ongoing innovation and education.

Lastly, cost can be a barrier. Some consumers, particularly those in lower-income brackets, may find it difficult to afford the premium options that boast higher quality ingredients and eco-friendly packaging. Balancing affordability with health and sustainability remains a key challenge for food manufacturers.

Future trends in packaged food

Sustainable Packaging: With consumers increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of packaging waste, the industry is moving towards more sustainable options. Biodegradable packaging, plant-based materials, and minimalistic designs are

expected to become the norm in the coming years. Major food companies are investing in research and development to reduce their carbon footprint while still maintaining the safety and integrity of their products.

Plant-Based and Alternative Protein Products: As plant-based diets continue to gain popularity, the demand for packaged plant-based foods is expected to grow. From plant-based snacks to complete meals, companies are developing innovative ways to meet the needs of vegan, vegetarian, and flexitarian consumers.

Functional Foods and Beverages: Packaged foods that offer health benefits beyond basic nutrition—like boosting immunity, improving gut health, or enhancing mental clarity—are on the rise. Consumers are seeking products that not only fuel their bodies but also contribute to their overall well-being.

Technology Integration: The future of packaged food might include technology-driven solutions, such as smart labels that track freshness or apps that offer personalized recommendations based on your purchase history and dietary preferences.

The packaged food industry is at a pivotal moment, where convenience meets innovation. While it offers solutions for busy lives, the industry must continue to address consumer demands for healthier, more sustainable options. By focusing on clean labels, eco-friendly packaging, and functional nutrition, the future of packaged food looks bright and full of possibilities.

Mass exodus of Cuban women is shaping the country's future

By Loraine Morales

THE current fiscal year has surpassed the record for the last five years in the number of Cuban families arriving in the United States. From October 2023 to July 2024, 65,867 people accompanied by their close relatives arrived from Cuba, according to data from US Customs and Border Protection.

Elaine Acosta, a Cuban researcher at Florida International University (FIU), notes the increased number of women reflects the depth of the systemic crisis that has engulfed Cuban society, a crisis that affects the most basic aspects of life there.

"Despite the dangerous routes and the illegal nature of the current crossings, we've observed an equal or greater proportion of women and families in the migration process," notes the specialist in aging, caregiving, and rights.

The systemic or "policrisis" of Cuba, as Acosta defined it at an FIU discussion, includes a deterioration in overall well-being, generalized impoverishment, and a lack of future perspectives, especially for the youth and their families.

Studies realized by the project that Acosta leads - "New Waves of Migration from Latin America" - revealed that the expectations for study and work of the youngest women are im-



possible to realize on the island. For that reason, they decide to seek other destinations.

Acosta describes the current phenomenon of Cuban migration as a "tsunami" that is leaving deep marks on the lives of those who leave, as well as on those who remain on the island. One result is that the elderly, who are often dependent on family support, are left unattended in very

vulnerable conditions. This also impacts the accelerated aging of the Cuban population, while the loss of the labor force aggravates yet further the challenges the island faces.

Triggers for the recent migratory exodus

In Cuba, the lack of updated public statistics on poverty, or those at risk of poverty, hinders the full comprehension of the economic situation.

However, there's a generalized impoverishment of the population, with salaries and pensions well below the cost of their basic needs. This, in turn, has led to a significant deterioration in the levels of well-being, reflected in diminished scores on the international indicators of human development. Cuba has dropped 32 places on this scale in just 15 years.

"We're not speaking about in-

comes, but about access to health, education, social welfare. That was where Cuba almost always came out a champion on the international measurements. Apparently, it is no longer winning that championship, but - on the contrary - has gone significantly backwards," Acosta observed.

A recent study of the Food Monitor Program noted that in Cuba the indexes of food security, consumption, and stable food access and availability are very low.

The lack of opportunities and political discontent also support the decision to migrate, especially among those who were actively involved in politics and later became victims of repression.

"Previous to the crisis of July 11 widespread 2021 protests, followed by government repression and mass arrests, many of those who today are migrants had placed their bets on not leaving Cuba, be it because they felt socially committed to something, or felt they had opportunities to form a small business.

There was some sense of a project before the pandemic and the social explosion. That project went bankrupt, the moment passed, and now it seems there's no going back," the researchers explained.

Other conditions that influence the current context include increased levels of inequality and of internal

migration. These factors too have impacted the quality of life, especially for women, older people, and people who are Afro-descendent or mestizo.

In April 2024, the official site Cuba debate affirmed that "from 2014 until September 2023, 3,690 homeless people were identified."

Nonetheless, an article in the official Cuban news site Victoria indicates that the numbers are increasing. Between 2015 and February 2024, a total of 900 people have been attended in the Center for Attention to Havana's Homeless People, - which represents 63 cases more than those reported by the Cuban authorities, without even counting the numbers from 2014.

As the social crisis in Cuba deepens, many women have become the protagonists of political and social protests, clamoring for better conditions, which is in itself a highly political act. In the face of the growing repression of these protests, including the imprisonment of many women, migration has arisen as an alternative, a strategy for survival given the generalized crisis," Acosta asserted.

The difficult perspectives for family reunification mean that the decision to migrate is often made as a family. With that in mind, women generally migrate with their children and sometimes with their parents, Elaine Acosta concluded.

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 UMUJAVYO 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

WHO launches plan to tackle growing threat of dengue, other diseases

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global plan to address the growing threat of dengue and other deadly arboviruses, which have affected millions of people around the world and put billions more at risk.

"The rapid spread of dengue and other arboviral diseases in recent years is an alarming trend that demands a coordinated response across sectors and across borders," said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

An arbovirus is a virus that is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes, ticks, or other arthropods, such as crustaceans, insects and arachnids.

Dengue has emerged as the most problematic arbovirus disease. The WHO notes the number of cases has nearly doubled each year since 2021, with over 12.3 million cases at the end of August of this year, including more than 6,000 deaths.

The WHO aims to "turn the tide" against dengue and arboviral diseases, Tedros said, noting that the measures in the proposal could "protect vulnerable populations and pave the way for a healthier future."

The WHO chief said everyone has a role to play in the fight against dengue, "from maintaining clean environments to supporting vector control and seeking and providing timely medical care."

Dr. Diana Rojas Alvarez, team lead on arboviruses, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention at the WHO, notes newborns, elderly and people with pre-existing conditions "have been identified as a risk factor for poor disease outcome."

Besides chikungunya, she said Zika and Oropouche, which are spreading widely in the Americas, have symptoms similar to dengue and "can be easily misdiagnosed in areas with co-circulation of multiple arboviruses."

To avoid misidentifying those diseases, she said it is critical for countries to strengthen their detection, surveillance, and testing activities and "to make sure populations know which measures to take to protect themselves and their communities."

The World Health Organization says the global escalation of arboviral diseases underscores the urgent need for "a robust strategy to mitigate risks and safeguard populations."

It urges governments to implement five components of its strategic global plan: Emergency coordination activities, collaborative detection and surveillance, community protection and prevention measures, safe and scalable care to prevent illness and death, and access to countermeasures, such as the promotion of research for improved treatments and vaccines.

The WHO estimates \$55 million will be required to put the plan into action over the next year.



WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus delivers a speech at the 77th World Health Assembly, in Geneva, May 27, 2024.

Ending child marriage: Authorities in Kongwa affirm vigorous approaches

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

IN efforts to curb child marriages, authorities in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region have put in place robust strategies to ensure that girls remain safe and achieve their full potential.

Tanzania is one of countries with the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world where almost two out of five girls are married before their 18th birthday. The Dodoma region is particularly affected, with reports showing that 51 percent of girls are married off before they turn 18, often linked to factors such as teenage pregnancies.

According to the 2015/2016 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS), 36 percent of girls in Tanzania are married before the age of 18, with the highest rates found in Shinyanga (59 percent), Tabora (58 percent), Mara (55 percent) and Dodoma (51 percent).

Speaking recently, Kongwa District Executive Director (DED) Dr Omary Nkullo admitted that many parents are still sending off their children to husbands despite their low age but the government also continues to heighten strategies to curb the vice.

During a recent engagement with the Tanzania End Child Marriage Network (TECMN) as the network concluded its caravan tour to four regions, including Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Dodoma, the DED called for increased collaboration to ensure address the challenge and keep girls safe.

He said child marriage in the district was largely driven income poverty as well as low awareness of parents on the impacts of adolescent marriages.

He noted that societal pressures often force young girls into marriage upon becoming pregnant.

"The major issue we face here is teenage pregnancies, which ultimately lead to child marriages. Parents frequently pressure young boys to marry the girls they have impregnated, even when the girls are young. We must address both these issues," he stated.

He shared a specific example of a successful intervention in a village where a marriage involving a young girl who had dropped out of school was halted.

"We received information about a planned wedding for a girl who had been expelled from school. I contacted the District Commissioner for assistance. Using a council vehicle to avoid attracting attention, we intervened just as the wedding was about to take place, leading the groom and his family to flee," he recounted.

While they managed to apprehend the bride and her family, they faced challenges in pursuing legal action due to insufficient evidence.

Dr Nkullo attributed the rise in teenage pregnancies to the influence of local youth rather than peer pressure from schoolmates.

"In towns like Kibaigwa, the influx of people creates an environment that can lure young girls into these situations. Poverty often plays a role in persuading girls to accept such relationships," he said.

He also said authorities have also employed efforts to fight agents who have been taking girls in villages to work in towns.

The DED further emphasised that efforts deployed in fighting child marriage should go parallel with curbing early pregnancies.

He emphasised the lack of awareness among parents regarding the consequences of child marriages and teenage pregnancies, underscoring the urgent need for education on these issues.

To tackle the issues, the district council also provides loans through the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) projects aimed at economically empowering girls aged 15 to 24. The objective is to alleviate the economic pressures that may lead to poor decision-making.

In addition to the loans, the council also offers funding targeted at women, youth, and individuals with disabilities, helping to improve their economic status and prevent families from marrying off their daughters prematurely.

Regarding the Marriage Act of 1971, Dr Nkullo noted an urgent need for legislative reform which should go hand in hand with programmes to end early pregnancies.

"The current law allows girls to marry at 15 with parental consent, which is far too young, especially for those still in school. It is high time we amended this law to re-



flect the societal changes that have occurred since the 1970s," he asserted.

In Sejeli Village in the district, local leadership came up with a special system that requires families and couples to first seek for a permit before marriage ceremonies.

This, according to the leaders, comes as a new effort aimed to curb early marriages which are on the rise.

Sejeli Village Chairman, Amoas Mwigoma said the local leadership stands firm to combat child marriage. "We have a number of measures which include monitoring every marriage that occur here to ensure that the couple are at the right age and not otherwise," he said. He said

On their par, girls who lead the fight against child marriage in the country urged the government to amend the Marriage Act of 1971 to enable female children achieve their dreams.

They urged for the legal marriage age to be set at 18, rather than the current provisions that allow girls as young as 15 to marry with court approval or parental consent.

According to the Law of Marriage Act, the minimum age for marriage in Tanzania is 15 years for girls (with parental consent) and 18 years for boys.

Additionally, the girls requested that the government should actively enforce laws aimed at protecting children from child marriage and increase investment in programmes and services that help prevent and eliminate such practices.

Leila Khatib, a girl from Dar es Salaam, said the urgent government's decision to amend the law would help as the majority of girls are unable to realise their dreams due to early marriage.

"Apart from national and international agreements to protect girl child rights, the government is yet to put in place strong laws to ensure that girls remain safe throughout their lives," she said

Veronica Shadrack from Mara Region said that the practice not only violates children's rights but also places them at significant risk of sexual, physical, psychological and economic abuse.

Shadrack who is one of the sur-

vivors of child marriage, said that many young girls who are married at an early age become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

"When girls marry young, they are often pressured to have children early, which causes serious health issues because their bodies are not fully developed to handle pregnancy and childbirth," she said. Mwijabu Hassan from Tabora added that child marriages perpetuates a cycle of violence and undermines overall wellbeing of victims.

"Under both national and international laws, the Tanzanian government has a duty to protect children from such marriages. The Law of the Child Act of 2009, along with international agreements provide clear directives to protect children from harmful customs and practices," she said.

Liliani Kimati, TECMN coordinator expressed concern that the reasons that hinder changes to the marriage law remain unclear, despite a High Court ruling in favour of such amendments.

Kimati noted that significant challenges in understanding issues

related to child marriage still exist.

She pointed out that the practice of marrying off young children continues at alarming levels and called for various stakeholders to intensify efforts to combat it.

She explained that this year's caravan aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of child marriage and advocate for changes to the Marriage Act. She highlighted the community's struggle to understand the implications of legal reforms, stressing the importance of involving activists in these discussions.

"After completing the caravan, we discovered a significant gap in understanding child marriage issues within the community. Despite efforts from government leaders, there is still a pressing need to educate the public about the changes to the Marriage Act of 1971," she said.

The tour in the regions was represented by six of the 87 organisations that form TECMN, including Msichana Initiative, My Legacy, Medea, Plan International, Theatre Arts Feminist Group and Binti Makini Foundation.

By Tina Mehpaine

Fistula scars: Liberia's forgotten women

NAOMI George (22) is visibly shaken as she fights back the tears, recalling the night her life changed forever.

In 2019, the heavily pregnant Liberian endured a harrowing ordeal when she went into labour. Despite intense contractions, her midwife dismissed her symptoms, insisting the baby wasn't ready.

This meant she had to suffer through the night in pain before finally being rushed to a hospital. Even there, her birthing was delayed until the following afternoon.

By this time, it was too late - she had had an intrapartum stillbirth, meaning the baby did not survive.

"Losing a child is devastating, but being diagnosed with fistula is a different kind of pain."

A few weeks later, George was diagnosed with obstetric fistula, a debilitating childbirth injury, which results mainly from prolonged, obstructed labour, especially where access to medical support is lacking.

It is a condition that causes constant incontinence and for many, shame and exclusion.

"Losing a child is devastating, but being diagnosed with fistula is a different kind of pain," says George.

"Social stigma and ostracisation push you into a corner, making you hate yourself and question your existence, as people do not easily tolerate your presence."

The story was similar for Anna Sumo. She was devastated when she was diagnosed with obstetric fistula in 2012. Over three months, Sumo underwent two surgeries but did not heal.

"It's so hard to live with urine leakage from you every day," she says. "Every time I think about it, I get sad."

According to UN figures, an estimated half a million women and girls are living with obstetric fistula globally, with thousands of new cases occurring each year. Most of these are in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The consequences can be devastating as victims are ostracised while dealing with traumatic physical ailments, including incontinence, infections, and chronic pain as a result of the constant leaking of urine, faeces, or both.

The malodour of fistula makes it practically impossible for those affected to work or participate in social activities, deepening their poverty and social isolation.

"Women in the maternity ward asked that I be isolated because I wet the bed," George recounted. "In addition to the pain of having lost my baby, I didn't understand what was happening to me. I was giving off unbearable odours. No one deserves to experience this."

In Liberia, the leading risk factors for fistula are common, including early age pregnancy, lack of proper obstetric care, low-skilled birth attendants, rape and other abuses.

The country is one of the poorest in the world, bearing the legacy of conflict and the Ebola crisis. And there are critical gaps in its healthcare system, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Government 'inaction'

John Mulbah is a gynaecologist and professor of the University of Liberia's College of Medicine, who has become known as Liberia's "fistula doctor", being one of the few fistula surgeons in the country. He tells SciDev. Net that fistula, particularly obstetric fistula, reflects the tragic failure of government to protect the reproductive rights of women.

According to Mulbah, the Liberian government could eradicate obstetric fistula by investing in maternal health care services, including training more surgeons and hiring more skilled birth attendants to provide emergency obstetric care promptly. But political will has been sorely lacking, he says.

"As far as I am concerned, the Liberian government has not used a cent on fistula," says Mulbah, who is also second vice president, the Liberia College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"This inaction increases the risk associated with the broader health inequities, leaving the vast majority of women and girls of childbearing age across the country vulnerable to obstetric fistula."

Liberia has just one health facility - the Phebe Hospital, in Suakoko, Bong County - that is equipped to handle fistula cases. The faith-based hospital which opened in 1921, treated about 2,000 obstetric fistula patients between 2008 and 2022, according to data from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Liberia office.



It houses a dedicated fistula centre, set up with funding from the UNFPA. However, changes to funding have led to drastic cuts to patient admissions, according to hospital staff.

Fistula can be treated by surgery and sometimes one victim may require multiple operations over a long period. George has had six surgical repairs since being admitted in 2019 but says she still experiences regular urine leakage.

Her condition has left her with no choice but to reside at the centre, where she is now one of only two remaining patients.

'18-month wait'

According to Dignity: Liberia, an NGO that advocates for obstetric fistula victims, more than 1,200 are suffering from fistula, and need reparative surgeries with the average of women between 11-22 years old. Some experts say the number could be even higher.

"If a woman can get to a hospital, it is not uncommon for her to experience an 18-month wait for surgery, or longer," says Dignity: Liberia on its website.

"Medical supplies are scarce, and supply infrastructure systems are broken nationally. Even when one of those physicians is available, there may not be adequate medical support or supplies to offer the healing that's needed."

Mulbah, the country's best-known fistula surgeon, says that, in the absence of further investment, the primary mode of treatment for fistula will remain direct care from visiting medical professionals.

"It is about time the government formulated some budgetary allocation for fistula management," he adds. "Funding for fistula needs to be prioritised and nationally owned, not donor-oriented."

He cited the example of Ivory Coast, one of Liberia's neighbours, as a "government that cares" and whose support programmes the government of Liberia can emulate.

In 2022, Mulbah was invited by the Ivorian government and UNFPA to conduct fistula surgeries for six weeks. He says he was amazed to see how Liberia's neighbour prioritised the health of its women and the investment it made toward tackling fistula, including training more doctors as surgeons.

"There is good political will. There is very good support. They have hospitals well-equipped for fistula surgeries," says Mulbah.

No funding for fistula

Liberia's 2018-2024 health budget shows that there is no funding for fistula care during the mentioned period.

Liberia's Minister of Health, Louise Kpoto, and President Joseph Boakai have yet to release any policy statement on fistula care.

This is despite the fact that Boakai, while serving as vice-president for 12 years during the administration of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, participated in several fistula day events and made a commitment on behalf of the Sirleaf administration to eradicate fistula.

While treatment for fistula has been provided in Liberia since 2008, there has yet to be a record of public money spent by successive governments of Presidents Sirleaf and George Weah, who lost power to President Boakai during a bitterly fought election in 2023.

Rather, the fight against fistula has been donor-led, with UNFPA being at the forefront, footing the bills starting from 2008 when it launched the Liberia Fistula Project with US\$3.5 million in funding from Zonta International, a women's rights advocacy group.

Obstetric fistula and other reproductive health conditions are mentioned in the draft revised Public Health Law put before the Liberian Senate.

If passed, the Ministry of Health will adopt regulations to ensure access to quality and acceptable sexual and reproductive health and family planning services, information, and education.

The then United Nations Mission in Liberia funded and opened the country's first-ever fistula centre at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital, in 2007, with Mulbah, the head of the maternity centre, running it.

As well as treating obstetric fistula, the fistula centre also handled cases of traumatic gynaecological fistula, a vaginal injury resulting from violent sexual assault, or when objects are forcibly inserted into the vagina.

UNFPA fistula centre

The centre, which the UNFPA relocated to Phebe Hospital a few years later, has been operating below its capacity since 2018 when donor funding through UNFPA dried up.

The Fistula Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center at the Phebe Hospital is a ten-bedroom dormitory that includes a training centre. It hardly admits patients now as there is no funding for complex and costly surgeries or the provision of livelihood training such as tailoring, pastry making, cosmetology, and soap-making.

Kerson Saykor, administrator of the hospital, says the fistula centre was built to provide 24/7 support to fistula victims until their recovery, but this is now impossible with no allocated budget.

According to Saykor, since funding from UNFPA ceased in 2018, the hospital has been struggling to respond to the needs of fistula patients and has limited the number of admissions, despite being the referral hospital for fistula cases across the country.

"The funding from the UNFPA was very instrumental in providing all-around care for fistula victims, but since it ceased, we have to rely on donations from individuals and institutions to conduct free surgeries," says Saykor.

"The government is yet to match UNFPA support, so when we do not have donations, patient intake has to be limited. This is not what we wish for, but we have no choice."

He says the centre is still providing fistula treatment but at a much reduced level. The centre itself did not provide any data on the number of patients receiving treatment.

Julie Wiah, health committee chairperson in Liberia's House of Representatives, declined an

interview request on the subject.

National fistula strategy
A UNFPA spokesperson said the UN agency had not technically halted or ceased funding for Phebe Hospital, but its support towards the Liberia Fistula Project had shifted towards "integration and sustainability".

"Towards this new thinking, in 2022/2023, UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to develop a national strategy for obstetric fistula, and in 2024, UNFPA is also supporting the training of one national surgeon," the spokesperson said.

"The strategy outlined the need to establish five regional medical treatment and surgical repair hubs and the expansion of services by training medical teams, including surgeons."

According to the UNFPA, between 2008 and 2022, about 2,000 survivors of obstetric fistula received treatment and repair services, and half of them were provided with psychosocial support, counselling, and income-generation training to facilitate their rehabilitation and community reintegration.

"This comprehensive support to managing fistula survivors allows them to restore normalcy and contribute to their families and communities' social and economic livelihood," the UNFPA noted.

George, who says she has been abandoned by her family for six years, hopes that the government can step in so that she can make a full recovery.

"I just wish help can come back so Phebe can perform the last remaining surgeries on me," she says. "I cannot wait to heal and get back to my normal life."

Fistula data needed

Liberia's Ministry of Health has no available data on the current cases of fistula in the country, said Ruth, Liberia's ministry of health fistula coordinator, without elaborating on why.

This is despite the fact that the country's fistula strategy calls for inclusion of fistula data in the country's health information management system to enable informed decision-making. This should include data on the incidence and prevalence of obstetric fistula and the level of care being received by victims.

Mulbah, who was the country's fistula programme coordinator until 2018, says the absence of data makes it difficult for the country to develop an efficient strategy to tackle - and eradicate - fistula.

"We should have that. How is it possible they were not putting fistula data in their information system?" he questions.

Mulbah's contract ended when the UNFPA funding for the Liberia fistula project dried up and the strategy was switched to "integration and sustainability".

He believes that fistula can be eradicated if women have access to quality maternal health care services, including trained doctors and nurses present at the birth of their babies and prompt emergency obstetric care.

"The government needs to start pumping money into training more surgeons, gynaecologists-obstetricians, or urologists to have more trained medical professionals to handle cases of fistula," he urges.

Until then, George will be at the Phebe hospital, waiting for the fistula centre to receive funding for a doctor to complete her surgery.

RAJIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS HOJA YA LEO 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

BUSINESS

Morogoro residents to be connected to electricity through REA projects

By Frank Monyo

MOROGORO residents from 166 hamlets are set to be connected to electricity through the Rural Energy Agency (REA) before the end of this year.

The contractor, SINOTEC CO. LTD, has already been awarded the tender for implementing the project that fetches 17.9bn/- and is expected to be completed within the next 24 months. Upon completion, the project will benefit over 5,478 households.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Adam Malima told the press yesterday that Morogoro is a strategic region for economic activities such as agriculture, and therefore electricity connectivity to rural areas will help add value to agricultural products.

"Electricity is a crucial factor in enhancing the value of agricultural products. Let us continue to commend and thank the President for providing the funds that will enable over 166 hamlets to receive electricity," said Malima.

He urged residents to take care of the electricity infrastructure and also instructed the contractor to ensure the project is completed within the set timeline and up to the required quality standards.

On her part, Engineer Aneth Malingumu, REA Projects Supervisor for Central Zone said of the 669 villages in Morogoro, 652, representing 97.5 percent, have already been connected to electricity.

She added that the remaining 17 villages are in the final stages of electrification and will be connected by October 20.

With regard to the hamlets, Engineer Malingumu stated that Morogoro has a total of 3,369 hamlets, of which 1,655, or 49 percent, have already received electricity.

"Over the next two years, we expect 455 hamlets in Morogoro to be electrified. Among these, 289 are already under construction through the Densification IIB project. 166 hamlets will receive electricity through this project," said Malingumu.



Aneth Malingumu (standing), REA projects supervisor for the central zone clarifies a point to Adam Malima, Morogoro regional commissioner (left). Second left is regional administrative secretary Dr Mussa Ali Mussa. Photo courtesy of REA

Engineer Malingumu further assured the Regional Commissioner that REA is well-prepared to ensure all villages are connected to electricity, and the journey of electrifying the hamlets continues depending on the availability of funds.

Zhang Jianguang, the representative from SINOTEC CO. LTD, promised to implement the project on time and with the required quality standards, noting that preparations were al-

ready underway.

This translation maintains the original context and tone of the story, making it suitable for publication in a newspaper.

Kenya's economic growth slowed down to 4.6pc, a two-year low, in quarter two

NAIROBI

KENYA'S economic growth rate fell to a 2-year low, expanding 4.6 percent in the second quarter of 2024, down from 5.6 percent in the same period in 2023.

The manufacturing sector's real GDP growth accelerated to 3.2 percent in the three months to June, compared to the 1.5 percent growth in the same period in 2023.

The growth was supported by significant increases in production of food, including soft drinks, sugar and milk, however slowed down by a 0.6 percent decline in Tea production.

Agriculture activities grew by 4.8 percent in Q2 compared to 7.8 percent in the same period in 2023 buoyed by increased production of sugarcane, milk and fruit exports.

Electricity sales increased during the period attributed to an increase in electricity imports. The mild growth of the electricity subsector was supported by an increase in the generation of electricity from hydro, and a reduction in the generation of electricity from thermal.

Motor vehicles assembly contracted by 17.3 percent in the period with both cement production and consumption declining by 8.1 percent and 7.8 percent re-



spectively, justifying the slowdown in construction.

Domestic passenger traffic in both air and railway saw declines on the back of depressed demand in the off-peak season nature of the review period. However, revenue from passenger rail-

way transport rose by 36.8 percent to KSh971.6 million during the review period. The volume of cargo transported through SGR expanded by 8.7 percent in the three months to June 2024.

The several high profile events held in Nairobi between April and June spurred a 6.4 percent

increase in visitor arrivals contributing to the growth of the accommodation and food service sector during the review period.

"These included the inaugural Connected Africa Summit 2024, which took place in April; Swift Connect Africa 2024, held in May; and the Global Peace Leadership Conference (GPLC) Africa 2024, held in June," KNBS noted in the 2nd Quarter Economic report on Wednesday.

Broad money supply grew by 7 percent with the total domestic credit growing by 3.3 percent to KSh6.8 trillion in June 2024 on account of resilient credit to private sector. Financial and insurance activities grew by 5.1 percent in Q2 2024 compared to 13.2 percent in Q2 2023 where the central bank rates were 13.00 percent and 10.50 percent respectively.

The second quarter of 2024 was marked by deadly protests against tax hikes which corrupted consumption and output levels. On the upside, the moderating inflation towards the target range coupled with the stable shilling during the period counterbalanced, buoying recovery in the subsectors.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) body attributed the expansion, albeit slower, - as shown by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - to robust growth from agriculture, manufacturing, real estate, forestry and fishing, wholesale and retail, and financial and insurance activities.

The growth, which compares with 5 percent in the first quarter of 2024, was however tempered by contractions in the mining, quarrying and construction sectors.

MSMEs to benefit from training to improve access to financial services

ACCRA

DESPITE employing approximately 85 percent of Ghana's workforce, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) face significant challenges in accessing finance.

Many MSMEs in Ghana struggle due to their limited knowledge and understanding in key areas such as financial management, banking services, pensions and retirement planning, and risk management and insurance.

These gaps hinder their ability to access financial services, limiting their business growth potential.

To bridge this knowledge gap, the Support to Private and Financial Sector (PFS) Programme has launched the Access to Finance Training initiative, targeting 3000 MSMEs across five selected regions in Ghana, Accra, Bono, Bono East, Ahafo and Ashanti.

Funded by the German Cooperation through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, this initiative aims to enhance the financial and business management skills of MSME owners and managers.

By improving their understanding of financial management and risk management, the programme equips them with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective enterprise management and increased ability to access financial services.

The three-day training sessions will reach MSMEs from 15 selected trade associations in Ghana, with a special focus on women-led businesses and persons with disabilities.

These sessions are designed to provide entrepreneurs with practical experience in financial and risk management.

The training topics were carefully chosen



based on a detailed needs assessment conducted within these trade associations, ensuring that the content is tailored to address their specific challenges.

At the end of the training programme, it is expected that beneficiary MSMEs will have

improved their capacity to manage their business well, improved their cash flow management, and are able to secure financing from financial institutions.

The training will also empower the MSMEs to make more informed financial decisions

and improve their access to financial products.

To complement these trainings, the PFS programme has also partnered with financial service providers to develop tailored financial products and services that will benefit these MSMEs.

The training will equip them to access and effectively utilize these products and services when developed.

This initiative is a significant step toward empowering MSMEs in Ghana, helping them to overcome financial barriers and achieve sustainable growth.

By the end of the programme, the participating businesses are expected to not only enhance their financial literacy but also significantly improve their access to the financial resources needed to grow their businesses and create more employment opportunities.

BEIJING

China-built supply chains to benefit all

CHINA'S intensified efforts to build resilient industrial and supply chains and expand international collaboration will further drive global industrial development and unlock a wealth of opportunities for companies worldwide, experts and company executives said.

The comments were made in response to the central authorities' resolution to this end. The third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China - a meeting key to the nation's reforms and modernization progress - said the country will move faster to build industrial and supply chains that are self-supporting and risk-controllable.

Meanwhile, China will further deepen re-

form and opening-up, and facilitate international cooperation in industrial and supply chains, the meeting said.

"China is both a participant and beneficiary of global industrial and supply chains, as well as a firm defender and builder of these chains," Zhang Qingwei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, said during a recent meeting.

He added that the country will integrate more deeply with the global industrial and supply chain system and firmly oppose protectionism and any form of decoupling, while maintaining the desired outcome of global public good.

Zhang Yansheng, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research, said that China has witnessed momentum in emerging sectors like new energy in recent years despite headwinds such as decoupling moves initiated by the United States and its relocation strategies.

"The US is leveraging new protectionism, industrial policies and government intervention to undermine the solid foundation of China's industrial and supply chains. This retrogressive approach is not only unfair to Chinese companies and global consumers, but also a step backward in the global transition toward sustainability.

"What is to the benefit of all is that China

will further deepen market-oriented reforms, expand high-standard opening-up, improve the legal system, and enhance the institutional framework for fair competition, green development and the advancement of clean energy domestically."

Zhang added that if there were no negative spillovers of geopolitical tensions and protectionism, the supply and demand of new energy vehicles, photovoltaics and lithium batteries - areas in which the US unfairly accuses China of overcapacity - would achieve a dynamic balance at the global level.

Recalling that the US and China have both benefited tremendously from more

bilateral trade, Neil Bush, chairman of the George H.W. Bush Foundation for US-China Relations, said while addressing a recent event that countries that rely solely on local manufacturing face significant challenges.

"Manufacturing is no longer confined to national borders. Countries that embrace innovation while working together can unlock new potential and drive economic growth by sharing research and best practices in technical advancements," he said.

As Chinese companies continue to weave themselves into the fabric of global industrial and supply chains, Wang Yang, president of SinoEV (Hefei) Powertrain Technologies, a developer of electric vehicle power systems, said it is challenging for some countries to be independent of China's new energy industry supply chain in the short term.

Cash Token Rewards Africa made a difference at Jofem Group

LAGOS

IT'S not every day that we get to make an impact so directly and unexpectedly, but that's exactly what happened when we set out into the streets of Egbeda, Lagos.

Our goal at CashToken Rewards Africa has always been to provide support where it's needed most, and this time, we found ourselves at Jofem Group of Schools, a small private school filled with eager students but also some very real challenges.

Walking through the gates of Jofem, it was clear that this school had heart.

The students were full of potential, but beneath that energy was a struggle that many parents and schools across Nigeria face—covering the cost of education. It didn't take long for us to find out that three students had not been able to pay their school fees.

Worse still, some didn't even have the basic textbooks or writing materials to help them learn. It was heartbreaking to think that something as simple as money could stand in the way of these children's futures.

We didn't want to wait for anyone to ask for help. That's not what CashToken is about. So, we

decided to take action. We paid the outstanding tuition for those students, ensuring they could stay in school without the fear of being sent home.

But we didn't stop there. We bought the textbooks they needed and even gave them CashToken-branded notebooks to make studying just a little bit easier.

One thing that stood out to me the most was that the parents of these students had no idea this was happening.

They weren't expecting help, and they certainly didn't ask for it. But that's what made this moment so special. Sometimes, the best support is the kind that comes out of nowhere, like a lifeline

when you didn't even know one was coming.

As someone who works at CashToken Rewards Africa, I'm constantly reminded of why we do what we do. Helping people in unexpected ways, like at Jofem Group of Schools, is what makes this work so fulfilling. Parents shouldn't have to worry about whether their children can stay in school because of fees.

They shouldn't have to stress about finding money for basic textbooks. And if we can help ease that burden, even for a few families, then we've done something worthwhile.

For those three students, the worry of unpaid fees is gone. They can focus on what really matters—learning, growing, and shaping their fu-

tures. And as for their parents, I'm sure they'll be relieved when they find out that their children's education is secure, at least for now.

This experience at Jofem has only strengthened my belief that education should never be out of reach for any child, and money should never be the reason a student is left behind.

At CashToken Rewards Africa, we're committed to doing what we can to support schools, parents, and students across Nigeria.

Revealed: Details on Kenya's digital nomad work permits

NAIROBI

KENYA has introduced a Digital Nomad Work Permit and a Transit and Long Connection Travelers Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), making it easier for digital professionals and long-haul travelers to explore the country's unique tourism offerings.

The estimated number of digital nomads globally hit 40 million in 2023 and is expected to rise to over 60 million by 2030. These middle to high income earners often move to countries such as Costa Rica, Portugal, and Mexico. Globally, there are over 50 countries that have introduced digital nomad visas with most of whom being in Europe and Central America. Currently, there are four African countries with a digital nomad framework including Mauritius, Seychelles, Cape Verde, and Namibia.

"These initiatives complement the government's visa-free policy," said President Ruto during the launch in Nairobi. "The Digital Nomad Work Permit targets digital professionals globally, while the Transit and Long Connection Travelers ETA offers transit visitors a chance to experience Magical Kenya."

Tourism plays a key role in Kenya's economy, with earnings reaching a record high of KSh 352.54 billion last year, fueled by a surge in visitor numbers. Revenue from tourism increased by 32%, the highest since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, visitor numbers rose by 32% to 1.95 million, and projections indicate this figure could reach 2.38 million by the end of the year. Kenya is aiming to attract over 5 million visitors annually by 2027.

The top five tourist source markets for Kenya are the US, Uganda, Tanzania, the UK, and India. Holidays accounted for 45% of travel reasons, followed by visiting family and relatives (24%) and meetings and conferences (24%).

Tourism is Kenya's third-largest foreign exchange earner, after remittances and agricultural exports. The country is renowned for its iconic safaris and rich wildlife experiences.

Kenya is missing out on the global rise in young professionals that work from the comfort of their computers for companies abroad - also known as 'Digital Nomads.'

The estimated number of digital nomads globally hit 40 million in 2023 and is expected to rise to over 60 million by 2030. These middle to high income earners often move to countries such as Costa Rica, Portugal, and Mexico.

Globally, there are over 50 countries that have introduced digital nomad visas with most of whom being in Europe and Central America. Currently, there are four African countries with a digital nomad framework including Mauritius, Seychelles, Cape Verde, and Namibia.

It is not a lie to say that Kenya is not experiencing its best economic times currently; so it is prudent that we find ways where we can help improve the economy.

Digital nomads are middle-to-high income earners largely making money in US Dollars, British Pound, and Euros. When leaving their countries (mostly US, Canada, UK, etc.), they are looking for beautiful places to live and travel which also have a lower cost-of-living than their home countries.



When traveling, digital nomads tend to spend lots of money on accommodation, food, transportation, and leisure activities. The more people spending money in these areas has a direct positive impact on both the private and public sectors. When the private sector is making more money, they spend more money at other businesses and pay more in taxes.

At the moment, there is no legal framework for these digital nomads besides the prohibitively expensive work permit. However, most digital nomads would never be able to obtain a work permit because they do not work for companies operating in Kenya - leaving a segment of big spenders completely omitted. Kenya could launch a digital nomad visa to better include these individuals. Most digital nomad visas across the world are for 1-year and have options to renew up to a certain number of years.

For example, Kenya could launch a 1-year, multi-entry digital nomad visa costing \$250 per year that is renewable up to 3-5 years. This visa would allow

them to live, work, and spend in the country and could include requirements such as a minimum income qualification.

Some countries have even gone so far as to build special tax structures for digital nomads while others allow them to not pay taxes for a particular period of time.

There are a host of other benefits that could be offered to digital nomads and further increasing Kenya's competitiveness among other countries offering these visas. One benefit could be the ability to open a local bank account or even own a vehicle.

Digital nomads are typically social media savvy - constantly sharing pictures and experiences with their friends and family abroad. This would be a good thing for Kenya.

If you have people constantly talking about the country's beauty, food, and people on social media, that drives others to want to visit Kenya. With tourism making up such a large portion of GDP, foreign exchange and job opportunities in Kenya, free promotion of the country

would bolster the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife's mission to support the sector.

Countries often make a huge PR push when launching digital nomad visas. By not having many countries in Africa competing for digital nomads, Kenya stands to benefit deeply from the promotion of the visa and the country. After the catastrophic roll-out of the ETA earlier this year, a proper roll-out of a digital nomad visa could help recharge the narrative on traveling to Kenya.

Are there any downsides to a digital nomad visa? Yes.

Of course, within any system there is the opportunity for abuse but what is more striking is that if the number of digital nomads becomes too significant a portion of the population, it could drive housing prices in particular neighborhoods like Kileleshwa and Kilimani even higher.

Despite this, in a time when the country is searching for ways to improve its economy, the potential of a digital nomad visa could play a role in that push.

China, Ghana trade volume hits \$6billion in first half

ACCRA

CHINA'S trade volume with Ghana for the first half of this year reached nearly \$6 billion. This represents an increase of 13.3 per cent as compared with the same period last year.

In 2023, bilateral trade volume between China and Ghana exceeded \$11 billion, increasing 10.4 per cent year on year (YoY).

The Chinese ambassador to Ghana, Tong Defa, disclosed this at the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The event that saw Chinese culture in the form of cuisine and documentary, was graced by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo; some ministers of state, members of the diplomatic corps and the Chinese community in Ghana.

Defa, who proposed a toast to a good relationship with Ghana, said China remained Ghana's largest trading partner and main source of investment.

For Africa, he said, China's trade volume with Africa increased from \$10.5 billion in 2000 to \$282.1 billion in 2023, nearly 26-fold increase.

Additionally, he said, China's stock of investment in Africa had grown from less than \$500 million in 2000 to over \$40 billion presently, pointing out that developing solidarity and cooperation with African countries was always an important cornerstone of that country's foreign policy.

On China-aided projects in Ghana,



Mr Defa said that was progressing steadily and mentioned the phase two project of the University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS), which had been inaugurated; the James Town Fishing Port Complex Project, which had been handed over and the China-aided annex building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, which was scheduled to be completed next year.

Others included the Sunon-Asogli Power Limited, Africa World Airlines, EU Chinatown Mall in Tamale and the Sentuo Oil Refinery.

Mr Defa also touched on the recently held 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Summit (FOCAC) held in Beijing, pointing out that, he was ready to do his best to implement the outcomes of the summit in order to deepen bilateral practical cooperation across board for the benefit of the people of China and Ghana.

On the anniversary, he said China had all along been deeply integrated with the wider world and that under its guidance of the people-centred development philosophy, China had lifted nearly 100 million

people out of poverty, nurtured the world's largest middle-income group totalling over 400 million people and set up the world's largest education system and social security system.

The Minister of National Security, Albert Kan-Dapaah, expressed the government's appreciation to China for its contribution to the various sectors of the country.

These include education, health, infrastructure and defence, adding that the recently inaugurated James Town Fishing Harbour and the UHAS were prime examples.

"Chinese investments span multiple sectors, such as manufacturing, mining, energy, agriculture and oil and gas.

However, we believe that there is still room for growth in private sector partnerships between our countries. We have created the necessary incentives to attract Chinese investment, particularly in sectors like agri-processing, ethereum mining, tourism and education," he said.

On the other hand, Ghana's consumer inflation rate rose in September for the first time in six months, primarily driven by an increase in food prices, according to the Ghana Statistical Service.

The year-on-year inflation rate increased to 21.5 percent from 20.4 percent in August, reversing a five-month trend of declining inflation. Month-on-month inflation also rose, reaching 2.8 percent in September, compared to a decline of -0.7 percent in August.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday in Accra, Government Statistician Professor Samuel Kobina Annum attributed the rise to a notable increase in food inflation, which surged by three percentage points.

"This five-month successive decrease in the rate of inflation has been reversed in the month of September, with food recording a higher rate," Prof. Annum said.

He explained that a significant driver of the inflation increase was food inflation, which jumped from -2.2 percent month-on-month in August to 4.2 percent in September.

This rise had a major impact on the overall inflation rate, with food prices being one of the key contributors to the reversal of the downward trend. The surge in food costs was attributed to price hikes in staple items such as cereals, vegetables, and other essential food products.

"We saw deflation for September 2024, and now we are seeing inflation of 4.2 percent. So really, the two figures you need to compare are the 2.2 deflation we saw in August 2024 relative to the inflation of 4.2 percent we are seeing in September 2024," Prof. Annum said.

"Definitely, it is a cause for concern because, as we rightly said, from a seasonality point of view, we see the influence of a bumper harvest in the months of August and September. But we need to keep in mind that it peaks in August and slows down from September onwards. Its ability to contain the market in September depends on factors such as our ability to have stored enough and the extent to which we had a significant harvest during the rainy season."

While food inflation saw a rise, non-food inflation remained relatively stable. The year-on-year non-food inflation rate was recorded at 20.9 percent in September, slightly below the food inflation rate. However, non-food inflation also showed a slight increase month-on-month, rising by 1.6 percent from August's figure of 0.7 percent.

Chamber calls for mineral revenue management Act

ACCRA

THE Ghana Chamber of Mines is calling for a law that will provide a framework on how mining revenues should be allocated.

Known as the Mineral Revenue Management Act, this law is similar to the Petroleum Revenue Management Act which serves the same purpose in the oil sector.

The chamber believes such a law in the mining industry will ensure transparency in the utilisation of revenue generated from mining.

Ghana's mining sector has been a significant contributor to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), export earnings and government revenue over the years.

However, the absence of visible legacy projects and a clear legal framework governing the use of mineral revenue has led to growing concerns among citizens about whether the country is truly benefitting from the sector.

According to the GRA, the total direct taxes attributable to the mining and quarrying sector increased from GHe6.38 billion in 2022 to GHe11.55 billion in 2023.

The 81.1 per cent growth in the sector's tax payments consolidated its position as the country's largest source of direct domestic tax revenue.

It accounted for 22.7 per cent of aggregate direct domestic tax receipts mobilised by the GRA in 2023 as compared to 18.6 per cent in 2022.

Specifically, corporate income tax payments (CIT) improved from GHe3.58 billion in 2022 to GHe7.47 billion in 2023.

The sector's CIT payments represent 25.5 per cent of aggregate CIT receipts in 2023 and 64.68 per cent of the mining sector's total direct tax receipts.

Mineral royalties also increased from GHe1.79 billion in 2022 to GHe2.77 billion in 2023 on the back of a rise in the price of gold.

The quantum of payroll taxes, PAYE, attributed to the mining and quarrying sector also rose by 30.4



Ahmed Nantogmah – Director, External Relations and Communication at the Chamber of mines.

per cent to GHe1.31 billion in 2023 from GHe1.00 billion in 2022.

On the whole, the mining sector's tax payments constitute 8.8 per cent of domestic revenue and 8.6 per cent of total government revenue in 2023.

In an interview with the media after a

field tour of some mining companies in the Western Region, the Director of External Relations and Communication at the Chamber of Mines, Ahmed Nantogmah, said the Chamber believed enacting a legal regime for the management of mineral revenue would enhance transparency,

allowing citizens to better understand and appreciate the sector's contribution to national development.

Nantogmah also reiterated the Chamber's call for the government to remove the VAT on exploration.

He said: "Mining companies pay VAT

when they do drilling and assaying, which is very expensive".

"So if you want to encourage more mining, then the government needs to remove the VAT on exploration, especially the drilling and assaying cost, so that people can spend more money to invest in the exploration."

"You can do exploration and not find anything and that money will go down the drain," he stated.

He said the government imposing VAT on exploration meant it was taxing investments.

The Director of Communications also expressed concern over the negative impact of illegal mining on the operations of responsible companies, calling for stronger government enforcement to combat the menace.

He said the government must ensure adequate security for licensed mining companies to operate without fear.

He emphasised that commercial mining companies were committed to responsible mining practices, including safeguarding the environment, creating jobs, paying taxes and sourcing goods and services locally to support the country's development.

Mr Nantogmah further urged the media to help distinguish between responsible mining companies adhering to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, and illegal mining activities that harm the environment.

AI set to contribute \$15 billion to Nigeria's economy by 2030

LAGOS

GOOGLE has declared through its recent study conducted by Public First that Artificial Intelligence (AI) had the potential to contribute \$15 billion to the Nigerian economy by 2030.

The report revealed that in 2023, Google's products and services which included Search, Ads, YouTube, and Cloud contributed an estimated \$1.8 billion in economic activity across Nigeria.

Director, West Africa, Google, Olumide Balogun, said this at its Economic Impact Report Press Roundtable in Lagos.

Balogun said that the Public First's Digital Opportunity of Nigeria Report's projection would be achieved with Google's commitment to responsible AI development playing a pivotal role. He said that the report revealed that in 2023, Google's products and services which included Search, Ads, YouTube, and Cloud contributed an estimated \$1.8 billion in economic activity across Nigeria.

He said that, according to the report, this estimated \$1.8 billion had significantly boosted the productivity of Nigerian businesses, creators, and workers.

Balogun noted that the study highlighted Google's digital skills programmes, including Digital Skills for Africa and the Career Certificates Programme, as having helped millions of Nigerians.

"Over 1.5 million young adults learnt new digital skills in 2023 alone.

"With Nigeria experiencing rapid digital development, the report highlights the potential for further growth.

"According to the study, every \$1 invested in digital technology in Nigeria generates over \$8 in economic value.

"This emphasises the critical role of digital technology, including connectivity, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping Nigeria's economic future," he said.

Balogun said that Google was thrilled to see the positive impact that digital technology was having on Nigeria's economy. According to the Google director, this report underscores the importance of continued investment in digital skills and infrastructure to unlock the full potential of Nigeria's vibrant digital economy.

The director said that in 2021, Google committed \$1 billion to accelerate Africa's digital economy, focusing on improving internet access, supporting local entrepreneurs and fostering innovation. He said that the Digital Opportunity of Nigeria report illustrated how Google investments are already creating lasting impacts in the country.

Balogun said that the report also provided strategic recommendations for policymakers, advocating for increased cloud-first policies and enhanced digital infrastructure to maximise AI's potential in Nigeria.

According to Balogun, it highlights the need for stronger Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and AI fluency to prepare Nigeria's workforce for the future. The Director and Head of Technology Policy at Public First, Amy Price, said that Nigeria was a digital front-runner in Africa.

Price said that Nigeria's tech investment would be a powerful catalyst for further growth and development across the country. The Public First director said that this was particularly true when it came to connectivity, cloud computing and AI.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that Public First is a public policy research agency with specialisation in economic, social and opinion research.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
TUESDAY 27 Aug	5:00	Sosp rpt: Uzalo	5:30
	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00
	6:00	HABARI	6:40
	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30
	7:30	HABARI	8:00
	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55
	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00
	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30
	9:30	Sosp: Laws of love	9:55
	9:55	Habari za saa	10:00
	10:00	Wato wetu	10:30
	10:30	Shikabamba	10:55
	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00
	11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt	11:30
	11:30	Habari za saa	11:55
	11:55	Al Jazeera	12:00
	12:00	HABARI	12:30
	12:30	Alya ya jamaa	12:55
	12:55	Habari za saa	13:00
	13:00	Usafiri Wako rpt	13:30
	13:30	Shikabamba	14:00
	14:00	Habari za saa	14:30
	14:30	Shikabamba	14:55
	14:55	Habari za saa	15:00
	15:00	Meza Huru	15:30
	15:30	Wato wetu	16:00
	16:00	Music: The Base	16:30
	16:30	Hapa na Pale	17:00
	17:00	Mapishi	17:30
	17:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:00
	18:00	HABARI	18:15
	18:15	Habari za saa	18:30
	18:30	Kumekucha Michezo	19:00
	19:00	Habari za saa	19:30
	19:30	Kumekucha Kishindo	20:00
	20:00	Sosp: Laws of love	21:05
	21:05	Habari za saa	23:00
	23:00	Habari	00:30
	00:30	Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00:30	Wato wetu	
	00:30	Mapishi	
	00:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	
	00:30	HABARI	
	00:30	Kumekucha Michezo	
	00:30	Habari za saa	
	00		

WORLD

Security Council affirms full support for UN chief

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Security Council on Thursday expressed its full support for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres after Israel's foreign minister said he was barring him from entering the country.

"The members of the Security Council affirmed their full support for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, his important role and that of the wider UN," Pascale Baeriswyl, Switzerland's permanent representative to the United Nations and president of the council for

October, said in a statement on behalf of the council.

The statement stressed the need for all UN member states to have "a productive and effective relationship" with the UN chief, and urged member states "to refrain from any actions that undermine his work and that of his office."

"The members of the Security Council further underscored that any decision not to engage with the UN secretary-general or the United Nations is counterproductive, especially in the context of escalating tensions in the Middle East," it said.



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks during a Security Council meeting at UN headquarters, Oct 2, 2024. AP

In a separate statement on Thursday, Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, permanent representative of Guyana to the United Nations, on behalf of the 10 elected members of the Security Council (E10), said the E10 underscores "our full support to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UN system."

The statement said the E10 condemns the current "cycle of violence" in the region and calls for an immediate end to all hostilities. "We also call on all parties to respect their obliga-

tions under international law, including international humanitarian law."

"We further emphasize that a diplomatic solution is the only appropriate way forward and urge all parties to prioritize dialogue and diplomacy and ensure the protection of civilians," it said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz on Wednesday declared UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "persona non grata" in Israel and banned him from entering the country.

Agencies

Putin open for meeting with Biden, but no talks on this issue as of yet – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin is open for any contacts, including with US President Joe Biden, but there have been no talks between Moscow and Washington on this issue as of yet, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

US President Biden earlier told TASS that it was possible for him to hold talks with Putin on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Brazil this November.

"There have been no talks on this issue and as of today, at this moment, there are no prerequisites for it," Peskov said. "However, the [Russian] president repeatedly stated that he remained open for all contacts."

On October 3, US President Biden didn't rule out a possible meeting with Russian President Putin at the upcoming summits of the Group of 20 or the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, but expressed doubt that the Russian leader would be in attendance.

"I doubt that Putin will show up," Biden said, when asked by a TASS correspondent whether he was ready for talks with the Russian president at the summits in November to discuss Ukraine and international security.

Biden made the comment as he was fielding questions from reporters outside the White House before departing for Tallahassee, Florida, to review relief efforts following Hurricane Helene.

The G20 summit is expected to take place in Brazil on November 18-19. The official dates of the APEC summit in Peru are November 9-16.

Agencies

Like India, we condemn terrorist attacks against civilians: French envoy

NEW DELHI

AT a time when a deep crisis has unfolded in West Asia and the region remains under a tight grip of conflict, French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou, said that like India, France too, condemns terrorist attacks against civilians.

He also reiterated an 'absolute commitment' to the security of Israel, condemning the Iranian attack against Israel.

While speaking to ANI, Mathou said, "We condemn the Iranian attack against Israel, and we reiterate our absolute commitment to the security of Israel. Our armed forces have contributed to stop the Iranian ballistic missile attack. Just like India, we condemn terrorist attacks against civilians: all civilians must be protected."

Calling the Gaza situation "absolutely dramatic and urgent," the French envoy reiterated its calls to liberate all hostages.

"I want to be clear: the situation in Gaza is absolutely dramatic and urgent. France reiterates its calls to liberate all hostages as well as to reach an immediate and permanent ceasefire that will enable humanitarian assistance," he said.

He underscored that diplomatic solutions should prevail, and added that the Hezbollah must stop to target Israel and its civilians. The envoy called on Israel too, to stop its military operations in Lebanon.

"Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot was in Lebanon a few days ago, where he met with Lebanese leadership and delivered 12 tonnes of humanitarian assistance. He will be back in the region in the coming days. We keep insisting on the necessity to end the military escalation in the region, as it is only aggravating the instability and fragmentation. We call on Israel to stop its military operations in Lebanon. The Hezbollah must stop to target Israel and its civilians. Diplomatic and collective solutions must prevail: this is the reason why we have asked for an emergency meeting of the UNSC, which took place on Wednesday," the French Ambassador said.

Following the deaths of Hezbollah Chief, Nasrallah, the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a warning to Iran's Ayatollah regime and asserted that those who target Israel will face 'consequences' and that "no location" in Iran or the Middle East is "beyond Israel's reach."

Meanwhile, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson, RADM. Daniel Hagari has described Iran's massive missile strikes on Israeli territories as a "severe and dangerous escalation."

"There will be consequences... We will respond wherever, whenever and however we choose, in accordance with the directive of the government of Israel," said Hagari regarding Iran's large-scale attack.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) launched precision strikes on the Lebanese capital in Beirut last week, which led to the death of Nasrallah. Lebanon's Health Ministry reported that the airstrikes targeting Hassan Nasrallah resulted in civilian casualties as well.

ANI

Biden keeps 'all options' open for Israel's potential response to Iran

WASHINGTON

THE United States is still in discussion with Israel about the way the latter would retaliate against the missile attacks from Iran, US President Joe Biden said Thursday, adding that "nothing" is expected to happen during the day.

Boarding Marine One to tour hurricane Helene's impacted area in the southern states of Florida and Georgia, the president told reporters on the White House South Lawn that the United States will "advise" Israel on what specifically the retaliation will be. "And there's nothing going to happen today," he added.

Axios in a Wednesday report cited Israeli officials as saying that Israel is expected to launch a "significant retaliation" against Iran in the coming days, with possible targets including the Islamic Republic's oil production facilities.

In the event that Iran strikes Israel again, "all options will be on the table" for Israel to consider, including attack-



President Joe Biden talks with reporters as he arrives at the White House in Washington, Oct 3, 2024, as he returns following tours of areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. AP

ing Iran's nuclear sites, the report said.

Biden on Wednesday expressed his opposition to Israel targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, but he was somewhat vague on the administration's attitude

toward a possible strike on Tehran's oil fields.

"We're in discussion of that. I think -- I think that would be a little-- anyway," the president said Thursday.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller was asked the same question during Wednesday's press briefing, where he refused to comment on ongoing US-Israel discussion about the planning for the retaliation.

"We're having discussions with them about what that response will look like. And at this point, I don't think I should talk about those discussions," Miller said.

While preparing for the retaliation against Iran, Israel is continuing with its ground incursion into Lebanon, which Biden was opposed to from the outset, saying he wanted the Israelis to stop.

Answering a question from Xinhua about what the United States is going to do now that Israel's operation is underway, Miller said during the briefing that he won't disclose ongoing private diplomatic conversations, adding that Washington will work with Tel Aviv "to ensure that they can degrade Hezbollah and prevent Hezbollah from being able to launch attacks into Israel as they have been doing since Oct 8" of 2023.

China urges protection of Palestinian rights at UNHRC

GENEVA

CHINA expressed deep concern over the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories on Wednesday, reaffirming its support for the Palestinian people's pursuit of their legitimate national rights.

The Palestinian issue has persisted for over 70 years, causing immense suffering to the Palestinian people, said Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland.

Nearly a year after the Gaza conflict began, hostilities continue, and the recent escalation of violence in Lebanon has further complicated efforts to achieve a two-state solution, Chen said in a speech at the 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), during the general debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

He emphasized that China opposes and condemns all acts of violence



Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the United Nations Office in Geneva, speaks during the 55th UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, Feb 29, 2024. File photo

against innocent civilians, particularly women and children. China calls for an immediate and lasting ceasefire, an end to actions that escalate tensions, and measures to alleviate the humanitarian disaster in Gaza, he added.

Chen urged concrete actions to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, emphasizing the need for the international community to earnestly implement relevant UN General Assembly and UNHRC resolutions on Palestinian rights, and to adhere to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

He also called for convening, under the UN's auspices, a larger, more authoritative, and more effective international peace conference to develop a specific timetable and roadmap for implementing the two-state solution and achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution to the Palestinian issue.

China is willing to work with the international community to make relentless efforts toward this goal, Chen added.

China urges Somali parties to stay committed to resolving differences through dialogue

UNITED NATIONS

CHINESE envoy on Thursday called on all Somali parties to keep up the momentum, strengthen dialogue and unity, and stay committed to resolving differences through dialogue.

In remarks at the UN Security Council briefing on Somalia, Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, noted that in recent years, Somalia has made important headway in national reconstruction and

peace and security, and both the UN and African Union (AU) missions have entered a critical transition period.

"At this important stage, the support and assistance of the international community cannot relax," Dai (pictured) said.

He emphasized three points - maintaining the overall situation of political stability; strengthening the foundation of security transition; and advancing UNSOM (UN Assistance Mission in Somalia) transition in an orderly manner.

Underscoring that the So-

mali federal government has maintained communication with the governments of federal member states and reached important consensus on the constitution, elections, and political parties, the ambassador said, "We expect all Somali parties to keep up the momentum, strengthen dialogue and unity, and stay committed to resolving differences through dialogue."

He stressed that China has consistently supported the efforts of the Somali government to safeguard national unity,



Dai noted that in the next phase, ATMIS (African Union Transition Mission in Somalia) will transition into a new AU mission, and expressed the hope that Somalia, the AU, the UN, and others will strengthen their communication and coordination to reach consensus on new mission arrangements and to ensure the smooth progress of the relevant work.

"Under-funding is an important challenge to AU missions' mandate performance," he said, calling on the European Union and other traditional donors to maintain their fund-

ing for the new mission and continue to contribute to the security and stability of Somalia. Dai also urged the Security Council to respond to the initiative of the AU and actively study various effective options to provide sustainable and predictable financial support for the new mission.

Noting that the Somali government has repeatedly called for the transition of UNSOM to a UN country team, and has recently submitted a two-year transition proposal to the Security Council, the ambas-

sador called on the council to use this as a base and, in line with Somalia's national development priorities, adjust and streamline UNSOM's mandate, with a view to ensuring a smooth and orderly transition.

"China supports the peace and development process in Somalia, as well as the enhancement of Somalia's capacity for autonomous development, counter-terrorism, and stability. We will continue to provide support to international peacekeeping operations in Somalia," Dai said.

China's wider opening-up brings tangible benefits to world

BEIJING

"I have been involved with China my entire life," said Galina Kulikova, first deputy chairperson of the Russia-China Friendship Association, who received the Friendship Medal, China's highest state honor.

Kulikova's lifelong involvement with China exemplifies the enduring bonds of friendship and cooperation between nations, especially as China continues to engage globally through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP IN NEW ERA

Bilateral ties are enhanced at the grass-roots level, where there is a growing interest in China among Russians, especially youths, Kulikova said.

"I must say that our Russia-China Friendship Association today primarily focuses on the regions because the public base of bilateral relations can only develop through the regions of Russia," she said.

"Our task is to work with the youth. The number of schools offering Chinese language education is growing. Interest in the Chinese language is growing," she said.

"Guys, you're young, the future of our relations is in your hands. Learn the Chinese language, study it, and you will always have work because our relations are developing," she told young students.

Kulikova studied at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and then participated in the founding of the Soviet (Russia)-China Friendship Association in 1957, where she has been working for 62 years.

She has been invited to witness the military parade at Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing on Oct. 1, 2019. She also attended such celebrations on the 40th, 50th and 60th founding anniversaries of the PRC. Having engaged in Russian-Chinese public diplomacy for over 65 years,



Hu Yuefang (2nd L), a Chinese hybrid rice expert, works with local farmers in a field in Mahitsy, a town 35 km northwest of Antananarivo, Madagascar, on May 12, 2023. (Xinhua/Sitraka Rajaonarison)

Kulikova believes it is impossible to comprehend China without understanding Chinese modernization and how it is conducted.

Chinese modernization is one of the main directions in building socialism with Chinese characteristics, which encompasses not only economic principles but also spiritual development and nature, she said.

"More importantly, China is not only focused on its own development but is also directly contributing to the successful development of other countries and peoples," she added.

ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Eva Chairunisa has a deep understanding of the contribution that Kulikova has just mentioned.

As general manager corporate secretary of Kereta Cepat Indonesia China, Chairunisa has witnessed the development of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway (HSR).

With a design speed of 350 kilometers per hour, the 142.3-kilometer high-speed railway cut the journey between Jakarta and Bandung in West Java province from over three hours to around 40 minutes. As of August, the Jakarta-Bandung HSR has transported 5 million passengers and provided services to 250,000 passengers from 157 countries and regions, Chairunisa told Xi-

nua.

"It is also worth mentioning that the operation of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR has not only added a new transportation infrastructure but also changed local lifestyles. People are now more willing to choose environmentally friendly and time-saving public transportation," said Chairunisa.

China's advancements have greatly benefited neighboring countries, bringing about social progress. This includes the bilateral cooperation between China and Indonesia, which involves not only government projects, not just in transportation but also in other fields, she said.

"More importantly, it has helped improve the level of human resources in Indonesia. Our workforce has learned much from the technology China has shared with us. For instance, we had no prior knowledge of HSR technology, but now we have learned and mastered it comprehensively," she added.

While China has made a miracle in its high-speed railway with total operating mileage surpassing 160,000 km, it has also stepped up efforts to help other Global South countries enhance connectivity.

The transport projects under the BRI could reduce travel times along economic corridors by 12 percent, increase trade

between 2.7 percent and 9.7 percent, increase income by up to 3.4 percent and lift 7.6 million people from extreme poverty, according to an estimate by the World Bank.

UNITED FOR GLOBAL SOUTH MODERNIZATION

China's efforts to help the Global South to achieve modernization go beyond building infrastructure. Chinese hybrid rice, for example, has gradually helped Madagascar to eradicate hunger.

Madagascar, heavily reliant on rice imports due to low yields and outdated techniques, saw a transformation after China's Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Yuanshi Seeds Industry Hi-Tech Co. launched a hybrid rice project in 2007.

By December 2022, hybrid rice covered 75,000 hectares with yields of 7.5 tonnes per hectare in the African country, far exceeding local varieties.

Madagascar has benefited greatly from "fruitful" cooperation with China, said Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina in an interview with Xinhua, noting that the BRI has brought significant opportunities for the African country to "integrate more deeply into global supply chains."

So far, China has provided assistance to over 160 countries, collaborated with more than 150 countries and over 30 international organizations under the BRI, and promoted cooperation on global development initiatives with over 100 countries and multiple international organizations, including the United Nations.

During the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Beijing in early September, leaders from the Global South wasted no time learning by paying visits to various regions in the Asian country.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa visited Shenzhen to experience the technological innovation of Chinese enterprises; Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa visited rural areas in Hunan Province for experience in agricultural modernization; Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye visited Shandong Province for experience in agricultural technology and machinery, among other areas.

China's modernization and rejuvenation will benefit the developing countries of the Global South in their quest for development, said Maged Monir, editor-in-chief of Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper, the country's top daily.

"One of the most important characteristics of China's relations with the countries of the Global South or the developing world is that China seeks cooperation in development without interference in the internal affairs of other countries," Monir said.

Xinhua

Walz promises Muslims an equal role in Harris administration

NEW YORK

TIM Walz, Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris's running mate, on Thursday promised Muslim Americans an equal role in their administration should they win the election, as Democrats scramble to win back Muslim backing that has eroded over US support for Israel.

Vice-President Harris and Walz, the governor of Minnesota, are trying to woo Muslim voters furious over President Joe Biden's administration's staunch backing of Israel during its year-old war in Gaza against Hamas.

Harris has pledged continued support for Israel while emphasizing her push for a ceasefire, words Walz echoed on Thursday, while promising a role for Muslims.

"Vice-President Harris and I are committed that this White House... will continue to condemn in all forms anti-Islam, anti-Arab sentiments being led by Donald Trump, but more importantly, a



Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Minnesota governor, Tim Walz speaks during a campaign event in York, Pennsylvania, Oct 2, 2024. AP

commitment that Muslims will be engaged in this administration and serve side by side," Walz said during an online meeting organized by Engage Action, a Muslim American advocacy group that recently endorsed Harris.

The Nov 5 election between Harris and Republican Trump is expected to be tight, especially in battleground states like Michigan, home to a large Muslim American population. The US continues to back Israel as it targets Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Though Engage has endorsed Harris, other Muslim groups have urged supporters not to back her in the election,

especially after Democrats rejected requests for a Palestinian speaker at the party convention in August.

Harris has offered no substantive policy differences on Israel from Biden, who stepped aside as presidential candidate in July.

Trump has said he would reinstate a "travel ban" he imposed as president restricting the entry into the United States of people from a list of largely Muslim-dominant countries. Biden rolled back the ban shortly after taking office in 2021.

"The scale of death and destruction in Gaza is staggering and devastating,"

Walz said. Harris is working to ensure "the suffering in Gaza ends now, and the Palestinian people realize the right to dignity, freedom and self-determination."

The Israeli military offensive in Gaza has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, Palestinian health authorities say. Israel was responding to an incursion by Hamas gunmen on Oct 7, 2023, which Israel says killed around 1,200 people and abducted about 250 hostages.

Gaza has suffered a humanitarian crisis with nearly all its 2 million people displaced and widespread hunger in the enclave.

Other speakers at the event included Democratic US Senator Chris Van Hollen from Maryland and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who both suggested that Harris could represent a shift from Biden's approach in the Middle East.

"I know she is a listener. She is able to change her mind," Ellison said, adding Harris was not born in the 1940s, as Biden and Trump were.

"I'm not promising you a rose garden" if Harris is elected, Ellison said. "But we'll be pushing on a door that's not locked."

It was unclear whether Walz, the first speaker, remained on the Zoom call to listen to other remarks. He took no questions.

Ukraine trains terrorists in Syria in coordination with US – Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE Kiev regime is training militants from the international Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham terrorist organization banned in Russia in Syria in coordination with the US, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an article, published on the Russian Foreign Ministry's website.

"Vladimir Zelensky's regime, in coordination with the Americans, is training terrorists from Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in Syria, using new UAV production technologies for combat operations against Russian forces in the republic," the minister said.

Lavrov (pictured) noted that the Western coalition continues to carry out strikes in Syria, "effectively encouraging the Kiev regime to engage in similar terrorist activities in Russian regions, where civilians and civilian infrastructure are targeted with direct support from the West."

On September 14, the Turkish newspaper Aydinlik claimed to have footage of meetings in Syria between Ukrainians and members of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, an organization banned in Russia.

The newspaper published a photo showing two individuals – one wearing a T-shirt with a trident em-

blem on the sleeve, and the other dressed in a gray-blue military uniform. The report stated that the images were taken in Idlib and dated back to June of this year.

On September 12, Lavrov said at a roundtable meeting with the heads of diplomatic missions on the Ukrainian issue that Ukrainian intelligence emissaries were actively recruiting Islamist militants in Syria and Africa to carry out terrorist operations.

He drew attention to the fact that Ukrainian special services had involved radical Islamists in the preparation and implementation of the terrorist attack on Crocus City Hall.



North Korea's role in Russian war crimes: A case for ICC referral

SEOUL

IN the early hours of June 19, 2024, at 2 a.m., North Korean leader Kim Jong-un appeared at Sunan Airport in Pyongyang. In a tense atmosphere, a plane landed, and Russian President Vladimir Putin emerged.

Putin, the first Russian leader to visit North Korea in 2000 as a newly inaugurated president, returned 24 years later, even as Russia was engaged in a war with Ukraine, drawing significant global attention.

Although Putin's visit lasted only a day, both leaders participated in a packed schedule, which included an official welcome ceremony, a street parade, a concert, and a summit meeting.

In violation of United Nations (UN) Security Council sanctions that prohibit the import of transportation vehicles to North Korea, Putin presented Kim Jong-un with a luxury Russian-made car, and the two leaders took turns driving in a leisurely outing.

The highlight of the summit was the signing of a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement." Of particular interest to the international community is Article 4, which stipulates that "if either party enters a state of war due to military invasion, the other party will provide immediate military and other assistance."

This provision has raised concerns about South Korea's secu-

rity, given the ongoing armistice with North Korea, and the possibility of destabilizing the balance of power in Northeast Asia.

Furthermore, the agreement could serve as a legal justification for Russia to import weapons, such as artillery shells, from North Korea, presenting an even more immediate danger to Ukraine, which remains at war with Russia.

According to the South Korean Ministry of National Defense, approximately 12,000 containers suspected of carrying artillery shells were shipped from North Korea to Russia between August last year and July this year. In return, North Korea is reportedly seeking advanced Russian technology to develop

weapons, including reconnaissance satellites. These transactions are clear violations of UN Security Council sanctions against North Korea.

The international community has imposed sanctions across multiple sectors, including finance, technology, and trade, to curb the atrocities committed by Russia and North Korea.

However, both nations have largely disregarded these measures and continue to pursue harmful actions against neighboring states to achieve their objectives. Consequently, the call for physical enforcement through the International Criminal Court (ICC) is gaining traction as a means of holding these regimes accountable.

In fact, Russia's war crimes in Ukraine, along with North Korea's complicity, fall within the ICC's jurisdiction, even without the involvement of the UN Security Council. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, involving the deliberate or indiscriminate use of weapons to target civilians and civilian infrastructure, constitutes a grave violation of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

This includes war crimes under Article 8(2)(a) of the Rome Statute of the ICC, such as wilful killing (subsection 1), wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health (subsection 3), and the extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out

unlawfully and wantonly (subsection 4).

Furthermore, North Korea's supply of artillery shells and missiles to Russia, enabling the commission of these war crimes, constitutes unlawful complicity under international criminal law. This falls under Article 25(3)(c) of the ICC Statute, which addresses "aiding in the commission or attempted commission of war crimes, including providing the means for its commission," or may be classified as contributing to war crimes in other capacities.

Between October 2022 and March 2023, the ICC has, in fact, issued arrest warrants for four prominent Russian

military figures—former Minister of Defence Sergey Shoigu, Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov, Aerospace Forces Long-Range Aviation Commander Sergey Kobylash, and former Black Sea Fleet Commander Viktor Sokolov—on charges of war crimes related to attacks on civilian infrastructure, including power facilities in Ukraine.

Weapons provided by North Korea to Russia have been repeatedly used in attacks on Ukrainian civilians. The Ukrainian military has consistently presented evidence of North Korean artillery shells employed by Russian forces in assaults on civilian infrastructure.

Agencies

SPORT

Q&A: Mariah Carey wasn't always sure about making a Christmas album

By **KRYSTA FAURIA**

MARIAH Carey relishes the fact that she has become culturally synonymous with Christmas – thanks in part to the longevity of her iconic song “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” and its ubiquity every year when the holidays roll around.

But the Grammy winner admits she initially wasn't sure about doing a Christmas record when her label pitched it. “I was a little bit apprehensive,” she recalls, reflecting on her album, “Merry Christmas,” turning 30 this month.

Ahead of her appearance at Sunday's American Music Awards and an upcoming Christmas tour that kicks off in November, Carey spoke with The Associated Press about the advice she would give to young artists navigating fame and the use of her song, “Always Be My Baby,” in Ari Aster's 2023 horror comedy, “Beau Is Afraid.”

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What has it been like to celebrate nearly 20 years of “The Emancipation of Mimi” and reflect on this album's legacy?

CAREY: I think “The Emancipation of Mimi” is one of my albums where there were different boundaries that got pushed aside and I was really happy about that because I needed to come back, apparently. And so, it was a comeback. But it's one of my favorite albums. And celebrating it this year and this celebration of “Mimi” was really fun because I never get to do those songs. I never do them. And this time I did.

AP: Because of that kind of underdog feeling, you felt some artistic liberty and empowerment that maybe you hadn't before?

CAREY: Yeah, I feel like people were ready to re-embrace me. And, you know, how did I feel about that? I mean, I feel like the album “Charmbracelet” was a very good album too, but not everybody knew that album. So, you know, when “We Belong Together” came out after “It's Like That,” which didn't do as well but still did pretty well. Whatever.

AP: “It's Like That” is a great song.

CAREY: It's a good song. And I love performing it. You know, I go through stages

with these albums. It's interesting.

AP: Your first Christmas album, “Merry Christmas,” is turning 30 this month. That was obviously a formative record for you and your career. Do you remember anything about its inception?

CAREY: So that was the record company saying, “You should do a Christmas album.” And I was like, “I don't know that I should at this juncture.” Because, you know, I was very young and was just starting out and I felt like people do Christmas albums later in their lives. But now people have started to do them whenever, like right at the top of their career. So, I mean, what was I feeling like? I was a little bit apprehensive and then I was like, “I love this.” And I decorated the studio and just had the best time.

AP: Chappell Roan has made headlines for speaking out about how she is grappling with sudden fame. As someone who has been in the public eye for so long, do you have advice for young artists who are dealing with this?

CAREY: Well, I have been through my share of dramas and it's not fun because you grow up thinking, “I want to be famous.” I mean, really with me, it was always, “I want to be a singer. I want to write songs.” But “I want to be famous” was right there with it. I feel like it was probably because I didn't feel like I was good enough on my own because of the things I went through growing up. And that's not a good way to feel, you know?

But my advice would be to try your hardest to go into this industry with a love of your talent or what's really real for you. You know, if it's like, “I want to be famous. I want to run around with those people, whoever they are, the famous people,” then it's probably not the best idea.

AP: Have you seen Ari Aster's “Beau Is Afraid” with Joaquin Phoenix?

CAREY: Yes. I had to approve that. I thought it was interesting the way they used my song, “Always Be My Baby.” That was interesting. I mean, it didn't really match with the movie, but, you know, I was just being edgy by saying, “You know, okay, fine.” It was very different. I mean, I wasn't reluctant, but I thought, “This is something way different than I've done ever.”

AP

AFC Leopards task force visits Tanzania to study Yanga, Simba corporate models

SPORTS



Young Africans president Engineer Hersi Said (L) pictured on Thursday talking to one of officials of Kenyan soccer giants AFC Leopards when they met in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A TASK force from Kenyan soccer giants AFC Leopards is currently on a learning expedition in Tanzania to study the successful corporate governance models of Young Africans Sports Club (Yanga) and Simba SC in an effort to transform their own club.

Led by Vincent Shimoli, the task force aims to implement similar strategies to modernize AFC Leopards' operations, attract investors, and improve fan registration.

The delegation's ultimate goal is to boost the club's financial stability, governance, and performance, both domestically and internationally.

During their visit, the AFC Leopards delegation held discussions with Young Africans president Hersi Said, focusing on the key factors that have contributed to Young Africans' recent successes.

By adopting the best practices of both Young Africans and Simba, AFC Leopards hope to seamlessly transition to a corporate structure and revolutionize Kenyan football.

“The leadership of AFC Leopards, led by their Chairman Dan Shikanda, has visited Young Africans SC with the aim of learning the operating system of our club.

“The tour began on Wednesday, led by club president Hersi Said and his executives, with the goal of bringing about transformation for our club,” it was revealed on the club's online portal.

AFC Leopards plan to transition from a community-based management model to a corporate entity, a move aimed at attracting external investors to contribute resources to the club.

To support this shift, the task force is set to conduct a three-month civic education campaign from October to December, engaging with the club's members and stakeholders.

Following the campaign, a retreat will be

held in January next year to draft a detailed plan for the desired governance structure.

This plan will then be presented to club members at the Annual General Meeting for approval before it is implemented.

AFC Leopards are eager to end the dominance of Kenyan Premier League rivals Gor Mahia and Tusker FC by reclaiming the league title, an accolade they have won 12 times.

However, the club has not lifted the trophy since 1998, leaving them in search of their first championship in 26 years.

This season in the Kenya Premier League, AFC Leopards have won three matches, scoring seven goals, while suffering just one loss, as they continue to strive for domestic success.

Coach Nkata calls for patience amid Kagera Sugar's goal-scoring struggles

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KAGERA Sugar head coach Paul Nkata is growing increasingly frustrated with his team's recent poor form, following a 1-0 defeat to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC on Thursday.

Oscar Paul's lone goal secured a crucial three points for KMC, who had also impressed in their previous match against Young Africans.

This latest defeat marked Kagera Sugar's second consecutive loss, bringing their tally to five defeats in seven Premier League matches this season.

Their only victory came on September 20, with a 2-0 win over Ken Gold, following a goalless draw against JKT Tanzania on September 16.

Coach Nkata, who joined the team late in the season, previously acknowledged that his unfamiliarity with the players has contributed to their struggles.

He emphasized the need for time to

understand the strengths and weaknesses of his squad and to integrate them into a tactical system that can yield positive results.

“We've created scoring opportunities, but we haven't been able to convert them into goals,” Nkata said.

He also highlighted the need for improvement in both the midfield and attacking areas, which he is actively working to address.

“Despite our intensive training and video analysis, we're struggling to achieve positive results. It's clear that something isn't working, whether it's a coaching issue or player performance.

“We must remain committed to finding solutions and working together. Although the season is young, early victories are crucial to improving our standings and boosting team morale,” he added.

After seven matches, the pressure is mounting on Nkata. While his initial explanation about getting to know the team is valid, the continued poor performances

are testing the patience of the club's leadership.

“Frankly, it's a challenging situation for us because we haven't been able to score enough goals. Considering we've already played four matches, we should be in a much better position.

“My late arrival at the club might have contributed to this, but I'm still in the process of getting to know the players - their playing styles, attitudes, and how they react to games. This takes time, but my coaching staff and I are working hard to understand these aspects,” Nkata had previously stated.

With the international break approaching, Nkata sees this as a vital period to analyze the team's struggles and prepare for their upcoming fixture against Pamba Jiji on October 21.

Pamba Jiji, who have also faced difficulties since their promotion to the top flight, are currently at the bottom of the league with just four points from seven games.



KenGold secure first Premier League victory with Lukindo's decisive goal

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KENGOLD FC have finally broken their winless streak in the Premier League, claiming their first victory of the season with a 1-0 triumph over JKT Tanzania at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya yesterday.

Former Biashara United forward Hebert Lukindo was the hero of the day, scoring the decisive goal in the second half. His effort earned the newly promoted Chunya Gold Miners their historic first win under interim coach Jumanne Challe, following five consecutive defeats.

KenGold had shown signs of improvement in their previous match, a 1-1 draw against Tabora United, but their victory over JKT Tanzania solidified their progress.

Interim coach Challe, who stepped in following the resignation of former coach Fikiri Elias, had reassured fans that the team would eventually turn their fortunes around. This win demonstrates a notable improvement in KenGold's performance and provides a boost of confidence for the team moving forward.

Challe is focused on restoring order and instilling a winning mentality within the squad. The departure of Elias, who resigned due to the team's poor form, left KenGold searching for answers.

However, this recent victory suggests that Challe's leadership is already making a positive impact.

“Today's victory was a true team effort,” said

Challe. “The players, coaching staff, and owners all worked tirelessly to get us back on track. We approached this match with confidence and determination, and our goal was to win and restore faith within the team before the international break.”

Challe, who previously guided KenGold to promotion from the Championship League, acknowledged that the team's current performance is below expectations. However, he attributes their early struggles to the challenges of adapting to the increased competitiveness of the Premier League.

“We have quality players, and I believe they are capable of competing at this level. We've faced some challenges at the start of the season, but I'm confident that we can overcome them and continue improving after today's win,” he said.

KenGold's early-season difficulties raised concerns about their ability to survive in the top tier, but this victory against JKT Tanzania has brought a renewed sense of optimism.

Challe remains confident that his players will continue to adapt and succeed in the league.

With the international break providing time for evaluation and adjustments, Challe is determined to address the team's weaknesses, particularly in defense, and build on their recent success.

KenGold will return to action later this month, facing JKT Tanzania again, followed by a challenging match against Azam FC away from home.



Kivalani Primary School's pupils pictured recently during a hockey training session at the Jakaya Kikwete Sports Park in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

FIFA agrees on interim transfer rules to help players go to 2025 Club World Cup in US

ZURICH

FIFA has agreed on interim transfer rules aiming to help players change teams and go to the Club World Cup in the United States next June-July.

The move on Thursday opens the door for players whose contracts expire on June 30 to sign early as free agents for one of the 32 teams who qualified for the relaunched FIFA club tournament. They include Real Madrid, Manchester City, Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain.

Potential free agents who could be pursued by Club World Cup teams include Liverpool trio Mohamed Salah, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Virgil van Dijk, plus Lille forward Jonathan David and Tottenham captain Son Heung-min.

FIFA's council approved interim transfer market rules that give member federations the option of opening an exceptional transfer window from June 1-10. If agreements are reached between clubs, the FIFA transfer amendments would let players represent a new team for two weeks from mid-June, before their formal contract expires, in a tournament that is technically still part of the current season.

Had the Club World Cup been scheduled this year, Kylian Mbappé's pending free agency on June 30 would have complicated the issue of him going to the U.S. as a PSG or Madrid player. FIFA's aim to help get players to the Club World Cup also could see those with expiring contracts sign a two-week extension through to the end of the June 15-July 13 event.

Star players at Club World Cup teams with contracts expiring in June

include Man City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and Bayern teammates Alphonso Davies and Joshua Kimmich.

FIFA suggested short-term extensions could be "an appropriate solution" to let players take part, while also offering a June 27-July 3 window to change a team's tournament squad list and replace players whose contracts expire without a renewal.

Players cannot represent two different teams during the tournament being staged in 12 stadiums.

FIFA also agreed on an exemption to the long-time rule that clubs must release players to national duty for games and tournaments on dates protected by the calendar of international games.

That affects U.S. and Mexico players who might have been called up for the Gold Cup, also being played in the U.S. from June 14-July 6.

The Club World Cup lineup includes Seattle Sounders, Leon, Monterrey and Pachuca as the past four champions of the CONCACAF region.

One more space is left open for an MLS team to represent the host nation. It is unclear if that place could go to Lionel Messi's club Inter Miami.

FIFA previously amended transfer market rules in 2020 when the soccer shutdown during the COVID-19 pandemic extended the traditional season from June into August.

In one notable transfer four years ago, Germany forward Timo Werner declined an option to stay with Leipzig and resume in the Champions League knockout rounds in August. He instead moved to Chelsea on schedule, though could not play until the next season.

AP

FIFA opts not to suspend Israel but will investigate Palestinian claims of discrimination

ZURICH

FIFA stopped short of suspending the Israeli soccer federation on Thursday, but asked for a disciplinary investigation of possible discrimination alleged by Palestinian soccer officials.

A senior FIFA panel overseeing governance will separately investigate "the participation in Israeli competitions of Israeli football teams allegedly based in the territory of Palestine," soccer's governing body said after a meeting of its ruling Council.

The Palestinian soccer federation has consistently asked FIFA for more than a decade to take action against the Israeli soccer body for incorporating teams from West Bank settlements in its leagues.

The compromise decisions came more than four months after Palestinian officials had urged FIFA to suspend Israel's membership at a meeting in May.

The request to FIFA's congress in May also cited "international law violations" in Gaza during the Israel-Hamas conflict and directed the soccer body to its statutory commitments on human rights and against discrimination.

FIFA delayed making a decision in May until after a legal review scheduled for July, then pushed back the issue two more times until a meeting of its 37-member Council on Thursday.

"The FIFA Council has implemented due diligence on this very sensitive matter and, based on a thorough assessment, we have followed the advice of the independent experts," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

Ahead of the meeting, Palestinian soccer federation leader Jibril Rajoub and its vice president Susan Shalabi came to Zurich to lobby FIFA officials.

"I trust and I expect that FIFA will take the right decision," Rajoub told The Associated Press. "I am asking for the Council to follow their statutes."

The latest process follows a pattern – under Infantino and his predecessor Sepp Blatter – of Palestinian requests for FIFA to uphold its legal rules and the question then being steered toward ad hoc panels and other committees.

FIFA gave no timetable Thursday for the investigations it has now requested.

Supporters of the Palestinian soccer campaign have criticized FIFA for not following its decision in 2022 to suspend Russian national teams from its competitions within days of the military invasion of Ukraine. European soccer body UEFA also removed Russian teams.

Several European federations had already refused to play scheduled games against Russia, including Poland and its captain Robert Lewandowski. They said they would not go to Moscow for a World Cup qualifying playoff in March 2022.

FIFA later successfully argued at the Court of Arbitration for Sport that keeping Russian teams in its competitions would cause chaos and be a security risk. Russian teams have not played in World Cups, European Championships or the Champions League for more than 2 1/2 years.

In the case of Israel, which has been a member of UEFA for 30 years, no European federation has refused to play its national or clubs teams. Israeli teams have played home games in neutral countries such as Hungary and Cyprus for security reasons since the Hamas attacks one year ago.

The Palestinian men's national team is currently playing in the Asian qualifying program for the 2026 World Cup, hosting Jordan three weeks ago in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The team next plays at Iraq on Oct. 10 and hosts Kuwait five days later in Doha, Qatar.

AP

Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag

By JAMES ROBSON

IT feels like Groundhog Day for Manchester United and Erik ten Hag. Another season has hit crisis point after only a few games.

Perhaps that's why the United manager (pictured) was so dismissive of the renewed pressure on him after last week's humbling 3-0 loss to Tottenham.

"Nothing is easy, but this is nothing for me to panic about because I experienced it so often with my teams during seasons that you are facing those problems," he said this week.

He is right.

United's record of three losses after six English Premier League games is in keeping with his two previous campaigns at Old Trafford.

In 2022, he lost his opening two and three of the first seven.

In 2023 it was even worse, as United lost three of five at the start.

Both of those seasons ended with a trophy, but the feel-good factor provided by the most recent silverware – May's FA Cup triumph against Manchester City – has long evaporated in the face of the likelihood that United's 11-year wait for the league title is set to go on.

There is little sign of progress in the league despite spending around \$750 million on transfers.

On Sunday, United travels to Aston Villa, which has been transformed by manager Unai Emery, who has worked on a fraction of that budget. The Spaniard has spent around \$270 million to turn Villa from a team



that was battling relegation when he took over in October 2022 to one that beat Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday.

In contrast United needed a stoppage time goal from Harry Maguire to salvage a 3-3 draw with Porto in the Europa League on Thursday, having led 2-0 after 20 minutes.

Defeat against Villa would intensify questions about Ten Hag's posi-

tion ahead of the October international break, which has traditionally been a time when clubs look to make managerial changes.

Emery's success at Villa is evidence of what can be achieved in a short period of time. Villa was three points above the relegation zone when he was hired. In his first full season, he led the Midlands club to fourth, eight points ahead of United and qualified

for the Champions League.

He is yet to deliver silverware, but the trajectory is clearly upward.

United is 13th heading into the weekend, having finished last season in eighth and the previous year third. Ten Hag kept his job only after an extensive review by United's new hierarchy put in place by minority owner Jim Ratcliffe. But even if he was given a vote of confidence and a one-year extension to his contract, he remains a legacy of a failing operation that Ratcliffe is trying to overhaul since buying a 27.7% stake in the club in February.

What's more, the decision to keep Ten Hag was made before new CEO Omar Berrada and sporting director Dan Ashworth officially took up their positions in the offseason.

Both insisted in September the Dutchman had their full backing, but managers are ultimately judged by results on the field and the sight of United fans leaving early and some booing at the end of the Tottenham game highlighted growing dissatisfaction again around the club.

Ten Hag has a new coaching staff, including former United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, but familiar problems are evident.

United has previously sacked managers David Moyes, Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in mid-season, but never one before November in the modern era.

That might provide Ten Hag with some comfort as he tries, once again, to turn United's season around.

AP

Lionel Messi, despite missing half of the MLS season, is still the clear MVP

By Henry Bushnell

LIONEL Messi has played 49% of Inter Miami's 2024 MLS season, and the entire history of U.S. professional sport suggests that he should, therefore, not win MLS MVP.

No player in the history of the major leagues has ever missed nearly half a season and still been named the "Most Valuable Player." NFL MVPs have always played at least 12 of 16 games. In baseball, non-pitchers have always played more than 100.

In basketball, Bill Walton won the NBA's 1978 award despite missing 24 of 82 games – and, like Messi, only playing 49% of available minutes – but the NBA recently codified a rule that, if copied by Major League Soccer, would actually disqualify Messi: Players must appear in at least 65 games to be eligible for the MVP award.

And yet, with two weeks to go, Messi isn't just a contender for the MLS award; he should be the runaway favorite. He's the favorite because he's packed an entire season of MVP production into his 15 starts and two substitute appearances; but also because his mere presence has completely transformed Inter Miami from a laughingstock, and MLS' worst team, to perhaps its best ever.

He is, literally, and obviously, by a wide margin, the league's "most valuable player."

*The numbers

Statistically, Messi hasn't just been the league's best player on a per-game basis; he's been the most prolific and productive player, period.

In his 17 games, he's scored 17 goals and assisted 15. Those 32 goal contributions are the joint-second-most in MLS, one behind Portland's Evander (15G, 18A), as many as FC Cincinnati's Luciano Acosta (13G, 19A), more than Columbus Crew forward Cucho Hernández (17G, 13A) – and more than Acosta recorded last season when he ran away with the 2023 MVP award.

Denis Bouanga and Chicho Arango, two other MVP contenders, are close behind them. Both, like Acosta and Evander, and like most stars, have started 25-plus games and played more than 2,100 minutes.

Messi, on the other hand, has compiled those numbers in 1,424 minutes.

He was injured in March, then away for the Copa América in June, then injured again in July and August. And yes, his unavailability is a knock on his MVP candidacy. When he's not on the field, he can't be "valuable" in the traditional sense of the word – which is why MVP voters typically value raw stats, and total bodies of work, over ef-



Lionel Messi scored twice Wednesday as Inter Miami clinched the Supporters' Shield with its win over the Columbus Crew. Agencies

iciency metrics.

Messi, though, has been so absurdly good when on the field that his raw numbers still measure up to Cucho's and Acosta's and Evander's. In fact, if you subtract penalties, Messi is, remarkably, at the very top of the goal-creation list (with 31 to Evander's 30, Acosta's 29, Cucho's 28, Arango's 27 and Bouanga's 22).

And his per-90 numbers? Otherworldly. Historic.

His 1.71 non-penalty goals plus assists per 90 minutes (npG+A/90) – based on the global definition of assists, rather than the generous MLS definition – are nearly a half-goal better than any other player's single-season rate in MLS history, per FBref.

In fact, in a few of MLS' 28 completed seasons, Messi's rate would've been more than twice as good as the league leader. Many of his secondary metrics – successful dribbles, progressive passes, shot-creating actions – are also elite. His gravity – the defensive attention he commands, the space he creates for teammates simply by existing – is unparalleled.

The only real arguments against Messi for MVP are that he doesn't defend, and that Miami still won without him.

*The counterargument

You could craft a clever case against

Messi using a separate set of numbers and logic. Inter Miami has actually taken more points per game with Messi absent (2.13 ppg) than with Messi present (2.12).

And surely, the thinking might go, a reason for that surprising stat is Messi's lagging work rate. His defensive contribution is essentially nothing. When opponents have the ball, it's as if Inter is playing 10-v-11 – and suffering. Their Expected Goals Against (xGA) tally – a measure of opponent chance creation – ranks in the bottom half of MLS.

That logic, though, quickly unravels. Statistically, Miami has not been significantly better or worse defensively with Messi off the field or on it. They recalibrate to accommodate him, because his impact at the other end of the field is undeniable. With Messi on the field, in 15.8 MLS games, Miami has scored 42 goals – which, if projected out over 34 games, would break the league's single-season record.

With Messi absent, in May, June, July and August, they strung together several 2-1 wins that were tight, and easily could've been draws or losses. With Messi present, on the other hand, they have been supreme and dynamic. Their goal differential in those 17 games is +20.

The oversimplified view that Inter is just as good without Messi also ignores

the bigger picture. They are good without him precisely because he came to Miami in the first place.

"The bigger picture

Before Messi arrived midway through the 2023 season, Inter Miami was rock bottom of the Eastern Conference. The Herons had taken 18 points (via five wins, three draws, 14 losses) from 22 games. They were dreadful in every soccer sense of the word. They were scoring only a goal per match. Their Expected Goal differential was the worst in the entire league.

*Then Messi showed up.

Fifteen months later, the same Inter Miami is two wins away from breaking the MLS single-season points record.

"We were a team that habitually lost for years," head coach Tata Martino recently said, "and now, we are a team that habitually wins."

They're a team that habitually wins not solely because of Messi. Sergio Busquets also showed up. Then came Jordi Alba, and later Luis Suarez. Miami also signed a half-dozen South American youngsters, and a few less-heralded veterans, who've helped elevate the club.

But the vast majority wouldn't be here if Messi weren't. Martino probably wouldn't be the coach. Messi has also been the league's most valuable recruiter – not because he was picking up the phone and calling midfielder Diego Gómez or defender Tomás Avilés, but because his god-like stature made Inter Miami a destination for players whom most MLS clubs couldn't attract or afford.

So, the case for Messi? It's comprehensive and clear.

He has created more non-penalty goals than anyone else in the league.

He has transformed a dysfunctional cellar-dweller into a Supporters' Shield winner (the regular-season champion).

In 2024, he has been the most valuable MLS player.

yahoosports

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United has been revamped by Ratcliffe but it's the same old story for Ten Hag

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda ready as CHAN 2025 qualifiers draw approaches

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi & Agencies

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has confirmed that the draw for the 2025 CAF African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers will take place on Wednesday, October 9, at 14:00 East African Time.

Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda will co-host the tournament, which is scheduled to run from February 1 to February 28, 2025.

Ahead of the finals, two rounds of qualifiers will be held on a home-and-away basis. The first round is set for the weekend of October 25-27 and November 1-3, 2024, while the second round is confirmed for December 20-22 and December 27-29, 2024.

The confirmed host cities for the 2025 tournament include Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Nairobi (Kenya), and Kampala (Uganda).

All three cities boast stadia and training facilities required for the tournament, with the main venues in each country already prepared, undergoing only final polishing on their training amenities.

This will mark the third time the CECAFA region has hosted the CHAN tournament, following Sudan in 2011 and Rwanda in 2016.

Since its inception in 2009, the CHAN tournament has provided a unique platform to showcase world-class African football talent.

Teams like Morocco and Tunisia have left lasting marks in the tournament's history.

The reigning champions are Senegal, who triumphed in the 2022 edition, beating hosts Algeria 5-4 in a penalty shootout after a goalless draw in normal time.

To date, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Morocco have each claimed two CHAN titles.

DRC won the inaugural tournament in 2009 (Ivory Coast) and again in 2016, while Morocco secured back-to-back wins in 2018 and 2020.

Other past champions include Tunisia (2011), Libya (2014), and Senegal (2022).

The previous edition, hosted by Algeria, drew thousands of passionate fans and captivated millions of global viewers, marking a significant rise in the tournament's popularity and engagement.

CAF has also committed to boosting the commercial strength of the CHAN competition, with the 2025 edition seeing a 60% increase in the tournament budget.

The winning team will receive a \$2 million prize, underscoring the growing value and competitiveness of the event.

For Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, hosting CHAN 2025 serves as a vital stepping stone in their preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), which they will also co-host.

KMC FC's Moalin targets improvement in attack despite 1-0 win over Kagera Sugar

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi



KINONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) FC head coach Abdihamid Moalin has identified his team's finishing as a critical area for improvement during the upcoming FIFA international break.

Despite securing a narrow 1-0 victory over Kagera Sugar at the KMC Complex on Thursday,

Moalin (pictured) believes his side squandered several scoring opportunities that could have resulted in a more comfortable win.

KMC FC have struggled to convert their chances into goals this season, scoring only four times while conceding eight in their first seven league matches.

Though the team has consistently demonstrated solid performances on the field, their ability to finish chances has been lacking. Even with Oscar Paul's lone goal against Kagera Sugar, the Kino Boys have failed to find the back of the net consistently.

Moalin has acknowledged his team's defensive improvements but expressed frustration with their offensive inefficiency. KMC's attackers have repeatedly missed scoring opportunities, often leaving matches with just one goal and allowing opponents to regain possession.

During the international break, Moalin is eager to focus on strengthening his squad following their recent victory, which he hopes will boost morale after a disappointing start to the season, where they have only secured two wins.

While Moalin has praised his team's creativity and defensive line, he remains concerned about their lack of offensive firepower.

"I'm thrilled about today's win. We need to keep working diligently. From a coaching perspective, we must be more ruthless in front of goal to score more and earn maximum points in this marathon league. Early points are crucial," Moalin said.

"Today, my players were exhausted due to consecutive matches, but they still maintained our standards. The international break gives us a chance to review our seven games, identify our mistakes, and devise strategies as a team to replicate last season's performance or even surpass it," he added.

Moalin is determined to build on KMC's fifth-place finish from the previous Premier League season. While they had a respectable showing, the team fell short of Coastal Union, who were eliminated in the preliminary stage of the CAF Confederation Cup.

The coach acknowledged: "Our defense has its issues, but if our attackers were performing their roles effectively and scoring more goals, we'd be talking about different things. There's work to be done to improve our attacking line and make it a threat like it was in the previous season."

KMC FC are gearing up for a strong showing as the Premier League season progresses. Last year, the team finished in fifth place with 37 points, collecting eight wins, 13 draws, and nine losses in 30 matches.

Following the international break, KMC will face a tough test against league leaders Singida Black Stars, who have been in impressive form, amassing 13 points so far.

After their clash with Singida Black Stars, KMC will travel to face Tanzania Prisons before returning home to host Namungo.

“

oday, my players were exhausted due to consecutive matches, but they still maintained our standards. The international break gives us a chance to review

Gamondi praises Yanga's depth after 4-0 victory over Pamba Jiji

By Correspondent Seth Mapoli

DEFENDING champions Young Africans Sports Club continued their dominant run in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League with a resounding 4-0 victory over Pamba Jiji FC of Mwanza.

The match, held at the Azam Complex in Chamazi, Dar es Salaam, saw Young Africans extend their unbeaten run while demonstrating their depth and tactical prowess.

Young Africans wasted no time asserting their dominance, with defender Ibrahim Hamad, popularly known as 'Bacca,' opening the scoring in the 5th minute through a well-executed set piece. The goal set the tone for the match and showcased the team's attention to detail in set-piece situations this season.

As the first half progressed, Young Africans continued to press forward. Their relentless attack paid off just before half-time when Burkinabe midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki converted a penalty in the 45th minute, doubling their lead.

Pamba Jiji FC's challenge became even tougher when defender Saleh Abdullah was sent off after receiving a second yellow card in the 44th minute, leaving them a man down for the remainder of the match.

Young Africans head coach Miguel Gamondi expressed satisfaction with his team's performance, emphasizing the depth of his squad and their ability to capitalize on set pieces.

"We gave opportunities, especially since we have a big squad with good players. They need to be patient and wait for their moment. Sometimes, a player may have ups and downs, and we need to make adjustments," Gamondi said.

He added: "We anticipated that the opponent would play a low block, and we decided to go with two strikers. Jean Baleke, who hadn't played in a while, performed very well. I'm extremely happy with the team's performance."

Gamondi praised his team's ability to break through Pamba Jiji's defensive structure, crediting the early set-piece goal for making the game easier to control.



Young Africans defender Ibrahim Hamad 'Bacca' (R) scores his side's first goal during their Premier League match against Pamba Jiji at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of YASC

The second half saw more of the same dominance from Young Africans. Congolese midfielder Maxi Mpia Nzengele added a third goal in the 54th minute, effectively sealing the match.

Pamba Jiji struggled to cope with the continued pressure, especially with only 10 men on the field. Zambian striker Kennedy Musonda capped off the victory in the 85th minute, scoring the fourth and final goal.

Young Africans' defensive record was also extended, with this 4-0 win marking their ninth consecutive clean sheet.

Coach Gamondi took pride in the team's defensive stability, noting that they have not conceded a goal since their CAF Confederation Cup final against USM Alger.

"The last goal we conceded was in the final against USM Alger. This reflects the great work by our defenders and the whole team's defensive effort," Gamondi remarked. "I'm very happy and proud to coach these players."

With the victory, Young Africans climbed to 12 points from four matches, continuing their strong start to the season. In contrast, Pamba Jiji FC remain on just four points from seven games, struggling to find consistency.

Pamba Jiji's day was made even more difficult by the red card shown to Abdullah for a rough challenge on Young Africans' Congolese defender Chadrack Isaka Boka. Playing with 10 men for over half the match proved too much for the Mwanza-based side, and Young Africans took full advantage.

The Tanzania Premier League will now pause for the FIFA international break, with Tanzania set to play two back-to-back AFCON qualifiers against DR Congo on October 10 and 15.

When the league resumes, all eyes will turn to the highly anticipated Dar es Salaam Derby between Young Africans and their fierce rivals Simba SC on October 19. The derby is expected to be a thrilling encounter with both teams in strong form.

Meanwhile, Pamba Jiji will look to regroup when they face Kagera Sugar on October 21, aiming to turn their fortunes around after a tough start to the season.

As the season progresses, Young Africans' combination of attacking flair, defensive solidity, and tactical acumen continues to make them the team to beat in the Tanzania Mainland Premier League.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ
12:00 KIPENGA XTRA
13:00 Zote Kuntu
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
13:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
14:00 SKONGA (r)
14:30 Planet Bongo (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Akili & Me
15:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:55 Dondoo Za Michzo
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Kaili Za Wana
18:30 #HASHTAG
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 S5SPORTS
22:00 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA1 (r)

55sports
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 55sports.

eastafrika RADIO

05:00 Supa Breakfast
09:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
19:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM