

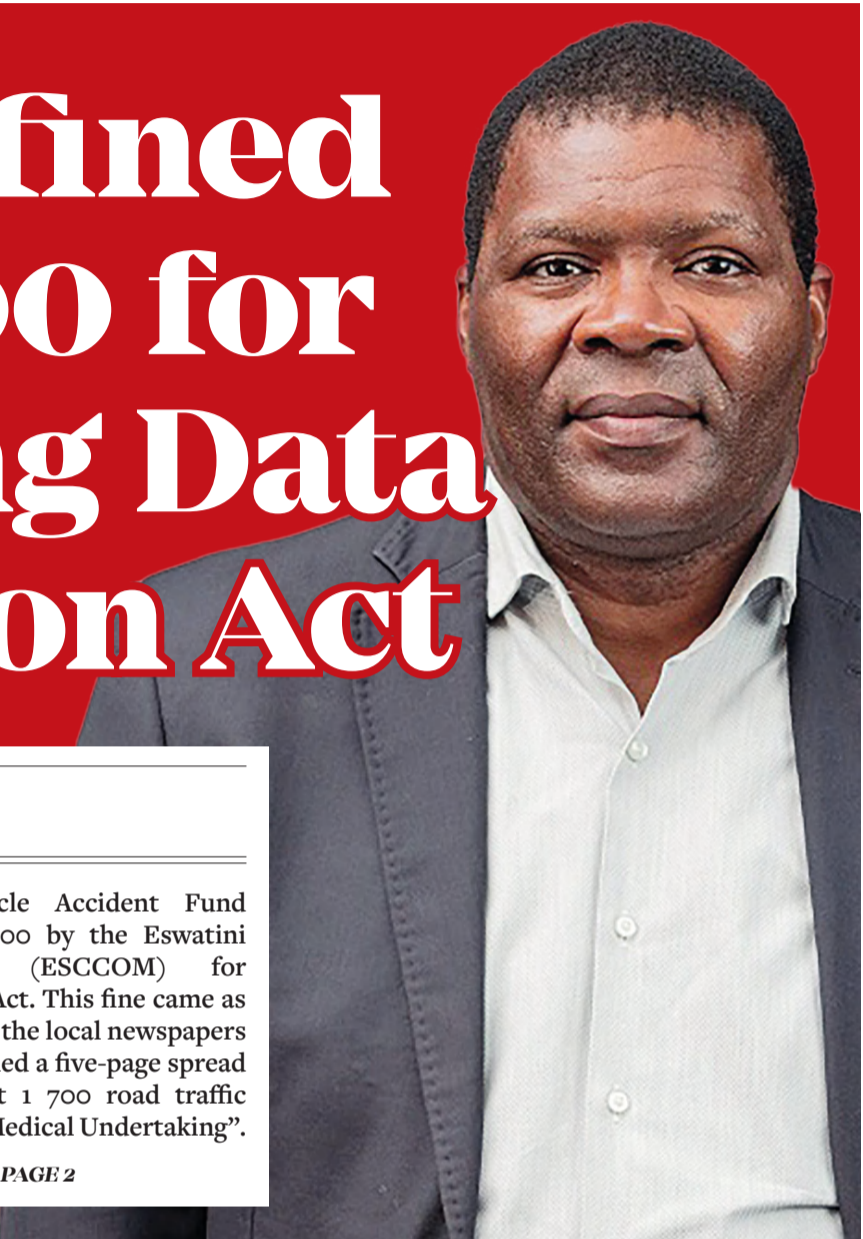



SMVAF fined E150 000 for breaching Data Protection Act

By Bahle Gama
bahleg@rubiconmedia.group

THE Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) has been fined E150 000 by the Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) for contravening the Data Protection Act. This fine came as a result of the publication in one of the local newspapers on August 1 whereby SMVA published a five-page spread of personal information of about 1 700 road traffic accident survivors, titled "Notice: Medical Undertaking".

■ SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 2



Court grants govt condonation of late filing of record

Page 3




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SMVAF fined E150 000 for breaching Data Protection Act

... published personal information of about 1 700 road accident survivors, including ID numbers

By Bahle Gama
bahleg@rubiconmedia.group

THE Sincephetelo Motor Vehicle Accident Fund (SMVAF) has been fined E150 000 by the Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM) for contravening the Data Protection Act.

This fine came as a result of the publication in one of the local newspapers on August 1 whereby SMVA published a five-page spread of personal information of about 1 700 road traffic accident survivors, titled "Notice: Medical Undertaking".

The ESCCOM is a regulatory authority established by the Eswatini Communications Commission Act, 2013 to regulate the electronic communications sector.

In March 2022, the Data Protection Act was passed to provide for the collection, processing, disclosure, and protection of personal information.

Section 5 of the Act designates the Commission as the Eswatini Data Protection Authority (EDPA) charged with the responsibility to administer the Act and enforce compliance thereto.

Acting on the strength of Section 35 (2) ESCCOM as EDPA initiated an investigation into the publication of the notice which contained the claim number, full names of claimants, and the national identity number or Graded Tax Number.

An analysis of the Notice led the EDPA to hold the prima facie view that the publication of the National Identity Numbers of the claimants was unlawful.

Breached

The disclosure of such information breached the data minimization principle enshrined in the Data Protection Act and served no purpose as the claimants were also advised in the same Notice to bring their National IDs for ease of verification.

Processing of personal data is regulated by section 9 of the Act which defines personal information as "information about an identifiable individual that is recorded in any form, including any unique identifying number, symbol or other particular assigned to the individual".

The EDPA considered the matter in its totality and determined that SMVA breached the Data Protection Act by disclosing, without any lawful reason, 1 600 National Identity numbers and about 63 Graded Tax numbers of claimants in a newspaper circulating widely around the country and available also on on-line platforms.

The Act prescribes that age is personal information that is also protected against un-



▲ SMVAF Building

lawful disclosure. In this instance, it is common cause that the National Identity Number of an individual is not just a number assigned to that individual but also reveals other protected aspects of personal information such as year, month and date of birth.

The disclosure of National Identity numbers exposed the claimants to identity theft and other potentially fraudulent activities carried out on their personal information because the Notice also contains the names of the claimants against the respective IDs.

The copies of the newspaper had already been widely distributed and in possession of members of the public locally and internationally through online platforms. The unlawful disclosure affected a large number of data subjects and thus the likelihood of harm to the claimants occasioned by the breach was considered significant by the EDPA.

SMVA was expected to notify the EDPA of a data breach in terms of Section 17 of the Act within 48 hours of receipt of the Enforcement Notice II, to notify the affected data subjects (claimants) of the data breach within 48 hours, and to forthwith cease publication or disclosure of the specified aspects of personal information, specifically the National Identity Numbers and/or Graded tax Numbers of the claimants.

Direct

The entity was also to direct the newspaper to destroy and de-identify the publicized identity and graded tax numbers of the claimants within 24 hours and further publish in the media an apology to the claimants whose ID and graded tax numbers had been disclosed to the public.

Further, to show cause within 48 hours why the EDPA should not impose an administrative fine as a sanction for the above-mentioned breach of the Act.

Taking action in accordance with Section 35 (a) and (b) as read with Section 37 (b), the EDPA



▲ The disclosure of such information breached the data minimization principle enshrined in the Data Protection Act and served no purpose as the claimants were also advised in the same Notice to bring their National IDs for ease of verification.

met with SMVA to receive representation on the matter and be guided on how to implement the EDPA's directive enunciated in the Enforcement Notice.

Consequently, SMVA complied with the directives, and the Notice was re-issued in one of the local newspapers, this time without the disclosure of the National Identity numbers or Graded Tax Numbers of the claimants.

Pursuant to the directive to show cause why the EDPA should not impose an administrative fine as a sanction, SMVA submitted that the Notice was published with the sole intention of updating the records of the claimants for purposes of performing contractual obligations owed to them in respect of providing medical care as recommended by doctors.

SMVA stated that the claimants had no reliable contact numbers and postal addresses, adding that the entity had inadvert-

ently flouted the Act for the first time and was caused by a misapprehension of the Act rather than ignorance thereof.

In taking its decision, the EDPA said SMVA showed remorse by promptly taking action to engage with the EDPA for guidance on the Enforcement Notice issued. SMVA also acted on the Enforcement Notice within 24 hours of the issue thereof and has committed to training its staff on the pertinent provisions of the Act.

"In light of the foregoing, the EDPA in the exercise of its enforcement powers under Section 6(4)(b) of the Act, hereby imposes a fine of E150 000," reads the

E100 000 was suspended for a period of two years on condition that SMVA is not found to have breached the Act within the suspended period.

E50 000 is expected to be paid within a period of 30 days from the date of the decision.



▲ ESCCOM CEO Mvilawempi Dlamini.

MICHAEL MASILELA'S CASE RETURNS TO COURT AS:

Court grants govt condonation of late filing of record

By Bahle Gama
bahleg@rubiconmedia.group

THE Supreme Court has granted government condonation of late filing of a record pending the application to oppose judgement by the High Court in favour of current MP candidate Michael Masilela.

Four years later, the Attorney General applied for a condonation appeal for the matter whereby there was the application for reinstatement.

According to a judgment by Judges Jacobus Annandale, Majahenkaba Dlamini, Sabelo Matsebula, and Judy Currie the matter was fully opposed and had reached the hearing stage, however, there was an application for deeming the appeal

abandoned in terms of Rule 30 and had also reached the hearing which was also opposed.

Then followed the application for condonation for the late filing of the record.

There were also applications for the late filing of heads in one or another of the applications before the court.

On the first meeting with the parties for the purpose of setting a date for the hearing of these diverse applications and counter applications, the court had considered it prudent to expedite the hearing of the appeal, it being relatively the more important object in the process.

After allowing the parties a short break to consider ways and means of hitting the target, the court thought the parties had agreed to abandon the preliminary issues and hear the appeal on the set date.

It is generally accepted that the appellants

may be at fault, the Respondent wanted costs in his favour. That was briefly considered and resulted in costs to be in the cause.

“But, alas, on the date set for the hearing, the edifice came down crushing like a house of cards at the instance of the Respondent (Masilela) who still wanted a determination on condonation for the late record. It sounded contradictory: it may have been due to a ‘typo’ in the order that turned out to have been issued. That is now water under the bridge,” reads the judgment.

The judgment further states that when the Court could not begin with the hearing of the appeal as had been anticipated, a short break to obtain the recording of what had happened on the first day, the parties had occasion to consider the way forward.

When the Court reconvened, the judges were informed by the learned Attorney-General that a tender had been offered to but rejected by Masilela. The result was that the application for condonation be heard then and defer the appeal indefinitely or pending the outcome of the condonation application.

The appealed judgment was reportedly delivered on October 22, 2018, and the appeal in question was noted on November 21, 2018. The record on appeal was lodged with the Registrar of the Court on February 13, 2019 which was considered to be three weeks late.

Appeal

Rule 30 (4) prescribes that unless there is an extension of time, if a record of appeal is not lodged within a period of two months from date of noting the appeal, the appeal shall be deemed to have been abandoned. However, Rule 17 of the Rules of this Court states that a litigant who has failed to comply with any rule of the Court may apply for condonation. In the application for the Court’s indulgence, the litigant must show sufficient cause. After the alleged lodging of the record, seemingly nothing happened; both parties seemingly went on vacation.

The apparent explanation for the lull was that Masilela had been unable to secure a place in the Senate and it would be some four years or so before there was a need to employ the services of the impugned section 5(3).

The judgement further states that somebody within the AG’s circle must have remembered that the validity or otherwise of section 5 (3) had not been finally settled at the appeal level.

This was about four years down the line and elections were again due soon. The AG hurriedly applied for ‘reinstatement’ of the appeal as if the appeal had earlier been on the roll but later removed therefrom.

“Unfortunately for the Appellants (AG), reinstatement is harder to justify than instatement. The latter is normally at the instance of the Registrar, with or without support of the litigant(s). In other words, if the appeal, with the record lodged, had not been enrolled for hearing, the Appellants needed only to request the Registrar to so enroll it — unless there was reason not to so enroll without a hearing.” The issue before Court was thus not that the record of appeal was not lodged, but that it was lodged out of time requiring the granting of condonation to clear the way for hearing the appeal.



▲ Attorney General Sifiso Khumalo.

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Essential health services still thriving after Covid-19

By Nokunceda Magagula

THE Director of Health and Services Dr. Velaphi Nhlengetfwa-Okero has stated that the Covid-19 pandemic did not have a detrimental impact on essential health services.

Delivering her speech during Thursday's closing of the National Health Semi-Annual Review (NAHSAR) held at Happy Valley, she asserted that the two-day meeting, attended by regional health management, health workers, and other health stakeholders, had been deliberating on the issues affecting the health sector.

Achievement

The director mentioned that the major achievement of the past year was that, on their assessment supported by UNICEF of the continuity of health services during the pandemic in the country, they discovered that essential services were not greatly affected. She added that this is the result of the hard work and resilience of health workers.

Expressing thoughts about the review meeting, the director noted that the growth of the meeting is visible. She stated that previously, the national health reviews



▲ The Director of Health Services Dr. Velaphi Nhlengetfwa-Okero delivering her speech.

focused on high-volume facilities and HIV-related performance. "We have now transitioned to involve more program areas and regional program managers in a bid to monitor performance toward program strategies and national health strategies."

A success highlighted in the review meeting was the health sector sustained high coverage of immunization, with the rollout of the HPV vaccine increasing by 60 per cent among eligible girls, and the continued decentralization of non-communicable diseases services in primary care clinics increasing by 65 per cent.

However, challenges were highlighted by different regions in the review meeting. The director stated that these challenges include



▲ Director of health services posing with the stakeholders after handing out certificates.

issues of stockouts of essential supplies, transport challenges, and data collection issues.

The director expressed that the health ministry is committed to coming up with solid actions to address these issues. However, some issues are beyond their control because they involve other ministries, especially when it comes to the availability of cash to run the sector.

The availability of cash to procure needed drugs is another challenge faced by the sector. However, the director said the ministry is working towards the transformation of central medical stores to be semi-autonomous and hopefully be protected from the economic shocks that

Eswatini has been facing over the past 10 years.

In her assessment, the director stated that the main challenge is the cycle of procurement to delivery but expressed confidence that with the current leadership of the central medical stores, there is frequent sharing of information to continuously find solutions to the challenges.

The director also mentioned that the hiring freeze for the Ministry of Health has caused a shortage of human resources and has exacerbated the challenges. However, the ministry has not been silent in addressing the issue and has adopted the approach of repeatedly sending requests to the MOPS and cabinet for additional positions.

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▲ Stakeholders listening attentively during the proceedings.

Stakeholders of NAHSAR given awards of appreciation

DR. Velephi Nhlengetfwa-Okero, the Director of Health Services, presented certificates of appreciation to stakeholders from various health programs for their outstanding work and active participation in the review meeting.

These awards were tokens of appreciation for the exceptional contributions they make in their respective roles within the health sector and for their valuable input during the National Health Semi-Annual Review (NAHSAR), which took place from Wednesday to Thursday.

TEN HEALTH PROGRAMS RECEIVED AWARDS, INCLUDING:

1. Non-Communicable
2. Cancer Control Unit
3. Neglected Tropical Diseases Program
4. Sexual Reproductive Health Program
5. Central Medical Stores
6. Malaria Program
7. National Nutrition Program
8. Integrated Management of Childhood Program
9. Eswatini National AIDS Program
10. Quality Management Program

Eswatini to celebrate World Tourism Day on September 27



▲ Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati visiting some of the stall displays during the World Tourism Month Launch at the at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology University.

By **Silindzelwe Nxumalo**
silindzelwen@rubiconmedia.group

THE Kingdom of Eswatini is set to celebrate World Tourism Day on the 27th of September at Ngwenya Glass.

This was announced by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati at the World Tourism Month Launch. The launch was held at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology University under the theme “Tourism and Green Investments: Investing in People, Planet and Prosperity” on Thursday.

Vilakati mentioned that this day would be closing off a series of activities throughout the month of September as a celebration of World Tourism Month, September.

He stated that within the context of this year’s theme, all the lined activities are set in place including clean-up campaigns.

“There would also be green-themed educational platforms that will highlight the importance of investing in tourism in a way that benefits all stakeholders, including people and most importantly, the planet,” he said.

The minister mentioned that in the previous years, they had dedicated the month of September to heightening awareness of and encouraging national involvement in tourism’s proven ability to foster meaningful and sustainable change for the collective development of various communities and the upliftment of different social groups in Eswatini.

He explained the theme by stating that the people pillar of the 2023 theme was there to encourage people, especially the youth, to invest in sustainable, green-themed projects.

He stated that some of the ways for youth to start green-themed projects for entrepreneurial purposes were through the identification of a problem or need, coming up with a solution, doing their research, creating a business plan, and getting funding to name but a few.

Vilakati said some examples of green-themed projects that youth could start for entrepreneurial purposes included a business that sells solar panels or other renewable energy products, a business that provides energy audits and consulting services, a

business that recycles or composts waste, and a business that provides sustainable transportation options, such as bike rentals or car sharing.

The minister said on the planet pillar, he said for decades, the Government of Eswatini had been utilizing brown different-sized envelopes clearly marked in bold, ‘Umhlaba Uyimphilo Yetfu- Wonge’.

“This can be simply translated as “The soil is our greatest asset, help conserve it”. This was and still is a constant reminder that the environment is essential for our survival. It provides us with the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat,” he said.

He explained that when people pollute the environment, they damage the natural systems that support life, and that climate change was one of the most pressing environmental challenges of their time.

Vilakati said climate change was already having a devastating impact on the planet, and it was only going to get worse if people do not take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We need to conserve the planet if we want to ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and future generations,” he said.

He mentioned that sustainable development was progress that met the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

“It requires us to use resources wisely and to protect the environment. There are many things we can do to conserve the planet,” he said.

He stated that they could reduce their consumption of resources, recycle, and compost, and choose sustainable products and services, and could also support organizations like, for example, the Eswatini Environmental Authority (EEA) that had a mandate to protect and conserve the environment.

The minister further alluded to the importance of investing in prosperity by fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in green-themed projects as a great way to create a sustainable future.

He said some of the ways to do this included providing funding and support for green entrepreneurs, creating a favorable regulatory environment for green businesses, and investing in education and training in green technologies.



▲ Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati delivering his speech.



▲ ETA CEO Linda Nxumalo making remarks during the launch.



▲ Limkokwing students had stalls on display.



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By Silindzelwe Nxumalo
silindzelwen@rubiconmedia.group

Youth Fund takes digital route

IT'S good news for aspiring youth entrepreneurs after the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) digitizes loan applications.

YERF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mandla Nkambule said after careful analysis of their clients' challenges of traveling long routes to access applications, the fund decided to adopt a more digitized approach to relieve the burden when submitting applications.

Nkambule mentioned that since the youth had become technology savvy, hence, the fund resolved to give them the opportunity to submit their loan applications online.

"Youth entrepreneurs can now enjoy seamless application, at the comfort of their individual places by visiting our website, www.yef.co.sz, and starting the application process," he said.

The CEO stated that the benefit of this type of service was that it was more convenient and easier, and the applicant would receive an instant automated response verifying the successful submission of their application.

He mentioned that applicants were expected to be ready to upload soft copies of their certified copies of IDs, business plans, land right or lease agreements, letters of intent, and any other relevant documents.

He further stated that the turnaround time for getting funded remained, at six weeks, whether they had submitted a physical application or submitted online applications.

"However, the online loan application expedites the commencement of the credit process as the uploaded information is automatically integrated into our loan management system," he said.

Application

Nkambule also encouraged the youth of Eswatini to continue forwarding their applications so that they could start or expand their businesses to achieve financial freedom.

He said as a fund they aspire to assist as many youths as possible so they could see the alleviation of the high unemployment and poverty rates.

"We trust in the youth of Eswatini as a catalyst for economic growth and development in the country," he said.

He stated that the loan applications were now continuous and could be done in the YERF website www.yef.co.sz.



▲ YERF CEO Mandla Nkambule.



▲ Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) engaging with the youth of Limkokwing during the World Tourism Month Launch at Limkokwing University.

Man rapes, assault ex-lover arrested

Stories by Nokunceda Magagula

AMIDST the alarming surge in domestic violence cases in Eswatini, Sakhile Shongwe has become another perpetrator facing charges.

He stands accused of rape and assault against his former girlfriend and has been subsequently arrested.

The alleged perpetrator of sexual and domestic violence, Sakhile Shongwe, appeared before Magistrate Lenhle Zulu at the Mbabane Magistrate Court. According to Shongwe's charge sheet, on September 12th, he engaged in an unlawful act with Thando* in the Ekufikeni area. As a result of this act, Shongwe is charged with violating Section 3(1) of the Sexual Offence and Domestic Violence Act.

A second charge has been brought against Shongwe, accusing him of violating Section 77(1)(a) of the act. On the same day, Shongwe is alleged to have unlawfully and wrongfully assaulted Thando using open



▲ Sakhile Shongwe during court adjournment at Mbabane Magistrate's Court.

hands.

During the court proceedings, the crown counselor requested that the accused be transferred to the high court due to the severity of the charges. However, Magistrate Zulu called for an adjournment

to review Shongwe's charges to determine if they warranted a high court trial. After an hour's break, the court reconvened, and Shongwe's case was indeed transferred to the high court. He will remain in custody until September 22nd. *Not real names

Unemployment drove me to sell dagga- Accused

SIPHILANGEZWI Vilakati informed Magistrate Lenhle Zulu during his appearance at the Mbabane Magistrate Court that he resorted to selling dagga due to his unemployment.

Vilakati was apprehended by the Royal Eswatini Police Service with 1.5 kilograms of dagga without the required legal permit, near the Ngwenya Border Gate. During his appearance, Vilakati pleaded guilty and expressed deep remorse for his actions. The dagga which was wrapped in brown masking tape was present in court as evidence.

As a consequence of his guilty plea, Vilakati received a sentence of 12 month's imprisonment or the option to pay a fine of E1500.

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BUSINESS SNIPPETS

'SARB to hold rate at September 21 meeting'

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's Reserve Bank will keep interest rates steady at 8.25% at its Sept. 21 meeting to curb the impact of fuel price inflation, according to nearly all economists polled by Reuters, but will start cutting borrowing costs early next year. In an almost unanimous poll taken Sept. 7-13, 29 of 30 economists said the South African Reserve Bank will keep rates steady.

Mango to expand online sales in Africa

MADRID — Spanish family-owned fashion retailer Mango has expanded its online sales in 20 markets, most of them in Africa, the company said in a statement on Thursday. Mango said it will launch e-commerce operations in countries such as Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Mali, Uganda or Madagascar with its brands for women, men and children. Mango was already present in several countries in the region with 54 stores under franchise contracts.

Vedanta hires former Gold Fields CEO

NAIROBI — Vedanta Resources has appointed South African mining veteran Chris Griffith to run its base metals unit, including its recently regained Zambian copper mines. Griffith stepped down as chief executive of Gold Fields in December, after a short stint at the Johannesburg-based gold producer, following an unsuccessful bid to buy Canadian Yamana Gold. (All stories Reuters)

ESWCAA, Mozambique civil aviation sign MoU

Stories By Silindzelwe Nxumalo
silindzelwen@rubiconmedia.group

ESWATINI Civil Aviation Authority (ESWCAA) and Mozambique Civil Aviation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to start operating the routes between the two countries.

This was during the Mozambique's Ministry of Transport and Communication Mateus Magala's visit to the kingdom of Eswatini at the Happy Valley Hotel on Wednesday.

ESWCAA Director General Andile Mthethwa said this MoU paved the way for the two contracting states to initiate negotiating an Air Service Agreement (ASA) that would allow for the different degrees of freedom of the air.

She mentioned that these were a set of commercial aviation rights granting a country's airlines the privilege to enter another country's airspace.

Mthethwa stated that an air service agreement was an international treaty between two or more nations that governs the rights of airlines from each country to fly in the other countries' airspace and land at their airports.

"These agreements are typically negotiated by the governments of each country," she said.

Mozambique Civil Aviation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Joao Martins de Abreu said moving forward both countries had agreed to maintain what the ASA recommends.

He stated that on their side they were ready



▲ Mozambique Civil Aviation's CEO Joao Martins de Abreu and ESWCAA Director General Andile Mthethwa signing the MOU in front of the ministers.

they were just waiting for Eswatini Air to speed up the process.

"Through these signatures or MoU we are agreeing that we will work together as a team," he said.

The two civil aviation authorities in the two countries have signed a Memorandum

of Understanding outlining the conditions of operations paving the way for the signing of the Air Service Agreement

The ASA will allow the free movement of international commercial air services within the member states. Both countries must expedite the signing of the ASA.

Close to 30 000 tourists visited Eswatini in 1st weekend of Sept

... Minister of Tourism tated that a sterling performance was observed from the regional market

A total of 26 145 tourists visited the country on the first weekend of September.

The Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs Moses Vilakati revealed that during the first weekend of September (1st to 4th), Eswatini held multiple events filled with colour and character.

The minister mentioned that the arrivals were recorded from main ports of entry comprising 49 per cent of international arrivals at 11 735.

Vilakati stated that a sterling performance was observed from the regional market with RSA at 69.8 per cent, Mozambique at 12.8 per cent, and Zimbabwe at 3.9 per cent boasting the highest recordings mostly boosted by their proximity to Eswatini.

The minister said the positive turnout may be attributed to the success of Eswatini tourism product activations in Maputo and Mpumalanga undertaken by the Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA) in August.

Vilakati also stated that from the international front, China, the Netherlands, and the USA recorded an average of 1.2 per cent owing to the recognition and responsiveness of the

international community to Eswatini as a diverse tourism destination.

He mentioned that the annual prestigious Umhlanga Reed dance ceremony took place at Ludzidzini Royal Residence charming regional and international visitors thereby heightening the unique cultural diversity of the Kingdom.

The minister said proximate to Umhlanga was the Swazi Rally which was an adventure event hosted at Sidvokodvo which had engines revving for bikers of the SADC region and beyond.

"The events gave tourism performance a boost as measured by growth in accommodation occupancy rates positively lifting revenue for facilities along Mbabane and Manzini via Sidvokodvo corridor," he said.

He stated that the overall room occupancy rate increased by 9.9 per cent in 2023 to record 75.7 per cent from 65.8 per cent in 2022.

He said hotels accounted for an occupancy rate of 74.8 per cent during the period under review and the smaller-sized accommodation establishments (Guest Houses and B&Bs) recorded an average room occupancy of 79.2 per cent.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ESWATINI

HELD AT MBABANE

CASE NO. 757/2023

In the matter between:

ESWATINI DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

Applicant

And

T & S ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD
NHLANHLA LUCKY DUBE

1st Respondent
2nd Respondent

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in the above matter, the undermentioned property will be sold by Public Auction by the Deputy Sheriff for the Hhohho Region, outside the Magistrate Court Building, Mbabane, at 11.30am on FRIDAY the 20th day of OCTOBER 2023.

CERTAIN: Portion 7 of Farm 1212 situate in the district of Hhohho, Eswatini.

MEASURING: 94,7831 (Ninety Four Seven Eight Three One) Square metres.

HELD: Under Deed of Transfer No.584/2020, dated 16th February 2011, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein

RESERVE PRICE: E4,000,000.00 (Four Million Emalangeni)

IMPROVEMENTS: Vacant land

Conditions of sale are available for inspection at the offices of the Sheriff in the High Court building in Mbabane and at the offices of the Regional Administrator, Mbabane. Further particulars may be obtained from the undersigned and the Plaintiff's attorneys.

DATED AT MBABANE ON THIS 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

THE REGISTRAR OF THE HIGH COURT
MBABANE

JELE/vw/f.603L



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| G.B. Pound | 22.9974 | 23.6814 |
| EURO | 19.8213 | 20.4305 |
| Bank Rate (July 2023) | 7.50% | |
| Prime Rate (July 2023) | 11% | |
| Inflation (July 2023) | 4.5% | |
| Petrol | E22.30/Litre | |
| Diesel | E23.10/Litre | |
| Paraffin | E16.45/Litre | |



'SARB to hold rate at September 21 meeting, chop 75 basis points in 2024'

By Vuyani Ndaba

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 14 (Reuters) - South Africa's Reserve Bank will keep interest rates steady at 8.25% at its Sept. 21 meeting to curb the impact of fuel price inflation, according to nearly all economists polled by Reuters, but will start cutting borrowing costs early next year.

In an almost unanimous poll taken Sept. 7-13, 29 of 30 economists said the South African Reserve Bank will keep rates steady. One opted for a 50 basis point hike to 8.75%.

"I expect no further rate hikes in South Africa - and the first cut in rates might come in the first quarter of 2024, rates could be lower by 100 to 125 bps by the end of 2024," said Johann Els, chief economist of Old Mutual Investment Group.

The poll's medians suggested the bank will cut in the first quarter of next year

by 25 basis points, chop another 25 basis points in May - the only meeting in that quarter - and a final cut for the horizon is expected in the third quarter, to 7.75%. In the U.S., where policy tends to affect the rest of the world, the Federal Reserve will leave its benchmark overnight interest rate unchanged at the end of its Sept. 19-20 policy meeting and probably until the April-June period of 2024, according to economists in a Reuters poll.

The latest survey suggests inflation will quicken to 5.2% in the next two quarters, then moderate closer to the mid-point of the Reserve Bank's 3%-6% comfort zone. This year it is expected to average 5.8% and 4.9% next year.

"While the September and October CPI data will be under upward pressure due to petrol price increases, I expect that uplift to be temporary," added Els.

"Food inflation is still on a declining trend plus the sharp rise in petrol prices might turn out to be deflationary in that it crowds out other consumer spending and thus



▲A view shows the logo of South Africa's central reserve bank, at the reserve bank offices in Pretoria, South Africa.

keeps a lid on price increases elsewhere."

Economists upped their outlook for this year and the median for annual 2023 GDP growth is now 0.7%, 0.4 percentage points higher than in an August survey, after the economy recorded a greater-than-expected expansion last quarter.

JPMorgan wrote in a note that the solid

second-quarter gain reflected continued catch-up from the 4Q22 hole, increased investment in renewable energy and a reduced intensity of power cuts.

However, South Africa's power utility Eskom recently said power cuts would be more intense until further notice. (Reuters)

Spain's fashion retailer Mango to expand online sales in Africa



▲Spanish fashion chain Mango's store in Ronda, Spain.

MADRID — Spanish family-owned fashion retailer Mango has expanded its online sales in 20 markets, most of them in Africa, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

Mango said it will launch e-commerce operations in countries such as Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Mali, Uganda or Madagascar with its brands for women, men and children. Mango was already present in several countries in the region with 54 stores under franchise contracts.

It will also start online operations in Haiti,

the Dominican Republic and Bermuda. Earlier this year, Mango had launched its online business in Brazil.

Online sales accounted for 36% of the company's revenue in 2022, closing at around 960 million euros, Mango said, out of a total 2.68 billion euros, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

The company, which operates in 115 markets around the world, also plans to open more stores in the United States and India this year to have 40 and 110 respectively. The fashion retailer has currently 2,615 shops worldwide. (Reuters)

FirstRand posts 11% rise in annual profit

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's FirstRand Ltd on Thursday posted an 11% rise in annual profit as the bank benefitted from rising interest rates even as its bad loans rose.

Its headline earnings per share rose to 6.49 rand (\$0.3458) for the year ending June 30 from 5.84 rand a year ago, the bank said.

FirstRand, the country's largest lender by market value, announced a dividend of 3.84 cents per share.

The top five private South African banks -

among the continent's biggest - are generally considered well-capitalised, conservative in lending and help drive an otherwise ailing economy.

But inflation, high interest rates, regular power blackouts and logistical bottlenecks are taking a toll on its most sensitive retail and small business customers, leading to defaults.

FirstRand posted a credit loss ratio (CLR) - a measure of bad loans versus total loans - of 78 basis points, up from 56 basis points last year. (Reuters)



▲Chris Griffith, CEO of Goldfields, speaks to Reuters at the African Mining Indaba 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Vedanta hires former Gold Fields chief executive to run copper, zinc mines

NAIROBI — Vedanta Resources has appointed South African mining veteran Chris Griffith to run its base metals unit, including its recently regained Zambian copper mines.

Griffith stepped down as chief executive of Gold Fields in December, after a short stint at the Johannesburg-based gold producer, following an unsuccessful bid to buy Canadian Yamana Gold.

Much of Griffith's career has been at Anglo American where he ran Kumba Iron Ore and was instrumental in restructuring and turning around Anglo American Platinum.

Griffith will head Vedanta's base metals unit, including zinc mines in Namibia and South Africa, an iron ore business in Liberia and will have oversight over processing businesses in the Middle East and India.

A mining engineer, Griffith will probably be more focused on restoring Konkola Copper Mines to profitable operation after the Indian company was given back control of the assets by Zambian authorities after years of protracted battle over the ownership.

"I look forward to driving innovation, operational efficiency and sustainable growth across Vedanta's base metals businesses, creating KCM as a cornerstone asset for the company and growing the group internationally," he said in a statement.

Vedanta has pledged to invest about \$1 billion in the Zambian operation, where some of its underground mines "need immediate recapitalisation", Mines Minister Paul Kibuswe said on September 5. (Reuters)

AFTERMATH OF LIBYA FLOODS

Casualties could have been avoided with warning system – WMO chief



▲ A general view of Derna, Eastern Libya, 13 September 2023, days after Storm Daniel brought heavy rains to the area.

THE use of advance warning systems would have lessened the casualties and damage caused by the recent devastating floods in Libya, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday.

"If there had been advance warning we could have avoided most of the human casualties in Libya," Petteri Taalas, the WMO's secretary-general, told reporters in Geneva where he presented the United in Science 2023 report.

With properly functioning systems, "they could have issued the warnings and the emergency management forces would have been able to carry out the evacuation of the people," he added.

On economic losses from the floods, he said: "Of course, we cannot fully avoid economic losses, but we could have also minimized those losses, having proper services in place."

At least 6,000 people have been killed and thousands of others remain missing due to the weekend floods in eastern Libya, according to officials.

Torrential rains swept several regions, most notably the cities of Derna, Benghazi,

Al-Bayda, Al-Marj, and Soussa.

Climate change undermines almost every sustainable goal, says report

Halfway through the 2030 agenda, the science is clear that the planet is not on track to meet its climate goals, according to the United in Science report.

Taalas warned that this setback has serious implications for global efforts to eradicate hunger, poverty, and ill health, and improve access to clean water and energy, as well as many other aspects of sustainable development.

According to the report, only 15% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track.

"Groundbreaking scientific and technological advances, such as high-resolution climate modelling, artificial intelligence and nowcasting, can catalyze transformation to achieve the SDGs," Taalas said.

He added: "And achieving Early Warnings for All by 2027 will not only save lives and livelihoods but also help safeguard sustainable development."

He stressed that the urgency for scientific solutions "is now greater than ever."

Between 1970 and 2021, almost 12,000

weather, climate and water-related disasters were reported, resulting in more than 2 million deaths and \$4.3 trillion in economic loss, according to the report. Developing economies experienced over 90% of these deaths and 60% of economic losses, which hinder sustainable development.

As the rise in global temperatures has led to an increase in extreme weather conditions, the report showed that the likelihood of the average global near-surface temperature surpassing 1.5C (34.7F) above pre-industrial levels for one or more of the next five years is 66%, and this percentage is rising over time.

Thus far, there has been only minimal advancement in narrowing the emissions gap for 2030, it said, adding that fossil fuel CO2 emissions increased globally by 1% in 2022 compared to 2021, and preliminary estimates from January to June 2023 indicate a further 0.3%

rise.

To achieve the Paris Agreement's objectives of limiting warming to below 2C (35.6F) and preferably 1.5C, global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 30% and 45%, respectively, by 2030, with CO2 emissions approaching net zero by 2050, it underlined.

Taalas underscored that achieving this goal will require large-scale, swift, and systemic changes. Some changes in the future climate are inevitable and possibly irreversible, however, the report emphasized that each fraction of a degree and every ton of CO2 has a significant impact on slowing down global warming and accomplishing the SDGs. The annual report combined information and expertise from 18 organizations and it is released before the SDG Summit and Climate Ambition Summit at the UN General Assembly.

WORLD IS NOT HEADING TOWARDS END

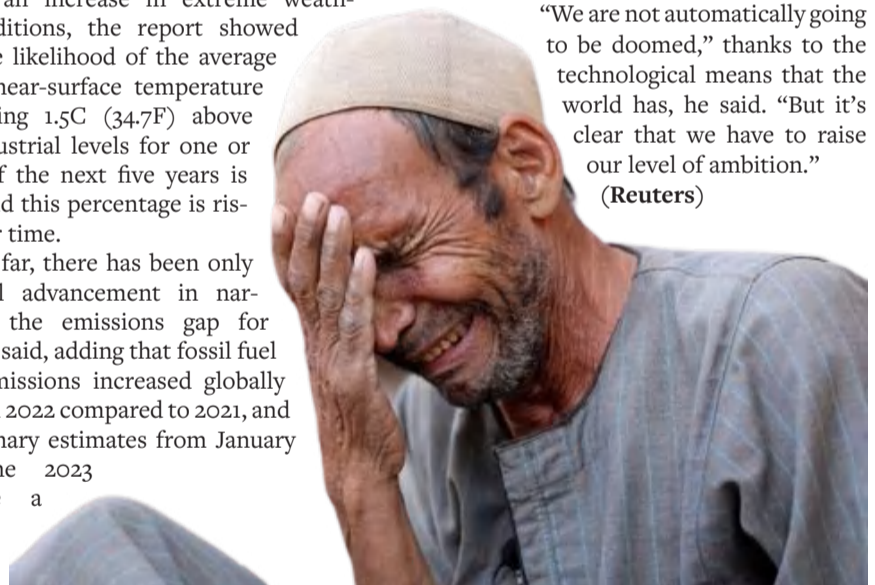
Responding Anadolu's question regarding the panic caused by the increase in number of extreme weather events, Taalas said: "We are not heading towards the end of the world. We are not heading towards the end of mankind, or biosphere."

"But we are talking about different scales of gray for the future," he said. If the world can reach Paris limits, people would see light gray which means the negative impacts of climate will be in liveable with, he added.

"If we fail with climate mitigation, and if we head towards 2.8C, which is at the moment the pathway where we are on, we would see dramatically more negative impacts of climate sense," Taalas said.

"We are not automatically going to be doomed," thanks to the technological means that the world has, he said. "But it's clear that we have to raise our level of ambition."

(Reuters)



Guptas R366m payback offer to IDC signed, sealed, delivered

THREE months after putting up fierce resistance to a deal with the Guptas, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has signed off on a settlement totalling R366-million.

In doing this, the IDC appears to have satisfied earlier concerns it had about the source of funds to be used for payment or its obligations under the Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA).

A draft settlement signed by both sides was submitted to the high court last week and made final on Wednesday, 13 September 2023.

The deal provides for an unfamiliar company, Africa Gulf International Mining (AGIM), to put up the R366-million settlement figure.

This covers the balance of a 2010 loan the IDC dispensed to help the Gupta family's acquisition of Shiva Uranium, the interest and legal fees.

AGIM must pay the IDC via a direct deposit within 30 days of Wednesday's court order.

The entire arrangement is pursuant to AGIM's own unspecified commercial agreement with the Gupta-owned Oakbay Resources which owns Shiva.

Court papers do not provide any details about the company, but a cursory check of electronic company records shows it was registered in South Africa a year ago and lists only one current director, a 29-year-old by the name of Helmi Tatakani.

(Daily Maverick)



▲ Aiqbal Sharma and Ronica Ragavan appear in the Bloemfontein High Court.

Tech titans meet US lawmakers, Musk seeks 'referee' for AI

TESLA CEO Elon Musk called on Wednesday for a U.S. "referee" for artificial intelligence after he, Meta Platforms CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai met with lawmakers at Capitol Hill behind closed doors at for a forum on regulating AI. Lawmakers are seeking ways to mitigate dangers of the emerging technology, which has boomed in investment and consumer popularity since the release of OpenAI's ChatGPT chatbot.

Safe use

Musk said it was need for a regulator to ensure the safe use of AI.

"It's important for us to have a referee," Musk told reporters, comparing it to sports. The billionaire, who also owns the social media platform X, added that a regulator would "ensure that companies take actions that are safe and in the interest of the general public."

Musk said the meeting was a "service to humanity" and said it "may go down in history as very important to the future of civilization."

Musk confirmed he had called AI "a double-edged sword" during the forum.

Zuckerberg said Congress "should engage with AI to support innovation and safeguards. This is an emerging technology, there are important equities to balance here, and the government is ultimately responsible for that." He added it was "better that the



▲ Musk said the meeting was a "service to humanity" and said it "may go down in history as very important to the future of civilisation."

standard is set by American companies that can work with our government to shape these models on important issues."

More than 60 senators took part. Lawmakers said there was universal agreement about the need for government regulation of AI, but it was unclear how long it might take and how it would look.

Republican Senator Mike Rounds said it would take time for Congress to act. "Are

we ready to go out and write legislation? Absolutely not," Rounds said. "We're not there."

New Jersey Senator Cory Booker said all participants agreed "the government has a regulatory role" but crafting legislation would be a challenge.

Lawmakers want safeguards against potentially dangerous deepfakes such as bogus videos, election interference and

attacks on critical infrastructure.

"Today, we begin an enormous and complex and vital undertaking: building a foundation for bipartisan AI policy that Congress can pass," U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a Democrat, said. "Congress must play a role, because without Congress we will neither maximize AI's benefits, nor minimize its risks."

Other attendees included Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates and AFL-CIO labor federation President Liz Shuler.

Schumer, who discussed AI with Musk in April, said attendees would talk "about why Congress must act, what questions to ask, and how to build a consensus for safe innovation." In March, Musk and a group of AI experts and executives called for a six-month pause in developing systems more powerful than OpenAI's GPT-4, citing potential risks to society.

(Reuters)

“Congress must play a role, because without Congress we will neither maximize AI's benefits, nor minimize its risk”

Belgium reviews Apple's iPhone 12 after France halts sales over radiation

BELGIUM said on Thursday it would review the potential health risks linked to Apple's iPhone 12, becoming the latest European country to react after France ordered a halt to sales citing breaches of radiation exposure limits.

Apple on Wednesday said the iPhone 12, launched in 2020, was certified by multiple international bodies as compliant with radiation standards and that it was contesting France's findings.

But Paris' move to halt iPhone 12 sales until Apple fixes the radiation issues detected in two tests raised the prospect of further bans in Europe.

Researchers have conducted a vast number of studies over the last two decades to assess health risks resulting from mobile phones. According to the World Health Organization, no adverse health effects have been established as being caused by mobile phone

use. "It is my duty to make sure all citizens ... are safe," Mathieu Michel, Belgium's state secretary for digitalization, said in a statement emailed to Reuters.

"I have rapidly reached out to the IBPT-BIPT (regulator) to ask for an analysis about the potential danger of the product," Michel said, adding he had also asked the regulator to review all Apple smartphones, as well as devices made by other producers, at a later stage.

Germany's network regulator BNetzA reiterated that the work in France could act as a guide for Europe as a whole and that it would examine the issue for the German market if the process in France had progressed sufficiently.

The Dutch digital watchdog also said it was looking into the matter and would ask the U.S. firm for an explanation, while stressing there was "no acute safety risk."

(Reuters)



▲ John Schmidlein, a lawyer for Google, during cross-examination of Rangel, pointed out that a significant number of user search queries went to Google even when another search engine was the default.

US alleges Google got rich because people stick with search defaults

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department pressed its argument on Thursday that Google sought to strike agreements with mobile carriers to win powerful default positions on smartphones to dominate search in an antitrust trial that could change the future of the internet.

The government wrapped up questioning of Antonio Rangel, who teaches behavioral biology at the California Institute of Technology on Thursday morning. Rangel discussed how consumers were likely to stick with browsers on computers and mobile phones that were pre-installed as the default application.

The government says the Alphabet unit paid \$10 billion annually to wireless

companies like AT&T, device makers like Apple and browser makers like Mozilla to be the default search engine on devices to fend off rivals and keep its search engine market share near 90%.

John Schmidlein, a lawyer for Google, during cross-examination of Rangel, pointed out that a significant number of user search queries went to Google even when another search engine was the default.

A major part of Google's defense is that the government is wrong to say that Google broke the law to hold onto its massive market share because its search engine is wildly popular because of its quality, and that any payments to wireless companies or others were fair compensation for partners.

(Reuters)

Nigeria power grid collapse causes nationwide blackouts

LAGOS — Nigeria's electricity distribution companies reported "a total system collapse" on Thursday, causing widespread blackouts across Africa's biggest economy, before power slowly started to return.

Power generation fell to zero in the early hours and had risen to 1,096 megawatts (MW) by 1245 GMT, still well below the daily average of 4,100 MW, data from the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) showed.

TCN did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Grid power supply is erratic in Nigeria, a major oil and gas producer, forcing households and businesses including oil firms and manufacturers to use diesel and petrol generators.

Dickson Bolodeku, an executive at technology firm Bayelsa Tech Hub in the southern oil-producing Bayelsa state, said a prolonged blackout could see his

company spending more on fuel for a back-up generator after President Bola Tinubu removed a subsidy on fuel in May.

"The cost of fuelling a generator is eating into our finances and as a tech business that relies on power, this is a heavy burden to bear," Bolodeku said.

In Lagos, despite enduring power cuts on an almost daily basis, some people were surprised at the nationwide blackout.

Lagos-based Eko Electricity Distribution Company, one of the biggest, said power was being restored from the grid.

The grid collapsed at least four times in 2022, which authorities blamed on technical problems.

Nigeria has 12,500 MW of installed capacity but produces about a quarter of that.

Tinubu has promised to improve supply by allowing state governments to build their own power plants in a bid to help spur sluggish economic growth.

(Reuters)



▲ High-tension electrical power lines are seen at the Azura-Edo Independent Power Plant (IPP) on the outskirts of Benin City in Edo state, Nigeria.

US to withhold \$85 million aid to Egypt over political detentions

By Humeyra Pamuk and Arshad Mohammed

WASHINGTON — The United States plans to withhold \$85 million in military aid to Egypt because of Cairo's failure to meet U.S. conditions on freeing political prisoners and other issues, according to a congressional notification obtained by Reuters and a U.S. senator.

Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat, urged the Biden administration to withhold \$235 million more, and two other sources familiar with the matter said a decision on those funds was expected soon.

"We are consulting with Congress as we finalize our actions," said a State Department spokesperson when asked about Murphy's comments on the Senate floor.

Of the \$85 million that is being withheld, \$55 million will be redirected to Taiwan, and the remaining \$30 million to Lebanon, a State Department letter to congressional committees laying out the foreign military financing showed.

The Egyptian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"The administration rightly decided to withhold that first tranche - \$85 million tied to the release of political prisoners - because there's just no question there has not been enough progress," Senator Murphy said.

"I would urge the administration to finish the job and withhold the full \$320 million ... until Egypt's human rights and democracy record improves," he added.

Rights groups have long accused Egypt of widespread human rights abuses under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government, including torture and enforced disappearances.

Egyptian authorities have taken some steps since late 2021 that they say aim to address



▲ Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi attends the Arab League Summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

rights, including launching a human rights strategy and ending a state of emergency, but critics have dismissed the measures as largely cosmetic.

Some high-profile detainees have been pardoned or released but activists say new detentions have outnumbered releases and that thousands of political prisoners remain in jail, with restrictions on free speech as tight as ever.

For decades, the United States has given Egypt about \$1.3 billion a year in aid to buy U.S. weapons systems and services. This aid is largely the result of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Over the last decade or so, the U.S. Congress has made some aid subject to human rights conditions.

Under U.S. law, \$85 million is contingent on Egypt "making clear and consistent progress in releasing political prisoners, providing detainees with due process of law, and preventing the intimidation and harassment of American citizens."

These conditions cannot be waived by the executive branch.

A further \$235 million is conditioned on

Egypt meeting democracy and human rights requirements. These conditions, however, can be waived if the executive branch certifies this is in the U.S. national security interest.

There is a further loophole for the \$235 million, which can be given to Egypt regardless if it is for "counterterrorism, border security and nonproliferation programs for Egypt."

Last year, Washington allowed the full \$75 million that was then contingent on progress on political detentions and allowed a further \$95 million to go to Egypt under the counterterrorism, border security and non-proliferation exception.

This amounted to a decision to withhold \$130 million, the same amount as the year before.

The \$85 million withheld "is an important reversal from last year," said Seth Binder of the Project on Middle East Democracy rights group. "But if the administration withholds less than it has the last two years it would in essence be saying to al-Sisi that it believe the Egyptian government has improved its rights record, which is just not true." (Reuters)

United Nations special envoy to Sudan to step down

By Michelle Nichols

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations special envoy to Sudan is stepping down, more than three months after Sudan declared him unwelcome after disagreements between rival factions erupted into war.

"I am grateful to the Secretary-General for that opportunity and for his confidence in me, but I have asked him to relieve me of this duty," envoy Volker Perthes told the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, 2 -1/2 years after taking the job.

Sudan's army (SAF) - led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan - and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began fighting each other in April, sparking a humanitarian crisis. More than one million people have since fled ethnic and sexual violence to neighboring countries.

"What started as a conflict between two military formations could be morphing into a full-blown civil war," Perthes warned on Wednesday.

Perthes told the 15-member Security Council that there was "little doubt who is responsible for what" in the conflict.

"Often indiscriminate aerial bombing is conducted by those who have an airforce, which is the SAF. Most of the sexual violence, lootings and killings happen in areas controlled by the RSF and are conducted or tolerated by the RSF and their allies," he said during his last council briefing.

He also said that both sides were arbitrarily arresting, detaining, and "even torturing civilians" and there were reports of extrajudicial killings. (Reuters)

Mexican Congress holds hearing on UFOs featuring purported 'alien' bodies

MEXICO CITY — Mexican lawmakers heard testimony that “we are not alone” in the universe and saw the alleged remains of non-human beings in an extraordinary hearing marking the Latin American country’s first congressional event on UFOs.

In the hearing on Tuesday on FANI, the Spanish acronym for what are usually now termed Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP), politicians were shown two artifacts that Mexican journalist and long-time UFO enthusiast Jaime Maussan claimed were the corpses of extraterrestrials.

The specimens were not related to any life on Earth, Maussan said.

The two tiny “bodies,” displayed in cases, have three fingers on each hand and elongated heads. Maussan said they were recovered in Peru near the ancient Nazca Lines in 2017. He said that they were about 1,000 years old, analyzed through a carbon dating process by Mexico’s National Autonomous University (UNAM).

Similar such finds in the past have turned out to be the remains of mummified children.

Maussan said it was the first time such evidence had been presented.

“I think there is a clear demonstration that we are dealing with non-human specimens that are not related to any other species in our world and that all possibilities are open for any scientific institution... to investigate it,” Maussan said.

“We are not alone,” he added.

Jose de Jesus Zalce Benitez, Director of the Scientific Institute for Health of the Mexican navy, said X-rays, 3-D reconstruction and DNA analysis had been carried out on the remains.

“I can affirm that these bodies have no relation to human beings,” he said.

UNAM on Thursday republished a statement first issued in 2017, saying the work by its National Laboratory of Mass Spectrometry with Accelerators (LEMA) was only intended to determine the age of



▲ Remains of an allegedly ‘non-human’ being is seen on display during a briefing on unidentified flying objects, known as UFOs, at the San Lazaro legislative palace, in Mexico City, Mexico.

the samples.

“In no case do we make conclusions about the origin of said samples,” the statement said.

Lawmakers also heard from former U.S. Navy pilot Ryan Graves, who has participated in U.S. Congressional hearings about his personal experience with UAP and the stigma around reporting such sightings.

Congressman Sergio Gutierrez, from President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador’s ruling Morena party, said he hoped the hearing would be the first of other similar events in Mexico.

“We are left with reflections, with concerns and with the path to continue talking about this,” Gutierrez said.

In recent years, the U.S. government has done an about-face on public information on UAP after decades of stonewalling and deflecting. The Pentagon has been actively investigating reported sightings in recent years by military aviators, while an independent NASA panel studying UFOs is the first of its kind by the space agency.

NASA is set to discuss findings from the study on Thursday.

Maussan faced swift backlash and criticism from skeptics on Wednesday who questioned the authenticity of his presentation.

“This could really hurt efforts to take the issue seriously,” said a user of X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter. “Why didn’t they wait until a scientific paper was ready to publish it?” (Reuters)

India’s Nipah virus trackers gather samples from bats, fruit

NEW DELHI — Experts have fanned out in India’s southern state of Kerala to collect samples of fluid from bats and fruit trees in a region where the deadly Nipah virus has killed two people and three more have tested positive.

The state is battling its fourth outbreak since 2018 of a virus for which there is no vaccine, and which spreads through contact with the body fluids of infected bats, pigs or people, killing up to 75% of those infected.

“We are testing human beings ... and at the same time experts are collecting fluid samples from forested areas that could be the hotspot for the spread,” Veena George, the state’s health minister, told Reuters.

Samples of bat urine, animal droppings and half-eaten fruit were collected from Maruthonkara, the village where the first victim lived, set beside a 300-acre (121-hectare) forest home to several bat species.

Fruit bats from the area had tested positive for the Nipah virus during an outbreak in 2018, the state’s first.

“We are in a stage of hypervigilance and detection,” George said, adding that 77 people had been identified as being at high risk of infection.

Nearly 800 people have been tested over the last 48 hours in the state’s district of Kozhikode, with two adults and a child put in hospital for observation after proving positive.

Public offices, government buildings, educational centres and religious institutions were shut in nine villages of the district, while public transport was suspended in the area at risk.

The virus can infect a range of animals, fuelling the chances of spread. It can be caught either through direct contact or by consumption of contaminated food.

It was first identified in 1999 during an outbreak of illness among pig farmers and others in close contact with the animals in Malaysia and Singapore.

Outbreaks are sporadic and previous infections in South Asia were traced to consumption of items contaminated with bat excreta. (Reuters)

By Josh Smith

‘Comrades’ Putin and Kim send rivals a warning

SEOUL — Whatever practical cooperation emerges from this week’s summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, their deepening relationship is aimed at sending their rivals a warning, analysts said.

Calling each other “comrade”, the men toasted their friendship on Wednesday after Putin showed Kim around Russia’s most modern space launch facility and they held talks alongside their defence ministers.

The two countries have an interest in demonstrating that, despite their geopolitical isolation, they have partners they can call on. And both seek to weaken U.S.-led sanctions and pressure campaigns, against Russia over the war in Ukraine and against North Korea for its nuclear weapons and missile programs, analysts said.

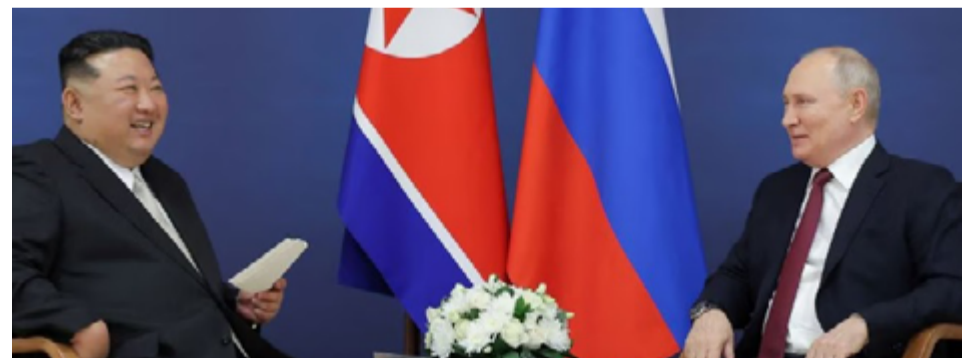
“Putin and Kim would both gain from a transactional bargain but they would also gain

geopolitically by giving off the impression that their nuclear-armed countries are cooperating militarily and sending a warning about potential consequences to America’s allies and like-minded partners that support Ukraine,” said Duyeon Kim, of the Center for a New American Security.

“Kim would also be signalling to Washington, Seoul and Tokyo that Russia has his back in Northeast Asia.”

Both Russia and North Korea have denied U.S. claims that they plan to provide each other with weapons, but the leaders promised to deepen defence cooperation, and Putin said Russia would help the North build satellites. If they simply wanted a secret arms deal, the two leaders did not have to meet in person, said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

“Putin and Kim’s diplomatic display is meant to claim success in challenging the U.S.-led international order, avoiding over-reliance on China, and increasing pressure



▲ Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un attend a meeting at the Vostochny Cosmodrome in the far eastern Amur region, Russia.

on rivals in Ukraine and South Korea,” he said.

Discussions of any open violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea would signal that major international agencies will be paralysed, said Andrei Lankov, a Korea expert at Seoul’s Kookmin University.

The summit is an indicator that North

Korea-related Security Council resolutions are dead, as are all attempts to stop North Korea or penalise it for having a nuclear program, he said.

“It creates an important precedent that is likely to be used not only by Russia but pretty much every major international player that if you don’t like a UNSC resolution you just ignore it,” Lankov said. (Reuters)

FACES AND PLACES



▲ A young boy at Mncitsini Mbabane carrying a tile cutter machine on his back.



▲ People been flocking town on a hot sunny day in Swazi Plaza Mbabane.



▲ Men from the Municipal City of Mbabane setting up a land surveying machine in Mbabane, Mahlokohla Street.



▲ Men in the busy street of Mbabane welding & soldering iron on the pavement, Madlenya Street.



▲ In construction: Workers in their safety gear getting using a step ladder to drop off the Central Bank Building.



▲ A truck offloading a forklift at the old Engen filling Station, in Mbabane Sozisa Street.



▲ Car Wash on sight: A man washing a car at Msunduza, Mbabane.

Amapiano to the world:

Uncle Waffles hits 100 International performances mark

Stories by Siphesihle Dlamini

COMING from a country where artists struggle to get even a single International show, Uncle Waffles has surpassed the 100 International performances mark for 2023, and it's only just the third quarter of the year.

Uncle Waffles recently took to social media to celebrate the milestone and also promised to finish things off strong for the year. "I can never thank you enough, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. 2023 has been nothing but grace," reads her Instagram post.

She further shared another post, captioned, "Canada, thank you for the warm welcome."

The third tour of the year is in full effect. 100+ International shows this year. Let's finish strong babies."

The Eswatini-born 'Princess of Amapiano', keeps hoisting the Eswatini flag high as she has been taking the Amapiano genre to various cities worldwide and has gained international recognition, catching the attention of artists like Drake and Ciara. Uncle Waffles is currently on tour in the UK.

Last month, she made it to Spotify's



▲ Uncle Waffles.

Times Square and Toronto Dundas Square billboards where the platform (Spotify) usually displays top artists' latest released music on the iconic Square.

She has also been featured in the Galore

Magazine as the cover girl. Exceptionally, Uncle Waffle's brand power has seen her officially launch a new campaign with KFC, the KFC Uncle Waffles burger which is now available in selected stores.

Deep Narratives, DJ Amenisto for 'Floating Angels'

DEEP House's sensational duo, Deep Narratives and DJ Amenisto's fans have all the reasons to be happy as the DJs are set to perform at the Mega Lounge this Saturday.

The duo (Deep Narratives) will play at the second edition of the Floating Angels, which features an exciting line-up of house music acts namely, De Wolf, San-MuShaido, Knoxman, Hallux, Nana Zulu, and Mayas. The cover-charge for the show is E100.

Deep Narratives have recently dropped their new song titled 'Insimbi', which features South African DJ Culoe De Song and Zvri. The song is currently making waves globally. They have also recently released a special song titled 'Umsindo', which is also doing well on digital streaming platforms. They have performed in numerous big events including 'Africa Is Not A Jungle' show that was hosted by Black Coffee, 'Deep In The City' hosted by Euphonik and Black Coffee, 'U'R' by Shimza, and 'House Party' on Channel O which is hosted by Shimza and PH.

Similarly, DJ Amenisto is also a well-known South African DJ who boasts of having released a successful album at the age of 26 years, under international company SONY/BMG. He has also collaborated on songs with national music heavyweights including DJ Tira, and Big Nuz to mention a few. The DJ is well known for moving dance floors across



▲ Deep Narratives.

the southern hemisphere of the African continent, with his different genres of dance music which features the kick drum. It was under Afrotainment that the DJ's career blossomed when he collaborated with DJ Tira, DJ Aero, and Big Nuz where he released the hit song 'Imihlola ka James', compiled on DJ Tira's Ezase-Afro Volume 2 album.

Inspiration

When asked about the inspiration behind hosting this show, event organizer and DJ, Hallux said "We may not know where we're

going, but we know that as long as we spread our wings, the winds will carry us. This is a growing season for 'Floating Angels' to open up a new story in the arts and music industry of Eswatini and Internationally," Hallux said. He further stated that as artists, they are still communicating the idea that all of them are carriers of universal messages, with their art, more especially with House music, which is a spiritual language that connects senses when words fail to express feelings and vibes.



▲ Lifestyle Experience PRO Mahlubi Dlamini.

Lifestyle Experience to host 'Dress Like a Barbie'

THE Sundeck Rooftop Mbabane is set to be painted pink as fun lovers are expected to rock their pink outfits for the Barbie event hosted by the Lifestyle Experience.

The show will be hosted on September 29 and will start at noon until late. The cover charge for the show will be E100 and payments will only be made at the gate. Attendees are expected to look dapper in Barbie outfits, in line with the event's theme, 'Dress Like a Barbie.'

The show was inspired by the Barbie movie. Released earlier this year, the movie is about Barbie and Ken who are having the time of their lives in the colorful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover the joys and perils of living among humans.

The show mainly focuses on women empowerment which aligns with the Lifestyle Experience's motive of creating a platform and providing exposure for local entertainers. The main driving force of the show is women empowerment in the arts industry and creating a platform for them since the entertainment industry is male dominated.

Line-up

The show has already confirmed AyaCity as one of the performers, but the management is set to release the full line-up and confirm headliners. The best dressed Barbie stands a chance to win a studio photo shoot with the Lion King Studio, who are one of the country's best in photography.

In an interview with Lifestyle Experience Public Relations Officer Mahlubi Dlamini, he said people should expect chilled day vibes and be ready to socialize and connect with other people. He added that their main aim is to have people creating a strong network either for business purposes or otherwise whilst still having fun. "Unfortunately, I can't share much on the lineup because it will only be released next week," he said. Dlamini further encouraged fun lovers to attend the show on time as this is a daytime event.

Rema pays homage to Afrobeats legends

Rema's Billboard charting global hit single 'Calm Down' featuring Selena Gomez won the inaugural Best Afrobeats award at the recent 2023 MTV Video Music Awards.

During his speech at the awards on Tuesday night in Newark, New Jersey, Rema thanked God, his fans, his team and paid homage to afrobeats pioneers for paving the way for his success.

"First of all, I wanna give thanks to God. I wanna give big thanks to my fans... I wanna give big thanks to my team, big shout out to Selena I wanna say I love you from the bottom of my heart," he said as Gomez stood next to him and smiled.

"This means so much seeing afrobeats grow this big and being here on this stage representing afrobeats tonight. I'm so happy,

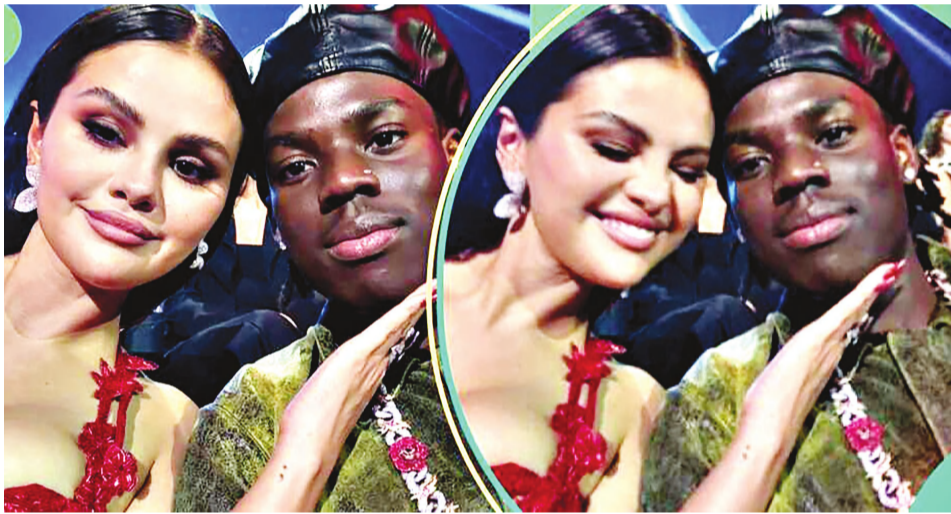
but one thing I will not forget to do tonight is shout out to the people who opened the door for me."

He went on to pay homage to Fela Kuti for founding the genre, before shouting out the likes of D'Banj and Don Jazzy for putting afrobeats on the map and Davido, Burna Boy and Wizkid for taking it to global heights.

"@heisrema and @selenagomez just made #VMA history!!! 'Calm Down' won the FIRST-EVER moonperson for Best Afrobeats," posted the VMAs on Instagram.

After the show, Rema also took to his Instagram to thank his fans for the support and share his appreciation towards Gomez. "I feel really blessed, thank you all for supporting us! I love you so much @selenagomez."

(BANG Showbiz)



▲ Afrobeat star Rema and Selena Gomez got tongues wagging with their cosy pictures.

Bonang, Mohale spotted at Trevor Noah show

THE Pretoria leg of 'Trevor Noah Live In South Africa' tour presented by Savanna kicked off at SunBet Arena on Tuesday night.

The internationally-renowned comedian will be in Pretoria for five shows.

Mzansi's well-known faces attended the comedy show and showed support for the former 'Daily Show' host.

TV and radio personality Bonang Matheba attended the show and kept her fans and followers updated with all the highlights from her night out.

Also in attendance was media personality Mohale Motaung, who works closely with Savanna as one of their influencers.

Motaung and Matheba go way back, even with Matheba being in attendance at his traditional wedding to his former partner Somizi Mhlongo.

Fizzle out

Seems the friendship between Motaung and Matheba did not fizzle out after the former couple got divorced.

The two posted snaps that included each other at the comedy show, showing that things are good between them.

Matheba also posted snaps of herself with the main man Noah, who is celebrating his 21st anniversary in the entertainment industry.

Her fans couldn't help but gush over both entertainers' success in the industry. "Two of our national treasures." commented Iamleeyola.

While Noah has been enjoying a successful run of his South African comedy tour, he has also had to debunk a report that alleged he could receive a R33 million pay check for



▲ Bonang Matheba and Mohale Motaung.

doing just a five minute advert in which he will promote the country.

"First of all, there is nothing with SA tourism. No one from SA Tourism approached me; there's nothing from government. I was talking to hotel groups, cause you know South Africa, we need to boost our tourism," he told Carol Ofori on East Coast Radio.

(IOL)

Hip hop stars at the VMAs



▲ Swae Lee on arrival at the Video Music Awards in Newark, New Jersey.



▲ Diddy and His Mother, Janice Combs.



▲ Cardi B.



▲ Doja Cat.

▲ French Montana.

▲ Saweetie.

By Dr. Sanjay Gupta

DO you ever wonder what makes you, well, you: the way you act, the way you feel, the way you process information from the world around you?

Some of it is nature (the unique set of genes you inherited), and some of it is nurture (the environment in which you were raised, both within your family and more broadly within a particular culture).

But there are actually so many other, hidden machinations at work, all of which spring from the brain, a part of the body I've dedicated my life to understanding.

These forces vary from person to person and even change within an individual, depending on time and circumstance. For example, how is it that some of us can exhibit razor-sharp focus while others are distracted by a flash of a big idea or a tiny crumb on the countertop? Or why is it that some of us get a deep thrill being frightened by a scary movie or a creepy book, and what purpose does it really serve?

I am going back to where all behaviors, moods and impulses start — the brain — to try to unravel the mysteries within. Not only will we peer inside the brain to learn about what is going on, but because our brain is in a constant conversation with our body, we'll see the impact on our physical selves and how that, in turn, once again affects the brain.

I have been fascinated by the brain since childhood. And throughout my career as a neurosurgeon, I've always asked, "How can we build a stronger brain?" How do we keep our brain sharp, more resilient, less likely to develop problems like dementia? Honestly, in the

The many states of the brain

... What's going on inside your head and how to optimize it

beginning, it was to just try to help my own brain; my grandfather had dementia, and that worried me. But now I want to share what I've learned and, frankly, continue to learn with all of you.

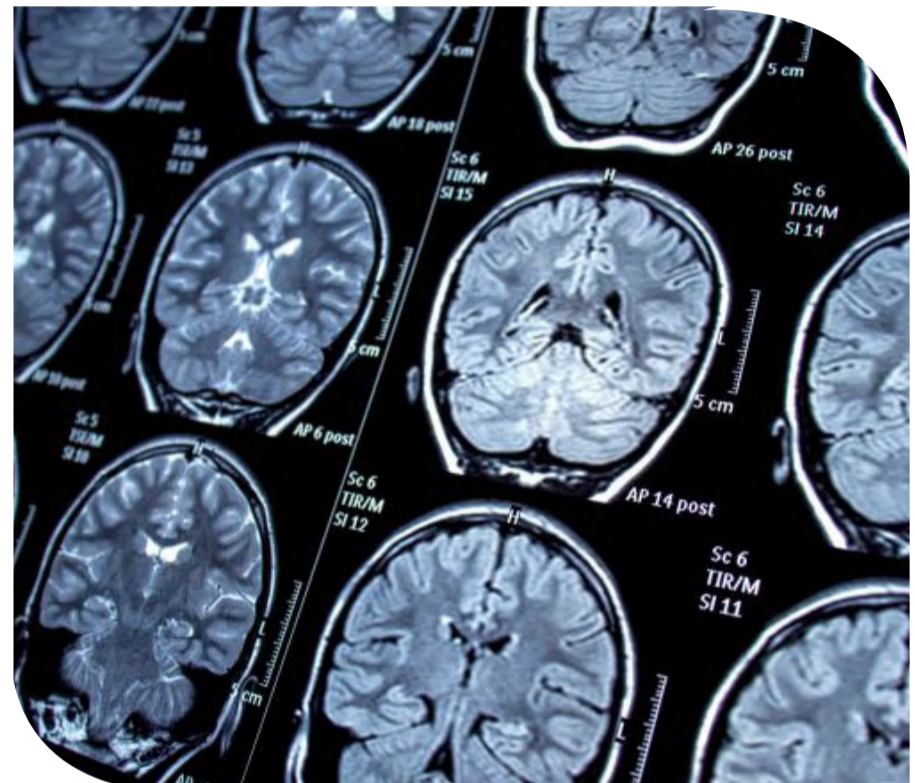
I'll also explore what happens to our brain when we express gratitude, swipe on a dating app (over and over again) and eat certain (brain) foods.

And I'll delve into what happens to the brain when the status quo changes, like when women go through menopause, or when a biological process veers off-track, such as when a person develops long Covid, experiences a concussion or battles depression.

THE DISTRACTED BRAIN

The first episode of the season, which dropped today, is about the Attentive Brain. It delves into where attention comes from, how it gets hijacked and how to put it back on track.

Gloria Mark, a professor of informatics at the University of California, Irvine, and author of "Attention Span: A Groundbreaking Way to Restore Balance, Happiness and Productivity," told me how much our attention span had



dropped over the course of 20 years: from 2½ minutes in 2003 to 47 seconds today.

Just hearing that left a big impression on me — and I bet it will on you, too. But worse than those alarming numbers are the consequences, both in the real world and to our bodies. Perhaps nothing exemplifies a short attention span more than the act of multitasking, which many of us wear as a badge of honor, a source of pride — myself included — because we think we are getting more done. But Mark set me straight. "Humans can't do two or more things at the same time in parallel. We're just not built like that. What we're actually doing is shifting our attention," she said. Mark said that kind of constant shifting of attention in our brain is associated with stress, which results in an increase in blood pressure — and that, if it is constant, is not good for our bodies. She said we also make more errors when we multitask, and ironically, it takes us longer to get the task done because there is a mental cost to switching tasks.

"Imagine that you have a whiteboard in your mind, and for every task we do, we have a mental model of what that task is. ... And then I suddenly switch, and I do another task: I have to erase that whiteboard and rewrite new information for the new task. And I switch again. I have to erase and rewrite. And just like on a real whiteboard, sometimes you can't erase it completely," Mark explained.

So multitasking doesn't make us happy, faster or more efficient; instead, it makes us stressed and more prone to errors.

Fortunately, Mark gave me some great tips for staying on task.

HOW DO WE DO BETTER?

TIP #1: Start refreshed

Yes, your mother was right: Getting a good night's sleep before an important project will help you get and stay focused. Rest helps our executive function skills — the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus and remember — keep sharp.

"When we're refreshed ... we feel energetic. Our executive function can work really well and can help keep us on track. When we're sleep-deprived or we feel mentally exhausted, executive function doesn't work so well," Mark told me. "And in fact, the more exhausted we are, because executive function doesn't work so well, it makes us more susceptible to being distracted, so we're more prone to be able to respond to things that are external to our task at hand."

TIP #2: Design your day according to your natural rhythm

Everybody has times of the day when they are more or less attentive. For example, some people are self-described early birds, others night owls; some people crash after lunch while others get a second wind in the late afternoon. It's important to listen to your internal rhythm and plan your day accordingly.

"There are peaks and valleys of focus throughout the day, and this corresponds with the ebb and flow of our attentional resources," Mark explained. "And so to me, it makes the most sense for people to become aware of what your own natural rhythm is, for when you are best able to apply your attentional resources and also when it's time to pull away to replenish."

Mark made me figure out my own natural rhythms, and I am going to take full advantage of that knowledge to decide when I reply to email, because my attention is prone to

▲ Continuation on Page 17

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▲ Continuation from Page 16

wandering, versus when I knuckle down for a cognitively challenging project, because I am in peak focus.

TIP #3: Don't let your tank get depleted — stay refreshed

This might seem obvious, but Mark said that our attentional resources are not limitless; like a gas tank, if we use up too much without refilling, we'll hit Empty.

"So we have a limited tank of attentional resources. And there's things we do during the day that build up our resources, like taking a break ... and there's things we do that deplete our resources," Mark said.

Activities that help include taking enough breaks during any project, including going out in nature, to rejuvenate ourselves. Also, she said, "if you have some really important task to do, take a really good break before you begin it. Make sure you're really, refreshed and ready to do it."

TIP #4: Tame internal distractions

Phone calls, text notifications, your children interrupting you – those external distractions aren't the only thing pulling you away from the task at hand.

"[It] turns out that nearly half the time, we are distracted by ourselves. So we have internal interruptions, and it could be an urge, it's a memory of something that we have to do, it's this desire to look at social media – so we distract ourselves," Mark said.

She noted that there's a lot of things we can do to counteract the internal distractions. "The obvious things: turn off notifications, clear your environment, get things off your desk that can potentially distract you, put your cell phone in a drawer and lock it, make sure the room is quiet. There's a lot of things people can do to improve their attention," she said.

Another big source of distractions: unfinished or interrupted tasks. She suggests jotting down to-do list items and random thoughts.

"You keep going over and over in your mind with that [interrupted] task. You don't want to forget it, right? So ... you keep trying to remember it. If something is finished, it's off your plate. ... It's done. And in fact, there there's a really nice study that shows that if people want to sleep better, they should write down the interrupted task, because it's offloading that work of trying to remember the task onto some external memory. The external memory is a piece of paper; you've written it down on a piece of paper, so you know you're not going to forget it. When you wake up in the morning ... you've got that list of things you still have to do, so you don't have to rehearse it in your mind," Mark said. That made so much sense to me and really explained why I love lists.

TIP #5: Write down your goal, and tape it in front of you

Mark said that because attention is "goal-directed," it's really helpful to write two things down when starting a project: what you want to accomplish (a task goal) and how you want to feel (an emotional goal).

"We pay attention to what our goals are. If my goal is that I want to write a paper, that's what I pay attention to," she said, adding that it helps if the goals are clear, easily visualized and attainable. But because goals can easily "slip" if we get distracted, it helps to go through the exercise of asking yourself how you want to feel at the end of the day. For example, I imagine feeling good and enjoying myself after writing that paper.

"Just answering those two questions helped people stay on track," said Mark.

(CNN Health)

US pharmacy chains gear up to administer updated COVID shots

By Christy Santhosh

US drugstore chains CVS Health (CVS.N) and Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA.O) said on Wednesday that updated COVID-19 vaccines would be available at their stores as soon as this week.

Shots were being delivered in some locations on Wednesday, including at a Northwell Health facility in New York.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) director on Tuesday signed off on broad use of updated COVID-19 vaccines, arming a push to align the next round of shots more closely with the circulating variant of the virus, much like annual flu shots are designed.

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved an updated vaccine made by Pfizer (PFE.N) and its German partner BioNTech (22UAY.DE) as well as one by Moderna (MRNA.O) for people ages 12 and above. The agency has also authorized the shots for emergency use in children ages 6 months through 11 years.

Walgreens said it would start taking appointments for the updated vaccines from Monday, but could begin earlier appointments as stores receive vaccines this week.

Rite Aid (RAD.N) said appointments would be live on Friday, while CVS said some pharmacies would begin receiving the new vaccines on Wednesday, with all pharmacy locations expected to have vaccinations in stock by early next week.

Retail chain Walmart (WMT.N) did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The US government ended the COVID public health emergency declaration in May and handed over the responsibility for vaccinations to the private sector. Demand for the vaccines has dropped sharply since.

FDA panel backs expanded use of Alynlam's gene silencing drug

By Mariam Sunny

An outside panel of experts to the US Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday backed the expanded use of Alynlam Pharmaceuticals' (ALNY.O) gene silencing drug to treat a type of heart disease associated with a rare organ-damaging disorder.

The FDA panel voted 9 to 3 that the benefits of the drug, patisiran, outweigh its risks for treating patients with a type of heart muscle disease, cardiomyopathy, caused by a wild-type or hereditary transthyretin-mediated amyloidosis (ATTR).

... The US Food and Drug Administration has approved an updated vaccine made by Pfizer (PFE.N) and its German partner BioNTech (22UAY.DE) as well as one by Moderna (MRNA.O) for people ages 12 and above



▲ Sandra Lindsay, a nurse at Long Island Jewish Medical Center who was the first American to receive the initial COVID vaccine, is inoculated with the updated coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine by Dr. Michelle Chester from Northwell Health at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, New York, US.

COVID shots will still be free for most Americans with health insurance coverage and the government has said it is working

on a program to provide the vaccines for free to people without insurance. (Reuters)

ATTR, caused by mutations in the transthyretin gene, leads to accumulation of faulty proteins in body organs and tissues that can lead to loss of sensation, heart issues, eye, kidney and thyroid diseases.

The panelists, however, were concerned about the meaningfulness of the drug's benefit.

Risk

"There is a light wind for benefit and no wind for risk," said Dr. Edward Kasper, one of the panelists.

The FDA, which usually follows the recommendations of its expert panel but is not obligated to do so, is expected to make its final decision on the drug by Oct. 8.

The FDA staff reviewers had highlighted in briefing documents released on Monday

that the effects of patisiran compared to placebo were "small, of questionable clinical meaningfulness, and may not be detectable by patients".

Protein

Patisiran uses RNA interference (RNAi), a Nobel prize-winning mechanism, to target and "silence" specific genetic material, and block the production of the deadly protein.

In 2018, patisiran branded as Onpattro became the first such treatment approved in the United States to treat nerve damage in adult patients with hereditary ATTR.

About 5,000 to 7,000 new cases of ATTR-related cardiomyopathy are identified annually in the United States, according to government data.

(Reuters)

AROUND THE WORLD IN PICTURES



▲ A general view of runners and riders in action during the 18:15 Pride Of Place Maiden horse race at the Laytown Racecourse in Layton, Ireland.



▲ Pope Francis poses for a photo on the day of the weekly general audience at the Vatican.



▲ A view shows a damaged car, following a powerful storm and heavy rainfall hitting the country, in Derna, Libya.



▲ Children receive psychological help at a field military hospital, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake, in Asni, Morocco.



▲ Imane Ait Said, a 19-year-old student who lost 10 relatives in the quake, reacts as she sits at the site of her damaged house, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake, in Talat N'Yaaqoub, Morocco.



▲ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers the State of the European Union address to the European Parliament, in Strasbourg, France.



▲ Britain's King Charles III meets members of the public during a visit to the Discovery Centre and Auld School Close in Tomintoul, Britain.



▲ A policeman talks to a migrant trying to escape from the hotspot, on the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, Italy.



▲ Migrant families lock arms as they cross the Rio Grande river, between the Camino Real International Bridge and the Puente Negro Ferrocarril, while entering the United States from Mexico in Eagle Pass, Texas.



▲ Indigenous women from different tribes attend the third March of Indigenous Women, in defence of women's rights, local indigenous people and the environment in Brasilia, Brazil.



▲ A model poses outside on the day creations by Badgley Mischka are presented during New York Fashion Week. Brazil.



▲ A Ukrainian serviceman fires a 2S22 Bohdana self-propelled howitzer towards Russian troops at a position in Donetsk region, Ukraine.

Springboks hope versatility can be WC tonic in tough times

NICE, France - South Africa's loss of Malcolm Marx will be keenly felt but with loose forwards who can play hooker and scrumhalves that feature on the wing or at flyhalf they hope versatility will be a major factor in the defence of their Rugby World Cup title.

Marx was ruled out of the tournament on Thursday with the Springboks yet to name a replacement, indicating it might not be another hooker.

Loose forwards Deon Fourie and Marco van Staden are covering the hooker position in Sunday's Pool B clash against Romania, while another flanker Kwagga Smith provides backline cover. The Boks have 14 backs in France and all but three - centres Andre Esterhuizen and Damian de Allende plus wing Makazole Mapimpi - can play multiple positions.

It is this versatility that allows coach Jacques Nienaber to use a 6-2 split between forwards and backs on the bench, adding grit and muscle to the mix for the full 80 minutes.

Nienaber raised eyebrows when he selected four scrumhalves in his matchday 23 against Romania, but there is method to what some see as madness.

Cobus Reinach starts in the number nine jersey and the speedy Grant Williams is on the wing. Faf de Klerk



▲ South Africa's Malcolm Marx receives medical attention after sustaining an injury

will come on at flyhalf and Jaden Hendrikse will replace Reinach.

"From the start, people were wondering why we were taking four scrumhalves but if you look at the versatility within that, that's what we saw," Nienaber told reporters.

"Grant played his school career on the wing, it was only in his last couple of games he moved to nine. A guy like Cobus can help us out on the wing as well.

"Faf played flyhalf the majority of his school career and for the Lions in Super Rugby and Sale Sharks in the Premiership.

"I'm not being disrespectful to Romania but it's an opportunity to try

him out in a test match under pressure at 10."

Nienaber may hesitate to make such selections against a tier 1 nation, but he is confident the players will perform.

"It's not a risk for us. It is well calculated. We are comfortable with what we saw in training. We believe that the guys are good enough in those positions to beat the opposition."

Damian Willemse makes the switch from fullback to flyhalf and Nienaber has no concerns about a disruption to the Boks' vaunted defensive structure in what is a crucial channel. (Reuters)

Pep Guardiola back in training after surgery

PEP Guardiola was seen back in training for the first time on Wednesday after having been absent from the Manchester City dugout for over three weeks.

The Spanish manager underwent emergency surgery back in August after complaining of severe back pain and travelled back to Barcelona to have the procedure carried out by a specialist in spinal surgery, Dr Mireia Illueca.

City issued a statement claiming that the procedure was a routine operation and also that the 52-year-old would remain in Barcelona to rest and recuperate.

It ultimately meant that Guardiola was not in the dugout for two Premier League matches, with his assistant, Juanma Lillo, taking charge for their dramatic late win against Sheffield United and their 5-1 thumping against Fulham.

Despite that, the Spaniard has never truly been too far away from his team, with Lillo confirming the hands-on coach has been in close contact throughout his absence.

And while some speculation had arisen over when the City boss would be back in action, Guardiol



▲ Guardiola's side (left) will be hoping to continue their flawless start to the Premier League campaign against West Ham on Saturday.

la was today pictured back at the Manchester City Football Academy Ground coaching his players.

Guardiola looked in fine form too, smiling to the camera in one picture but was seen cutting an animated figure as he guided his team through their training session.

He is not the only member of the City team to be back in training this week, with several of their international stars returning to the Etihad Campus following the international break.

Bernardo Silva Ruben Dias were both in action for Portugal during their Euro 2024 qualifiers, while Nathan Ake was also called up to the Netherlands squad and helped the Dutch claim victories over Ireland and Greece.

Josko Gvardiol and Mateo Kovacic both featured for Croatia, while Calvin Phillips, Kyle Walker, Phil Foden and Jack Grealish were all called up to England duty.

(Daily mail)

England's Maguire says he can handle the jeers after Scotland

ENGLAND'S Harry Maguire has said he can deal with hostile treatment from opposition supporters and that it takes the pressure off his team mates after the defender was mocked by Scotland fans following his own goal on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Manchester United centre back was brought on at halftime in Glasgow with England leading 2-0 before inadvertently handing the hosts a lifeline by clumsily prodding a low cross into his own net in the 67th minute.

Maguire described his treatment by Scottish fans as "a little bit of banter".

"It pretty much takes the pressure away from my team mates and puts it all on myself," he told British media after England's 3-1 win. "It makes them play better, for sure. "We knew coming here, when you hear the national anthem and the way they disrespect that, we knew it would be hostile and in the second half I got most of it. "I am happy to go with that, don't worry about that."

Maguire, who joined Unit-

ed from Leicester City for 80 million pounds (\$99.94 million) in 2019, was stripped of the club captaincy by manager Erik ten Hag in July.

He has struggled for first-team football at the Premier League side and was linked with a move away from Old Trafford in the close season.

"The first four weeks were hard because it was one game a week and the manager (Erik ten Hag) didn't select me, but we have lots of games coming up now and I am sure I will play lots of games," he said.

In an Instagram post on Thursday, Maguire's mother Zoe slammed the abuse directed towards her son.

"As a mum seeing the level of negative and abusive comments which my son is receiving from some fans, pundits and the media is disgraceful and totally unacceptable to any walk of life...," she wrote.

"I was there in the stand as usual, it's not acceptable what's been created, over nothing.

"I understand that in the football world there are ups and downs, positives and negatives but what Harry receives has gone far beyond "football". (Reuters)



▲ England's Harry Maguire applauds fans

Verstappen hits back at Wolff over 'Wikipedia' comment

MAX Verstappen hit back at Mercedes Formula One team boss Toto Wolff on Thursday after the Austrian said the Red Bull driver's record run of 10 wins in a row was irrelevant and just for Wikipedia.

Wolff made his comments after this month's Italian Grand Prix, where Mercedes were beaten by both Ferraris as well as the two Red Bulls.

Asked at the Singapore Grand Prix for his reaction, Verstappen said he was not disappointed. "They had a pretty shit race, so probably he was still pissed off with their performance," the 25-year-old Dutch driver told

a news conference ahead of a race that could bring his team a 16th successive victory.

"He almost sounds like he's an employee of our team sometimes, but luckily not."

Verstappen, who is 145 points clear of team mate Sergio Perez in the championship and set for a third title well before the end of the season, suggested Wolff should focus on his own team. "That's what we did in the past as well, when we were behind them and when they were dominating," he said.

"I think you should be able to appreciate when a team is doing really well. Which I think we've done in the past, because it worked also as a kind of inspiration. (Reuters)

Sancho to train away from Man Utd first team

MANCHESTER United's Jadon Sancho will train alone pending the resolution of a "discipline issue", the Premier League club said on Thursday, following the attacker's falling out with manager Erik ten Hag.

England international Sancho was omitted from United's squad for a 3-1 league loss to Arsenal on Sept. 3, with manager Ten Hag stating he had been left out because of poor training performance.

Following the match, the 23-year-old responded in a lengthy post on X - the social media platform formerly known as Twitter - saying he had been unfairly made a "scapegoat".

Sancho, who joined United from Borussia Dortmund in July 2021, had a prolonged absence last season during which he was training separately from the United squad.

"Jadon Sancho will remain on a personal training programme away from the

first-team group, pending resolution of a squad discipline issue," United said in a statement.

United's season has been marred by off-field issues.

Brazilian attacker Antony said this week he would not immediately return to the club amid assault allegations against him, while forward Mason Greenwood joined LaLiga side Getafe on loan after he faced allegations of assault and attempted rape, with charges against the forward having been dropped in February.

Antony has denied any wrongdoing. Greenwood said in a statement to British media that he did not do the things he was accused of.

United are 11th in the Premier League with six points from four games, and they next host Brighton & Hove Albion on Saturday.

(Reuters)



▲ Manchester United forward Jadon Sancho.

Three Real Madrid players arrested over sexual video with minor

SPANISH police have arrested at least three unnamed Real Madrid youth players for allegedly distributing a sexual video featuring a minor, a police spokesperson said on Thursday.

The arrests come at a difficult moment in Spanish football amid allegations of sexual abuse against former soccer federation chief Luis Rubiales, who kissed World Cup winner Jenni Hermoso on the lips last month, unleashing a wave of indignation against sexism and macho behaviour in Spain.

Real Madrid officials were not immediately available for comment.

El Confidencial newspaper reported earlier, citing sources from the investigation, that those arrested were three players from the youth academy, the reserve team and the third team, and that the case

stemmed from a police complaint filed on Sept. 6 in the Canary Islands by the mother of the underage victim.

According to the report, the main subject of the probe is a Real Madrid C - the Spanish club's third team - player, who allegedly recorded his sexual relationship with the 16-year-old victim. Cadena SER radio station reported that the relationship was consensual.

The two other players allegedly shared the video without the minor's consent via mobile messaging app WhatsApp, El Confidencial and Cadena SER reported.

All three were detained on Thursday morning in Madrid, suspected of committing a felony known in Spanish criminal law as "revealing secrets of a sexual nature", the reports said.

(Reuters)

Bonucci sends Juventus to court over club exit

ITALY defender Leonardo Bonucci will take legal action against former club Juventus after a reported fallout with manager Massimiliano Allegri led to his recent exit from the club.

Bonucci, 36, who spent 12 years in Turin over two spells, was left out of Allegri's squad for the United States pre-season tour and home friendlies prior to their Serie A opener on Aug. 20.

He agreed to terminate his contract with Juve to facilitate the move to the Bundesliga side Union Berlin, with whom he signed for one year on the deadline day.

"I have decided, after great suffering, to take the path of a lawsuit towards Juventus," Bonucci told Sport Mediaset in an interview published on Thursday.

"My rights stipulated that I should have trained with the team regardless of the technical choice and been put in a position to physically be able to play during the following season.

"This was not granted to me, I no longer trained with the team. I felt drained of everything, humiliated, I couldn't do what I love most."

Bonucci said he did not feel remorse towards his former club nor was seeking financial reward, and that if he won the legal battle he would donate all the proceeds to charity.

"I have nothing against Juventus. Juventus are the fans, the team, my former team mates," Bonucci said.

"I am pursuing this cause because the people who were supposed to let me end my



▲ Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci.

career with Juventus in a respectful and worthy way have not done so."

Being sidelined from training for an extended time resulted in no Italy call-up for Bonucci by new manager Luciano Spalletti, who had informed the defender of his decision privately prior to making his list official.

"I want to continue to play and trouble Spalletti for the national team," Bonucci said.

(Reuters)

Spurs, NFL extend partnership through 2029-30 season

THE home of Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur will host a minimum of two National Football League games a year through the 2029-2030 season as part of an expanded partnership announced by the two sides on Thursday.

The agreement extends by two seasons a partnership that was due to run until 2028. Tottenham first hosted NFL fixtures in October 2019, a year later than planned due to delays with the stadium's construction.

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, the only stadium purpose-built for NFL games outside of the United States, has already hosted 12 of the league's 32 teams and will be given official status as the "Home of the NFL in the UK."

"Growing the game globally is a major strategic priority for the league," NFL Com-

missioner Roger Goodell said in a joint news release.

"Our commitment to Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will allow us to continue to bring extraordinary NFL experiences to fans in London, while creating a positive social and economic impact on the local community."

The Buffalo Bills will play the Jacksonville Jaguars in the stadium on Oct. 8 followed a week later by a clash between the Baltimore Ravens and Tennessee Titans.

"Our partnership with the NFL has been integral to our wider vision for the stadium and delivering a sports and entertainment destination in London," said Tottenham Chairman Daniel Levy.

"Creating additional recurring sources of revenue to reinvest in our football activities is a key part of the Club's financial model."

(Reuters)



▲ A general overall view of British and United States flags on the field during the playing of the national anthem before an NFL International Series game between the New Orleans Saints and the Minnesota Vikings at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

'We are still building a team for the future' – 'Botsotso'

Stories by Sibusiso Masilela
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WOMEN'S National team, Sitsebe head coach Zwelibandzi 'Botsotso' Khoza says they are still building a team for the future.

Khoza said this ahead of the 2024 African Women Champions League against Burkina Faso in the preliminary round first leg encounter on September 20 at Somhlolo National Stadium.

"We are still assembling a team for the future that will become a force to be reckoned with in the continent. I am happy with the attitude of the players who are willing to learn new things



▲ Sitsebe Coach Zwelibandzi 'Botsotso' Khoza.



▲ The Women's national team, Sitsebe players going through the paces during Thursday training session.

every day and we are still working towards improving the level of fitness for the players. I am confident we will be ready for Burkina Faso who are a closed book to us, and we are ready for the challenge lying ahead of us," he said.

Khoza is currently assisted by Simephi Mamba and physical trainer Christian Tfwala in the nations pride technical bench.

Meanwhile, the squad captain Tenanile Ngcamphalala said they were ready for the continental qualifiers.

"We are looking forward to the match where we want to make the country proud, and the spirit is high in the camp. We won't underestimate the opponent and we will put a good fight during the assignment and other upcoming tournaments," she said.

The former Malabo Kings player said they were going to transform their recent experience in the COSAFA Women champions

League into the national team.

"We have a lot from the champions League, and we will use that experience to help the national team do well in the continental qualifiers.

The senior national side will take on Mozambique in an international friendly match slated for the Mkhuzweni technical Centre on Friday. The local side managed to beat the same opponent by 2-0 during a previous match which was recently played in Maputo.

'Unity can pull us through' – 'Cece'

SITSEBE top striker Celiwe 'Cece' Nkambule believes that only unity can help the national team reach greater heights in the international football scenes.

The reigning Women Football League top goal scorer said this ahead of their 2024 African Women Champions League qualifier against Burkina Faso on September 20 at Somhlolo National Stadium.

"We are all working together to get positive results in the upcoming assignment and we all have a common goal in the squad which is to get results during the continental assignment," she said.

Nkambule was part of the Young Buffaloes team that recently competed in the 2023 COSAFA African Women Champions League qualifiers in Durban.



▲ Celiwe 'Cece' Nkambule addresses the media.

The tentative Sitsebe squad:

Goalkeepers

Gcinile Dlamini (Buffaloes), Nomphele Dlamini (Nsingizini), Lindelwa Gwebu (Interladies)

Defenders

Simangele Sikhondze (Buffaloes), Badelisile Ngozo (Buffaloes), Futhie Dlamini (Buffaloes), Welile Ndwandwe (Buffaloes), Nozwelo Shongwe (Interladies), Thulisile Dube (Buffaloes), Samukelisiwe Fakudze (Nsingizini), Qiniso Hlatswako (Swallows), Bethulisile Mathonsi (Wanderers)

Midfielders

Mazwi Dube (Buffaloes), Sikhanyiso Magagula (Buffaloes), Nelile Mnisi (Nsingizini), Mayenziwe Nkambule (Pirates), Londiwe Maziya (Pirates), Sebe Mavuso (Pirates), Nokuthula Ndlovu (Green Mamba), Simile Marks (Nsingizini)

Strikers

Taananile Ngcamphalala (Buffaloes), Thring Thulisile (Buffaloes), Sisanda Ndzinisa (Buffaloes), Nonjabuliso Mokgale (Leopard), Neli Ngcamphalala (Jabez)

Sihle, Mduduzi pleased with Darkon move

Seasoned riders Mduduzi Zwane and Sihle Dlamini say they are both happy with their move to the Darkton Cycling club.

The two former Dig Deep racing club riders both described their switch to the Ngwenya based side as a new start for their respective careers.

Zwane said the move has offered him a platform to showcase his talent.

"This is a beginning for me to revive my career as still have a lot to offer in the sport. It is also an opportunity for me to venture into coaching by nurturing youngsters in the team with my experience. I would like to thank the club executive director Sifiso 'Zwide' Ndwandwe for allowing me to join this ambitious side. I want to add value in the team," he said.

Meanwhile, Sihlangu shared the same sentiments, saying the move is a new start for his career.

"This a best move for me which will revive

my career after spending a year without action. I am pleased to be part of the family and I will work towards taking the club to greater heights," he said.

Zwane is one of the experienced riders in the country having represented the country in the 2018 Africa Road championships and the 2018 Commonwealth Games while Dlamini attended the 2021 Union Cycling International (UCI) camp in Cape Town.

Other team members include Mazwi Mamba, Mayibongwe Shongwe and Vusi Dlamini.

The team is under the leadership of Eswatini Cycling Association President Sifiso 'Zwide' Ndwandwe and they made its debut in the cycling fraternity during the MTN Khemani road classic held on Saturday in Mankayane.

The new club has joined the likes of Inyatsi Cycling club, Kusekhaya, MTN Khemani Umbutfo Eswatini defence Force (UEDF), Newcomm Wheels, 4Eva cycling club, among others in the list of ECA affiliates.



▲ Riders from the newly formed Darkton cycling club Mazwi, Mamba, Mduduzi Zwane and Sihle Dlamini during the recent MTN Khemani Road classic.

MTN PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW:

Leopard on revenge mission against Ezulwini UTD

Stories by Ntokozo Magongo
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R. Leopard vs Ezulwini United
Venue: KaLanga Technical Centre
Kick-off: 3:30pm

EZULWINI United made a huge statement in the first match in the elite after buying Tambuti FC status when they shockingly eliminated Royal Leopard in the EPL Trade Fair Cup last 16 last week.

The two teams are the first to kick-start the 2023/24 MTN Premier League. Ezulwini United forced a goalless draw in regulation time against Leopard and then beat them 4-1 after penalties. Ezulwini United who are newcomers in the MTN Premier League under the name after they bought status for now dysfunctional Tambuti FC displayed a sensational performance in the Premier League of Eswatini (PLE) Trade Fair Cup.

They will be all out to keep that momentum under the guidance of Mphumelelo 'Mapho' Ngwenya.

They will be facing Royal Leopard who failed to live up to expectations in the past season as they finished fifth, a place they are not used to.

Ezulwini United who are formerly Tinyosi FC were left disappointed last season after failing to get promotion from



▲ Royal Leopard will face Ezulwini United in the first game of the MTN Premier League.

the MTN National First Division League losing out to Rangers and Illovo FC.

Ezulwini United would need to start on a high if they are to survive or compete. They have experienced players including former Mbabane Highlanders Mphucuko Dlamini, former Mbabane Swallows and Moneni Pirates Thabo Vilakati and Mncedisi Zombodze Dlamini among others.

Meanwhile, Leopard will not take them likely after the disappointing results at the PLE Trade Fair Cup. Their Coach Edwin Matsebula was left fuming after the negative results and he will be all out for a good start by annexing the three

maximum points.

Leopard is one of the experienced teams who have dominated local football in the past decade only to fall short in the past two seasons. They have quality in their squad including Junior Magagula, Sifiso Matse, Mzwandile Mabelela and Lungelo Tsabedze among others.

It will be an interesting match, not one to be missed.

Players:

Ezulwini United: Mphucuko Dlamini and Mncedisi Dlamini

Royal Leopard: Junior Magagula and Sifiso Matse.



▲ Banyana Banyana Coach Desiree Ellis.

Banyana Banyana for USA friendly games

SOUTH Africa's Banyana Banyana will travel to the United States of America (USA) ahead of the COSAFA Women's Championships.

Banyana Banyana were drawn in the same group with the local side Sitsebe with Madagascar and Malawi. The team is set to leave South Africa on September 17 for camp.

Meanwhile, Banyana Banyana Coach Desiree Ellis this was another opportunity for them to bring in some players into the system.

"We have a big year, we play against the USA this month, and then two weeks after the COSAFA Women's Championship we are back in camp. We play the Olympic qualifiers in October and towards the end of November, we have the WAFCON qualifiers, so it is a busy period," she said.

The Ellis' charges will face the U.S. women's national team in two international friendly matches to be played in Cincinnati and Chicago this month.

The former FIFA Women's World Cup champions will host the South African senior women's team in Cincinnati at TQL Stadium on 21 September 2023, and in Chicago at Soldier Field on 24 September 2023.

"It is another opportunity for us to test players. It is another opportunity for us to make the core group bigger because we have used it (COSAFA Women's Championship) over the years to test players," she said.

She told the South Africa Football Association (SAFA) that while the draw itself was reasonable, she expected Banyana Banyana to play tough matches against Malawi, Madagascar and Eswatini.

4 DAYS TO GO IN MOMO CUP VOTING EXERCISE:

Mbabane Highlanders remains out of top six

MBABANE Highlanders remain out of the top six in the MoMo Cup voting exercise with four days to go.

The Black and white outfit is seventh with 6.1 million votes while Manzini Wanderers is ahead with over 600k votes. Leading the pack is Nsingizini Hotspurs with 26 million votes and they are followed by Mbabane Swallows on 22 million votes. There are 119 million votes in total. The top six teams will qualify for the tournament with the top two going straight to the semi-finals while the rest will battle in the play-offs.

Fans votes by dialling *7000# and votes for their favourite teams. Points to vote are accumulated by using the MoMo platform.

The MoMo Cup voting table:

| TEAMS | #VOTES | TEAMS | #VOTES |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nsingizini Hotspurs | 26 023 344 | Nyanyali | 282 641 |
| Moneni Pirates | 22 574 420 | Ubombo Flyers | 281 310 |
| Mbabane Swallows | 21 529 209 | Royal Leopard | 251 861 |
| PP. Black Swallows | 18 015 922 | Malanti Chiefs | 220 181 |
| Lozitha Spurs | 11 632 378 | Louis XIV | 155 662 |
| Manzini Wanderers | 6 714 699 | Manzini Sea Birds | 138 668 |
| Mbabane Highlanders | 6 199 035 | Sisonkhe | 110 323 |
| Rangers | 872 569 | Tambankulu Celtics | 56 705 |
| Ludzeludze Killers | 791 749 | Ezulwini United | 42 127 |
| Illovo | 763 118 | Tambankulu Callies | 39 257 |
| Madlenya | 541 627 | Seven Dreams | 30 381 |
| Pigg's Peak Rangers | 462 212 | Milling Hotspurs | 29 189 |
| Green Mamba | 439 209 | Tambuti | 21 574 |
| Denver Sundowns | 431 534 | | |
| Young Buffaloes | 412 030 | | |
| | | TOTAL: | 119 062 931 |

Sitsebe to face Banyana Banyana in COSAFA

THE country's Women National Team, Sitsebe was handed a tough draw in the COSAFA Women's Championships.

They will face South Africa's Banyana Banyana who recently played in the FIFA Women's World Cup in group A that also consists of Malawi and Madagascar. The draw for the tournament billed for October 4-15 in Gauteng was held on Thursday morning in Johannesburg, South Africa.

There are 12 countries that will be competing in this year's edition. Only the winners from the three groups and the best runner's up will sail through to the semi-

finals of the tournament after the group stages.

Group B comprises of the defending champions Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and Comoros while Group C that was also categorised at the group of death features Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and returnees Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe returns after missing out in 2022 due to their suspension from the Football International Federation Association (FIFA), which has since been lifted.

Banyana Banyana are favourite to win

the Group that features Sitsebe as they are record seven-time winners of the competition but have not claimed the title in each of the last two years.

Zambia and African champions Banyana Banyana are expected to be dominant having excelled at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

According to cosafa.com, the tournament will be excellent preparation for the second round of qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with several COSAFA teams still involved.

Sitsebe Coach Zwelibandzi 'Botsotso'

2023 COSAFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW:

| GROUP A | GROUP B | GROUP C |
|------------|------------|----------|
| S. Africa | Zambia | Namibia |
| Malawi | Mozambique | Botswana |
| Madagascar | Angola | Zimbabwe |
| Eswatini | Comoros | Lesotho |

Khoza said they will have to plan for the games and be at their level best. He conceded that it won't be easy but they will give it their all.

Ally survives car hijack in Pretoria

Stories By Sibusiso Masilela
sibusisom@rubiconmedia.group

MBABANE Highlanders boss Chief Ally Kgomongwe is lucky to be alive after he survived a hijacking incident on Wednesday night.

The Tshwane-based businessman nearly lost his life after thugs fired several gunshots onto his Mercedes C200 while driving along the Montana road, in South Africa just after passing through John Port tollgate at around 11pm.

The car had its wheels damaged during the incident. Kgomongwe was caught in a cross-fire at the scene, where he had the courage to fire back using his own gun towards the attackers, who fled the scene.

The flamboyant 'Black Bull' Director Kgomongwe said he was grateful to be alive when contacted on Thursday night.

"I thank God that I survived the hijacking by unknown criminals, who were attacking, and I thank the good Samaritans who came to my rescue. I have now taken the car to the garage. I don't know the cause of the attack, as I am a peaceful person in my community. I am now communicating with the insurance company over the car repairs," he said.

He further advised his friends from Es-

watini to avoid travelling at night.

"I would like to warn my friends, especially those from Eswatini who usually visit me to avoid travelling at night to prevent such attacks," he said.

Kgomongwe is in the fourth year in charge of the capital city giants since he took it over during the 2019/20 season. This was on a five-year contract.

He also owns Motsepe Foundation League side Ally Tigers, who are a sister team to the 'Black Bull'.

In his first season, he won the Eswatini Telecom Chairty Cup in 2019, earning the black and white ensemble E1.1 million and has also won the Bible Society Cup two times – in 2022 and 2023.



▲Mbabane Highlanders boss Chief Ally Kgomongwe narrowly escaped after thugs shot at his car and tried to hijack him.



▲Sihlangu will play 2026 World Cup home games at Mbombela Stadium.

Sihlangu to host World Cup qualifiers at Mbombela Stadium

SIHLANGU will once again have no home ground advantage during the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers as they are set to play their home matches at the Mbombela Stadium in South Africa.

The nations pride will host home matches at the Mpumalanga province stadium venue during the Group D fixtures despite the reopening of the Somhlolo National Stadium which recently hosted the 55/55 double celebrations.

The country's only football mecca is still unfit to host international matches by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in 2018 together with the Mavuso Sports Centre.

The Dominic Kunene will first face Libya on November 13 before hosting Cape Verde at the same venue on November 20.

They will further face Cameroon, Angola and Mauritius in the other group matches of the global showpiece qualifiers.

The next world cup finals will be jointly hosted by the United States of America, Canada and Mexico in three years' time.

A source close to the matter revealed that the executive committee will soon book the foreign venue for the global showpiece qualifiers.

"The home games will be played at Mbombela Stadium as the Somhlolo National Stadium is still not cleared

by CAF and the executive committee will soon table budget for the FIFA world Cup qualifiers," said the source.

Eswatini Football Association (EFA) Marketing and Communications Officer Muzi Radebe said they were still in the process of unpacking logistics of the qualifiers.

He further stated that the country cannot host home matches in the country at the moment due to the current ban of the local stadiums.

The senior national side recently played to a goalless draw against Burkina Faso in the last 2023 AFCON qualifier against Burkina Faso at the Marrakesh Stadium in Morocco.

Nsingizini Hotspurs launches supporters cards

NSINGIZINI Hotspurs continues to thrive towards professionalism.

The ambitious Shiselweni based side have since launched supporters' membership cards ahead of their 2023/24 MTN Premier League opener against Manzini Wanderers on Saturday King Sobhuza II Stadium.

The card costs E200 which will earn card caring member's benefits several benefits in the team to be revealed in due course.

The team's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Banele Ngobe said the exercise is aimed at collecting database for their supporters.

"We are on a mission of collecting database for our supporters through the membership cards through the supporter's cards which is a trend for many teams in the world. This exercise

will help to collect data which we will use to approach potential corporate partners. Our supporters can make enquiries about the cards by contacting me at 7834 1649 or our Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mnotfo Nkosi (7807 3231)," he said.

Ngobe further stated that they were in the process of launching replica jerseys for supporters in the course of the new season.

The Meck Mwase led side recently enlisted the services several new players such as Reagan Kangumbi, Bhekinkhosi Mlota and Zimbabwean international Nomore Tsabora, to mention a few in the new campaign.

This was after the team parted ways with the likes of Mancoba 'Nciba' Vilakati, David Agudze, Themba Dladla, and Lucky Gamedze among others.

The green and white ensemble will be looking to return to winning ways following their exit in the Trade Fair last 16 recent

at Mavuso Sports Centre at the hands of Madlenya FC.



▲Nsingizini Hotspurs CEO Banele Ngobe.



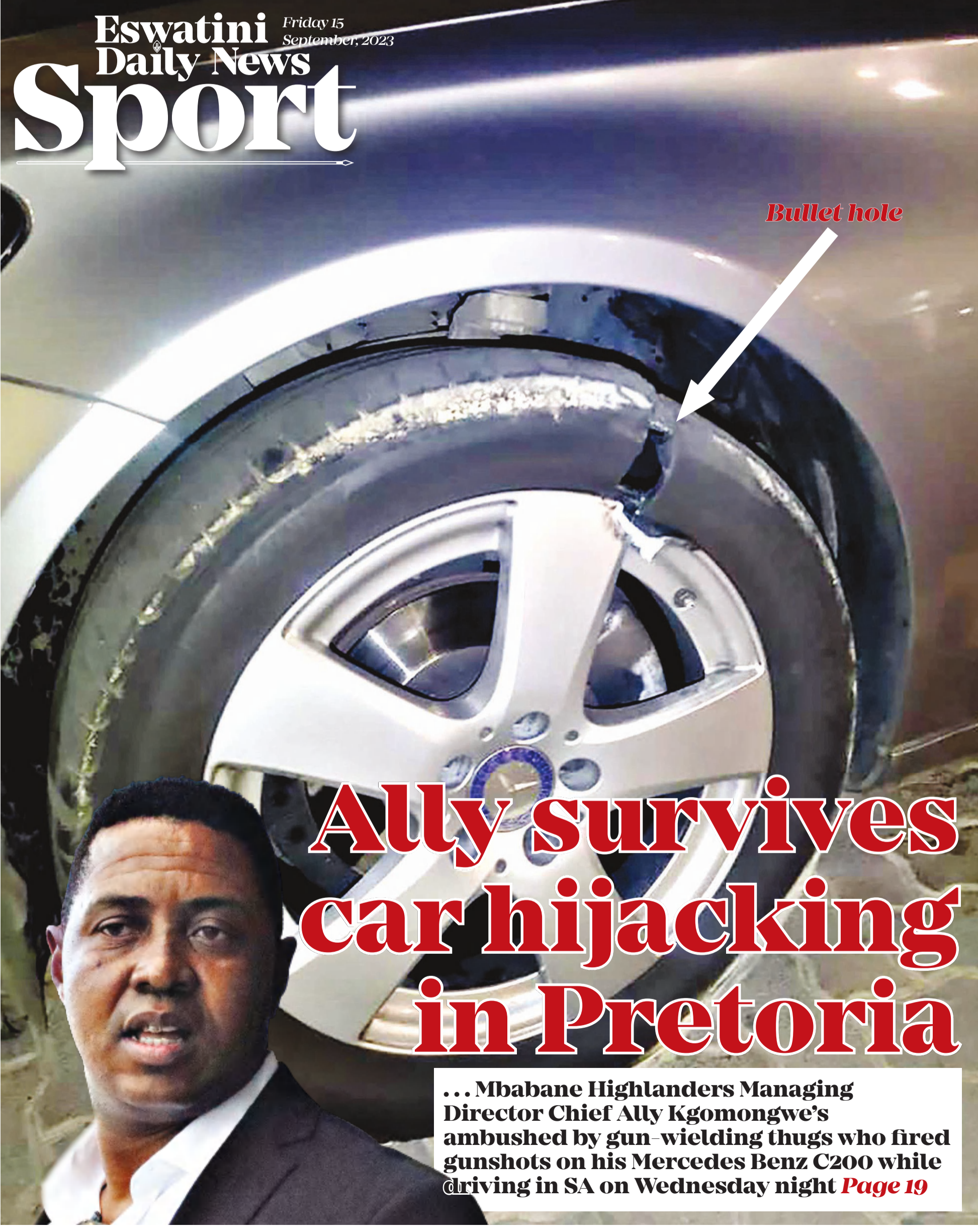
Springboks
Page 19 **hope**
versatility can
be tonic

Sihlangu to
host W Cup
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Daily News *September, 2023*

Sport



Bullet hole

Ally survives car hijacking in Pretoria

**... Mbabane Highlanders Managing
 Director Chief Ally Kgomongwe's
 ambushed by gun-wielding thugs who fired
 gunshots on his Mercedes Benz C200 while
 driving in SA on Wednesday night *Page 19***