

BOTSWANA

Daily News

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Farmers unity panacea to FMD fight

Mooketsi Mojalemotho SEROWE

Robust government interventions, coupled with a united and proactive farming community through cohesive farmers’ associations, remain central to the fight against the spread and containment of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

Representatives of three farmers’ associations said in interviews on Saturday that recent FMD outbreaks in South Africa and Zimbabwe had caused considerable anxiety among farmers in Botswana.

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# Reporting on nutrition crucial - official

Lesedi Thatayamodimo  
GABORONE

Recently, at the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture in Gaborone, journalists put down their notebooks, not to chase breaking news, but to sharpen a different kind of skill: how to tell Botswana's nutrition story with accuracy, depth and impact.

The occasion was a Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Media Training on Nutrition Reporting, bringing together media practitioners, civil society leaders, and development partners under one roof.

While the setting was formal, in the conference room, the conversations were anything but routine.

They centred on a question that increasingly shapes Botswana's future: how food systems, health and development intersect in everyday lives of Batswana.

In his opening remarks, Ministry of Lands and Agriculture nutritionist, Mr Baeng Ntime welcomed participants with a clear message that 'nutrition is not a side issue but it is central to national development'.

"Everyone has the right to food and good nutrition," Mr Ntime said, echoing the founding principle of the global Scaling Up Nutrition Movement.

The movement now unites more than 60 countries, including Botswana which joined in 2015, around a shared goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms.

Mr Ntime informed reporters that from childhood undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies to the rising burden of overweight, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, malnutrition remains a

"Nutrition is not a side issue but it is central to national development. Everyone has the right to food and good nutrition"

**Ministry of Lands and Agriculture nutritionist  
Mr Baeng Ntime**



...Botswana continues to face persistent nutrition challenges linked to how food is produced, distributed, accessed and consumed. Our food systems shape our health outcomes.

**Food Bank Botswana country director Mr Kingston Mmolawa**

complex challenge.

And the complexity, Mr Ntime emphasised, demands informed reporting. "Nutrition is not only a health issue but a development priority," he said, pointing to Botswana's efforts to integrate nutrition into agriculture and food systems policies.

These efforts, Mr Ntime said, were aligned with Vision 2036, the Botswana Economic Transformation Plan, and the forthcoming National Development Plan 12, signaling political commitment at the highest level.

He highlighted that policies and strategies alone were not enough, saying that was where the media came in.

"The media plays a vital role in bridging government, civil society and communities. It ensures

that nutrition remains visible, understood, and prioritised," Mr Ntime noted.

Sharing same sentiments, Food Bank Botswana country director, Mr Kingston Mmolawa expanded on the theme, describing the training as both timely and strategic.

Despite progress in food availability and social protection, he said, Botswana continued to face persistent nutrition challenges linked to how food is produced, distributed, accessed and consumed.

"Our food systems shape our health outcomes. From what is grown and sold, to what families can afford and choose to eat, nutrition is woven into daily life," Mr Mmolawa explained.

For journalists in the room, the message was clear that their

reporting will shape how those discussions are to be understood by the public.

"Your work makes policy debates accessible and holds all of us accountable," Mr Mmolawa told participants, describing the training as an investment in long-term collaboration between the media and civil society.

As discussions unfolded, one idea consistently resurfaced that nutrition stories are everywhere, hidden in agriculture, health, education, social protection and even the economy.

Reporters were encouraged to ask hard questions, challenge assumptions and continue reporting beyond events and workshops. "Because in the end, nutrition is not just about what is on the plate. It is about equity, opportunity and

the future health of the nation," said Mr Mmolawa.

Meanwhile, the training also served as a curtain-raiser to a major regional event. In March Botswana will host the Scaling Up Nutrition Eastern and Southern Africa Civil Society Network Regional Meeting in Gaborone.

The gathering will bring together civil society representatives from 14 countries across Eastern and Southern Africa, alongside delegates from West and Central Africa.

Under the theme: Strengthening Accountable Food Systems for Nutrition Security and Health," the meeting is expected to spotlight shared regional challenges and practical solutions, placing Botswana at the center of important continental conversations. **BOPA**

# Farmers unity panacea to FMD fight

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The disease was first reported in South Africa's Waterberg District in Limpopo Province in December, prompting Botswana to heighten surveillance, particularly in border areas such as Tsabong, Good Hope, Ramotswa, Tlokweng, Kgatleng and Mahalapye.

To date, there has not been a single reported incident of the disease spillage into the Botswana, due to the various interventions that include movement restrictions, high alert and vigilance due to the proximity of the Waterberg district to border villages, biosecurity advice, as well as deployment of vaccines.

The FMD outbreak that has hit neighbouring Zimbabwe has compounded the matter and sent shockwaves and left farmers frightened across the breadth and length of Botswana.

As of January, latest outbreaks were reported in the Mangwe district of Matabeleland South, near Botswana border. Fifty-four active cases have been reported thus far in the area, with infections linked to a stray buffalo.

The twin outbreaks have sent shockwaves through Botswana's cattle industry, a key contributor to national revenue through long-standing access to the lucrative

European Union market.

Farmers fear that failure to contain the disease using both traditional control measures and innovative approaches could cripple the industry, especially at a time when the country is grappling with resource constraints brought about by prolonged economic challenges.

Southern District Beef Farmers Association vice chairperson, Mr Tiroyaone Mmereki, said existing farmers' association structures should be fully utilised if the country was to prevail in the fight against FMD.

He said the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture should routinely engage the Botswana National Beef Producers Union whenever disease outbreaks occur, as this would enable effective mobilisation of farmers through its affiliate structures.

"The Botswana National Beef Producers Union would then be able to mobilise us as its bona fide affiliates to chart the way forward," he said.

Mr Mmereki called on farmers to take the lead in combating animal diseases by working closely with fellow farmers and relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and the police.

He also raised concern over

the poor maintenance of cordon fences across the country, which he said posed a serious threat to disease control efforts.

He noted that many fences had not been properly maintained for over a decade, allowing wild animals such as elephants to stray beyond their natural habitats and increasing the risk of disease transmission.

He urged members of his association from Pitshane Molopo, Manyana and Lobatse through to Mabutsane, to work together and act as vigilant custodians of the cattle industry.

Echoing his sentiments, C8 Beef Farmers Society chairperson, Mr Phokompe Pifelo warned that the deteriorating state of cordon fences could allow diseases to spread easily across zones.

"This is also exacerbated by unavailability of patrols," said Mr Pifelo, whose society covers farming communities from Makoro to Makoba.

Last year, he said as a precautionary measure, the society partnered with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture to repair a cordon fence in the Sese area, with the ministry providing resources while farmers contributed labour.

Mr Pifelo emphasised that individual farmers must rise to the occasion and demonstrate

commitment to safeguarding the industry, especially in light of limited government resources.

He stated that acute shortage of resources from government called on the farming community to join efforts to curb threats posed by FMD and other enemies of a full-throttle beef industry.

The views of the two associations were aligned with those of the TOTUMA Commercial Farmers Association.

Its chairperson, Mr Stephen Pillar, said effective communication was equally critical in mitigating the FMD threat.

"We stay informed and closely monitor developments so that we can share information with our affiliates," he said, adding that the association, which represented farmers from Tonota, Tutume and Masunga, had established mechanisms to rapidly disseminate information on the disease.

Mr Pillar said the association would urgently engage the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture to consider deploying patrols along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border, similar to operations in the Bobirwa District.

"This would help curb disease spillover, especially given the prevalence of illegal border crossings in areas such as Maitengwe and other border

villages in the North East," he said.

FMD outbreaks in Botswana date back to the 1930s, a history that prompted the country to establish local vaccine production through the Botswana Vaccine Institute.

The use of effective vaccines, alongside other control measures, remains a cornerstone of Botswana's FMD management strategy.

FMD is a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed domestic and wild animals, including cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and deer. It is regarded as an economic disease due to its devastating impact on livestock production and trade.

Over the years, Botswana has developed a comprehensive national FMD strategy based on passive and active surveillance, movement control, zoning, strategic vaccination, biosecurity, public education, awareness campaigns and robust legal frameworks.

In Botswana, FMD is primarily transmitted to cattle from wild animals, particularly buffalo, in endemic areas, with outbreaks historically concentrated in the North West District due to livestock-wildlife interaction. **BOPA**



# Budget 2026/27 pivots from diamonds to enterprise

Pako Lebanna  
GABORONE

The 2026/2027 national budget, set to be presented before Parliament on February 9, will kickstart the process of transforming the country's economy, guided by the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme (BETP) and the National Development Plan (NDP 12).

This was revealed by Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe in his address during the Budget Pitso for general stakeholders' consultation in Gaborone on Monday.

Mr Gaolathe emphasised that the BETP was vital for restructuring the country's economy into a more resilient system, where practical delivery and priorities translated into investment and employment.

"BETP recognises that Botswana's constraint is not the absence of ideas. It is execution, productivity and a growth structure that must now broaden beyond what the public purse and diamonds can

sustainably support. BETP exists to ensure economic diversification is implemented in practice, sector by sector, project by project," he added.

He revealed that the economic model, which had sustained the country since independence, anchored on diamond revenue and government spending, had become unsuitable and made transformation imperative.

"In plain terms, we are operating in a new reality. We must stabilise the economy and protect the vulnerable, while simultaneously repositioning the economy for diversification and jobs without assuming that public spending alone can carry that transition," he said.

The Vice President called on the private sector to reduce its reliance on government procurement and instead become enterprising and innovative in developing sustainable business solutions.

"If we are serious about diversification, then we must be serious about a culture shift.

'BETP is vital for restructuring the country's economy into a more resilient system, where practical delivery and priorities translate into investment and employment.'

Botswana cannot build a resilient high-income economy if too much private initiative is based around government contracts. No nation has diversified by treating public procurement as the main investment model," he said.

He added that Botswana needed to build an economy where entrepreneurs established factories that served households, firms competed effectively, value chains deepened and imports were substituted by domestic production and exports that generated foreign exchange.

The Vice President also called on private financial institutions to join the state in the cultural shift through "financing that rewards productivity and funding models that back real value creation rather than short-term cycles."

He pledged that government would remain transparent about the current state of the economy while working toward long-term solutions.

That, he said, included fostering a new culture where projects were completed on time and within budget and where opportunity was created through production and enterprise.

For his part, secretary of



Vice President and Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe (right) and Econsult Botswana managing director, Dr Keith Jefferis during 2026/27 Budget Pitso for general stakeholders in Gaborone on Monday. Mr Gaolathe said the 2026/27 budget would kickstart the process of transforming the country's economy, guided by the Botswana Economic Transformation Programme and the National Development Plan. Photo: Pheny Moalosi

Macroeconomic and Financial Policy at the Ministry of Finance, Dr Sayed Timuno, reiterated that the 2026/2027 budget served as a launchpad for NDP 12.

Dr Timuno noted that according to World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections, global growth would remain subdued through 2026, which continued to adversely affect the domestic economy.

He added that while the mining sector remained the main driver of growth, diamond prospects for 2026 remained abstract as lab-grown diamonds continued to pressure the natural diamond market.

Senior policy advisor in the finance ministry, Ms Naledi Madala stated that the BETP would focus on bringing to life projects that had undergone rigorous labs in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, energy and tourism. **BOPA**

## Botswana keen to strengthen strategic partnerships

Ndingililo Gaoswediwe  
GABORONE

Botswana is keen to strengthen partnerships with fellow diamond-producing nations, notably Angola and Namibia, as collective action can significantly enhance Africa's leverage in the international diamond market.

Speaking during a farewell courtesy call by

outgoing Angola Ambassador to Botswana, Dr Beatriz Antonia Manuel de Moraes in Gaborone on Monday, President Advocate Duma Boko highlighted Botswana's recent strategic decision to acquire stakes previously held by Anglo American and De Beers, describing it as a critical step toward greater national participation and influence in the global diamond value chain.

He further outlined a vision to establish an OPEC-type forum for diamonds, which would unite African diamond producers under a common platform, amplified their collective voice, stabilised markets and shaped the future direction of the industry.

In addition, President Boko reaffirmed the strong and enduring friendship between Botswana and Angola, noting that cooperation between the two countries continued to deepen across strategic sectors.

The President noted that the two countries had consistently demonstrated mutual respect and solidarity over the years, resulting in strong diplomatic relations and expanding areas of cooperation.

For her part, Dr de Moraes reflected on her tenure in Botswana, recalling that her first official mission was to strengthen bilateral relations and promote Botswana's image in Angola and beyond.

She said her role had been guided by the objective of fostering unity, cooperation and collaboration among nations. **BOPA**



President Advocate Duma Boko (right) and Angola Ambassador to Botswana, Dr Beatriz Antonia Manuel de Moraes during a farewell courtesy call at the Office of the President on Monday. President Boko underlined the importance of partnerships in the diamond sector, highlighting Botswana's strategic decision to acquire stakes previously held by Anglo American and De Beers. The outgoing ambassador appreciated the cooperation and support extended to her and Angola during her tenure since 2018. Photo: Thompson Keobaletswe

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# DailyBusiness

## BMC steps up measures against FMD

Calviniah Kgauthe

### LOBATSE

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in South Africa and Zimbabwe necessitates the implementation of strict measures to prevent its spread into FMD-free-zone.

Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) acting chief executive officer, Ms Mmabasotho Tibe said it was critical to employ preventative measures especially in the FMD free Zone areas to continue to satisfy BMC's traditional and premium markets of European Union and Norway which offered lucrative prices.

The acting CEO thus said based on the standard veterinary control protocols, BMC would restrict or close operations when an FMD case was confirmed within a 10 km radius of surveillance. This she noted would lead to strict movement of people, cattle or cloven hooved animals adding that it might lead to people not being permitted to cross to FMD free zone areas.

She said BMC worked with the department of veterinary services adding that measures were being put in place to avoid occurrence of any eventualities. At present, Ms Tibe said BMC abattoirs had been fully secured. FMD foot bath, she said, had been put in place to disinfect footwear and all vehicles as well as cattle trucks that entered BMC facilities were disinfected.

Ms Tibe warned of the serious trade and economic impact should FMD outbreak hit Botswana.

"It would mean that Botswana will lose out on the

It is critical to employ preventative measures especially in the FMD free Zone areas to continue satisfying BMC's traditional and premium markets of European Union and Norway, which offer lucrative prices.

lucrative market of European Union and Norway. However, we are currently exploring alternative markets. We can get other markets but the reality is that they do not pay the same market price as EU and Norway," she said.

Ms Tibe said BMC was working to diversify its heavy reliance on its traditional markets to ensure long term sustainability of beef exports. She underscored that even though such markets continued to offer premium value under existing trade arrangements, BMC had achieved notable progress in opening high growth, less restrictive markets across the Gulf Cooperation Council, Greater Africa, and Asia.

Additionally, she said the strategic shift was meant to develop a more resilient, multi-market export in order to secure long term sustainability, profitability and competitiveness of Botswana's beef industry. She noted that historically, South Africa had been a major destination for Botswana beef but recent FMD-related market disruptions had constrained demand prompting BMC to intensify diversification efforts within Southern African Development Community region and the broader African continent.

Ms Tibe highlighted that BMC had thus far advanced market penetration efforts within the SADC region which include

Angola, Mozambique and Lesotho and the broader African continent which included the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Meanwhile, executive director and senior analyst at Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy (BFAP) in South Africa, Dr Mmatlou Kalaba, when speaking to Newsroom Africa, recently warned of the seriousness and the complexity of FMD once it entered South Africa. He said when FMD outbreak hit South Africa in 2019, the country lost its status as an FMD free country.

He noted that it was a serious drawback to the growth of the livestock sector which cost the country a substantial loss to the economy, adding that failure to control FMD could lead to the disease rapidly spreading to other parts of the country. He said in 2019 FMD affected only two provinces in South Africa and later spread to seven provinces which became a challenge to control.

Dr Kalaba noted that business and value chains built around livestock were disrupted, and trade which was substantially linked to agriculture was affected adding that South Africa trade partners closed their borders to beef products from that country which affected the competitiveness that South Africa was known for.

**BOPA**

BMC acting CEO Ms Mmabasotho Tibe said based on the standard veterinary control protocols, BMC would restrict or close operations when an FMD case is confirmed within a 10km radius of surveillance.

## Francistown: Living museum of culture and diversity

Kelebogile Taolo

### FRANCISTOWN

For decades, Francistown has been known as the capital of the North, a rugged and hardworking hub defined by the clatter of mining and the bustle of commerce. But as the city looks toward the future, it is reclaiming its most evocative title, The City of All Things Precious.

While the name once referred to the gold buried beneath its soil, it is now being used to describe a different kind of wealth, the cultural and heritage treasures of its people.

At the recent Tourism Pitso, the first of its kind since 2013, the atmosphere was thick with a sense of belated opportunity.

Under the theme, Tourism as a Catalyst for Economic Transformation, leaders gathered to discuss how Botswana's second-largest city can finally capitalise on its untapped potential.

Mayor Gaone Majere sees the 'precious' nature of the city in its diversity. To him, Francistown is a living museum. From the prehistoric silhouette of Nyangabwe Hill to the colonial echoes of St. Patrick's Church, the city offers a treasure trove for the modern traveller.

"Francistown possesses a wealth of cultural and heritage tourism attractions," Mayor Majere said, pointing to the Supa Ngwao Museum and the city's unique legacy as the site

of Southern Africa's first gold rush. This identity is expressed through the rhythm of local music, a vibrant arts scene and a multicultural cuisine that makes the city a true melting pot.

On one hand, for too long, tourists have viewed Francistown as a mere transit point, a place to refuel before disappearing into the Chobe District or the salt pans of Makgadikgadi. Mayor Majere is determined to turn that transit into a stay.

By leveraging its strategic position as the gateway to the northern circuit, the city aims to capture the flow of international travellers. The city has already proven it can handle the spotlight including major events like the BTC Francistown Marathon, Northern Trade Fair and the glitz of Miss Universe Botswana have demonstrated that the city has the infrastructure and what is required to host the world.

However, a transformation of this scale cannot be built on government policy alone. The buzzword of the summit was collaboration.

"Government efforts alone cannot

lead to transformation," Mr Majere warned.

He called for a robust alliance between local authorities and the private sector, a sentiment echoed by HATAB chairperson, Mr Joe Motse. Mr Motse emphasised that revitalising Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) was the only way to mobilise the innovation needed to build world-class tourism products.

Such a shift, he said was an economic lifeline designed to invigorate local supply chains by sourcing from residents, empower SMEs to move beyond traditional retail and mining support as well as create sustainable jobs, specifically targeting the energy of youth and women.

Vice President, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe officially opened the Pitso and the vision was established that Francistown is no longer content to sit in the shadow of the wilderness, but stepping into the light as well as proving that it truly is the City of All Things Precious, where history, culture and opportunity meet. **BOPA**

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

Brazil current account deficit hits 11-year high in 2025

**BRASILIA** - Brazil's current account deficit amounted to US\$68.8 billion in 2025, the worst level in 11 years, according to data published Monday by the Central Bank. The 2025 deficit was equivalent to 3.02 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), higher than the 2024 shortfall of US\$66.2 billion, according to the bank. In December 2025, the current account transactions posted a deficit of US\$3.4 billion, sharply down from US\$10.2 billion a year earlier. The wider deficit was mainly due to a decline of US\$5.9 billion in the trade surplus, partly offset by a narrower services deficit of US\$2.2 billion and a higher secondary income surplus of US\$1 billion.

**Xinhua**

European Parliament delays decision on EU-US trade deal

**BRUSSELS** - The European Parliament has delayed until next week a decision on whether to restart work on the EU-US trade deal, after pausing its approval process last week, in protest over US President Donald Trump's push to acquire Greenland and his tariff threats against European allies, a senior lawmaker said on Monday. Confirming that no decision was taken to resume ordinary EU-US legislative procedures, Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade, said in a post on X that the Parliament's negotiating team would meet on February 4 to reassess the situation. **Xinhua**

China bamboo industry tops ¥520 billion annually

**BEIJING** - China's bamboo industry has achieved an annual output value of over ¥520 billion, with more than 15 000 types of bamboo products available, National Forestry and Grassland Administration data showed on Tuesday. Under the three-year action plan to accelerate replacing plastic with bamboo, the government has implemented supportive policies to foster industrial clustering, according to the administration. Currently, China has more than 10 000 bamboo processing enterprises, supporting employment for over 29 million people along the entire industrial chain. China contains nearly 8 million hectares of bamboo forests, producing 150 million tonnes of bamboo annually.

**Xinhua**



# Dikgang

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## ‘Kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo e sireletsa ditshwanelo’

Omphile ntakhwana  
**LERALA**

Tona wa lephata la metsi le bonno, Rre Onneetse Ramogapi o ganeditse dipego tsa gore puso e batla go nyeletsa katlholelo leso ka tshimolodiso ya kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo.

Fa a buisa phuthego ya kgotla kwa Leralla ka Labotlhano Rre Ramogapi yo gape e leng mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Palapye a re go a swabisa go bo dikgang tse di dirisiwa sepolotiki le go tsietsa Batswana. Gakologelwang gore ka Dibotelo Commission ya tshaka tshoko ya molao motheo, Batswana ba buile gore ba eletsa gore Botswana a nne le kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo,” ga bua Rre Ramogapi. O tswelsetse a re go ditirigalo tse di diragetseng mo Botswana di supa gore kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo ke yone nkabong e di rarabolotse.

“Rona rele puso, re fapaana le kgang ya gore Dibotelo Commission yone e ne ya tsaa tshwetso ya gore tse Batswana ba di batlang, e a di gana, nngwe ya tsone ele yone ya go thaa kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo,” tona a tlhalosa tswelela.

Rre Ramogapi o supile fa go tlaa

nna le tlhopho lefatshe leno ka bophara gore a puso e a tswelela kana ga e tswelela ka go thaa kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo.

“Mo kgaolong ya rona ya Tswapong, go dikgang jaaka go tlhoka go dirisa noka ya Limpopo mo temo - thuong, ke tshwanelo e e tlhokang yone kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo,” ga bua mopalamente.

Rre Ramogapi o kopile Batswana go emisa go tsiediwa ke batho, ka tlhabololo e, e tsileng go ama dikgang di tshwana go thama mebereko, go atolosa le go tokafatsa boatlhodi.

“Dikgang tsa gore Tautona o gana go kaletsa magolegwa a atlholetsweng leso ga se boaamaruri,” ga bua Rre Ramogapi, a tlatsa ka gore kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo e tsile go thusa mo dikgannyeng tse.

Fa a tswa la gagwe, Kgosi Sello Moroka wa Leralla o supile fa a ema nokeng molao kakanyetso wa go thaa kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo.

“Nna tlhopho yame etsile go nna ee, gore re thae kgotla kgolo ya molao motheo, ebile ke rotloetsa morafe wame go tlhophae,” ga bua Kgosi Moroka.

A re dikgang tsa kgatako ya ditshwanelo tsa setho di tshwanetse tsa tsewa tsia le go baakanngwa.

O tswelsetse a re o tshwenngwa ke dikgang tsa sephiri tsa puso tse o fitlhelang di buiwa mo maranyaneng (Facebook/social media). “Ga go nne sentle go bona dikgang tsa di ofisi tse di tona di ntshiwa mo maranyaneng, go sena bosupi jalo jalo,” Kgosi Moroka a tlhalosa, a tlatsa ka gore puso e tshwanetse ya sireletsa dikgang tsa yone tse disephiri.

**BOPA**

Tona wa lephata la dipalamo le dikago, Rre Noah Salakae (mojeng) le Kgosi Tau Makgasane wa Lentsweletau (fa gare) ba le kwa phuthegong ya kgotla kwa Letsweletau bosheng. Tona Salakae o tlhalositse fa tsela ya Rasesa-Lentsweletau-Diphuduhudu le ya Lentsweletau-Medie di tlaa tshelwa sekonotere ka lenaneo la NDP12. Senepe: Keetile Bontsibokae

## Ba Mokgware ba lela ka tsela

Portia Rapitsenyane  
**MOKGWARE**

Banni ba motse wa Mokgware ba supile matshwengego ka tsela e e tshwaraganyang motse wa bone le wa Mogome e ba neng ba solofeditse fa e tla a dirwa mme mo nakong eno e ise e dirwe.

Ba re tsela eo ga e mo seemong se se siameng ka e re fa go le dipula ba sa kgone go tsamaya e bile gape e ba baya mo diphatseng. Ba ntshitse matshwenyego a bone jaaka fa mopalamente wa Palapye Rre Onneetse Ramogapi a ne a buisa diphuthego tsa kgotla mo kgaolong ya gagwe ya botlhophi bosheng.

Banni ba re ba na le dingwaga ba bua ka tsela eo le bodiphatsa jwa yone mme ekare puso ga e tsiboge. Ba supile fa tsela eo e ne ya senyega thata fa dipula tse di mashetla di na mo ngwageng o o fetileng.

Ba re se se botlhoko tsela eo e na le sebaka e sa gopiwe mme fa e sa dirwe jalo e felela e nna mo seemong se se tlhobaetsang.

Le fa go ntse jalo Rre Ramogapi o ne a solofetsa banni fa tsela eo e tla a dirwa ka tsentswe mo lenaneong la ditlhabololo la NDP 12 mme e tla a nna yone e tla a tseelwang kwa godimo fa go dirwa ditlhabolo tsa motse wa bone.

A re mo nakong eno puso e mo leshekereng la madi mme go na le tsholofelo ya gore dilo di tla a boela mo seemong. A re letlhoko la madi le kgoreletsa puso go direla Batswana ditlhabolo.

O ne a solofetsa banni fa ba lephata la ditsela ba tla a tswelela ka go gopa tsela eo gore e seka ya senyegela pele e bile e seka ya baya banni mo diphatseng bogolo jang fa dipula tse di bokete di na.

Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Ramogapi o ne a kopa banni go tsaya sebaka se ba lephata la metsi ba se ba neetseng ya go kgaola dikoloto tsa metsi ka bogare tse ba ntseng ba na le tsone.

A re thulaganyo eo, e tla a tswelela go fitlhela kgwedi e e tlang e wela.

Rre Ramogapi a re puso e tla a tswelela e dira gore dituelo tsa metsi di seka tsa kokonela

Batswana jaaka e ne ya tsaya tshwetso ya gore dituelo tsa metsi di fokodiwe ka selekanyo sa masome mararo mo lekgolong.

Mogolwane go tswa kwa lephateng la metsi yo o okametseng kgaolong ya legare Rre Thabo Ndadi o ne a supa fa bontsi jwa banni ba sa tsibogela go tla kwa diofising tsa lephata la metsi go fokoletswa dikoloto.

A re lephata la metsi le ka seka la fokotsa sekoloto sa metsi mme mong wa sone o tshwanetse a tle kwa diofising tsa bone go buisana gore o tla a se duela jang go fitlhelala se fela.

A re sekoloto sa metsi kwa Mogome se tsamaya kwa go lekgolo le masome a fera bobedi a dikete tsa dipula (P180 000) mme se se raya gore banni ga ba a tsibogele go duele metsi.

O ne a re madi a dituelo tseo tsa metsi ke one a lephata la gagwe le a dirisang go tlhabolola ditirelo tsa metsi.

O kopile banni go somarela metsi le gore ba a dirise sentle e bile ba seka ba a dirisa go nosa leruo. **BOPA**

## Mopalamente o akgola Colic Construction

Grace Sebape  
**LOBATSE**

Mopalamente wa kgaolo ya Lobatse Rre Kamal Jacobs o akgotse ba khamphani ya Colic Construction Development ba ba tswelletseng sentle ka go aga le ntshafatsa dikago tsa madirelo a matlalo (Tannery) mo Lobatse.

A re se, ke bontlha bongwe jwa go tsosolosa toropo ya Lobatse.

Mopalamente Jacobs o dirile kagolo eo ka Labotlhano jaaka a ne a lekola kago sesha ya madirelo ao le gore khamphani e e dirang tiro eo e tswelsetse jang.

O tswelsetse a batla go itse ka pabalesego le botsogo jwa setshaba bogolo jang batho ba ba nnang mo tikologong eo ka gore matlalo a na le monko le gone go oka ditshidinyana jaaka dintsi tse a reng di jesetsa banni mo lesweng e bile di ka ba tsenya malwetsi.

Mopalamente Jacobs a re babereki bangwe ba manolola nama e e salelang mo matlalong e e tlwaelesegileng ka leina la dikgogakgogano, morago ga go tlhabiwa ga dikgomo kwa matlhabelong a BMC, mme ba e rekise ka tlhlatlhwane e kwa tlase. O tlhalositse fa go supagetse fa nama eo e sa siamela botsogo jwa batho, ka jalo a batla go itse gore ba Colic Construction baa go dira jang ka kgang e.

E rile tswa la gagwe, mogolwane kwa khamphani eo, Rre Nerey Mchale o tlhalositse fa ba ya go tlhakanya nama eo le mafura mme ba dire dijo tsa loruo jaaka dintsa, a tlatsa ka gore ga e a siamela botsogo jwa motho.

Mo go tse dingwe, Rre Mchale o boletse fa kago ya madirelo ao e dirwa ka mokgwa o o faphegileng, ka jalo go sa ye go nna le monko go tswa mo matlalong.

A re lefelo le metsi a sa tswang

go tlhatswa matlalo a yang teng le ya go khurumelwa, mme e bile le tlaa bo le ka seka la oka dintsi.

Rre Mchale a re mo nakong ya gompiano ba na le babereki ba le lekgolo le lesome (110) go tswa mo Lobatse, seo e le maitenko a go tlhama mebereko mo toropong.

O tswelsetse a bolela gore go na le mabaka a le mmalwa a a dirang gore tiro e bo e saletse kwa morago jaaka seemo sa phetogo ya loapi. **BOPA**



# Namibia faces health funding squeeze as donor aid dips

WINDHOEK

Namibia is facing growing pressure to finance its own health system as donor funding for major disease programmes declines, Minister of Health and Social Services Esperance Luvindao said Monday.

Speaking at a conference in Windhoek, she warned that external support for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria has fallen sharply since the country attained middle-income status, placing added strain on public finances at a time when health spending needs were increasing.

“When Namibia transitioned to middle-income status, the

donor funding that once supported major health programs has shrunk significantly,” Luvindao said.

She said the funding squeeze was occurring as Namibia’s health system confronts multiple, overlapping shocks, including climate change and the ongoing risk of future pandemics, noting that the country’s health system, while significantly strengthened since independence, was designed for a more predictable environment and was now under strain.

Namibia has made substantial progress in expanding primary healthcare services and improving health outcomes, including sharply reducing mother-to-child

transmission of HIV.

However, Luvindao said the operating context for health systems had fundamentally changed.

“We are no longer just fighting diseases; we are fighting the context in which diseases thrive,” she said.

Luvindao stressed that Namibia must reduce its reliance on external assistance and strengthen domestic funding mechanisms to protect essential health services.

Developing innovative and sustainable domestic health financing is critical to achieving universal health coverage and safeguarding long-term development, she added. *Xinhua*



DAVOS - Delegates at the reception of the 2026 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. Photo: Xinhua

## EU outrage grows following military threats and dismissal of NATO troops

WASHINGTON DC

Emotions are running high in Europe following US President Donald Trump’s military threats and downplaying of contributions made by allied troops in Afghanistan.

Trump has triggered outrage among allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after questioning whether they would come to Washington’s aid in times of need.

‘We have never needed them. We have never really asked anything of them. You know, they will say they sent some troops to Afghanistan, or this or that. And they did - they stayed a little back, a little off the front lines.’

Trump said Thursday in an interview with Fox News in Davos, Switzerland, sparking a firestorm of criticism.

The comments incensed European leaders, with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer denouncing Trump’s statement as ‘insulting and appalling’ since British forces suffered casualties in the US war in Afghanistan.

Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk also lambasted Trump’s comments in a social media post, pointing out that his country, too, lost troops in Afghanistan.

This latest controversy comes on the heels of a tense dispute with European leaders over Greenland, after Trump said military action would be a possible option in his bid to acquire the largely Arctic island, a self-governing territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.

Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said that while security, investment and economic issues could be negotiated, ‘we cannot negotiate on our sovereignty.’

While Trump later claimed to have secured the framework of a deal with NATO regarding Greenland’s future, his threats and aggressive rhetoric prompted

European leaders to denounce any military aggression on Greenland as ‘neo-colonialism.’

The United States wanted to ‘weaken and subordinate Europe’ by demanding maximum concessions and implementing tariffs that were unacceptable, even more so when they were used as leverage against territorial sovereignty, France President Emmanuel Macron said at the recent World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Thursday that transatlantic relations have definitely taken a big blow over the last week.

Former European Council President Charles Michel told CNN that the transatlantic relationship ‘as we have known it for decades is dead.’

Critics also argued that Trump’s suggestion of using military force in the Greenland dispute would violate international treaties, including the UN Charter, which forbids the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

Moreover, as both the US and Denmark are members of NATO, an attack on Greenland would also violate the North Atlantic Treaty.

Trump has since backed down from his threats of military action and tariffs, following condemnation from EU leaders.

The Trump administration has emphasised that Greenland was critical to US national security. Speaking at the WEF, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that Trump ‘believes that Greenland is essential for the Golden Dome missile shield.’

“Greenland is becoming more and more attractive for foreign conquest, and Trump believes that it must be part of the United States to prevent a conflict, rather than getting the US engaged and exposed into a hot conflict,” Bessent said.

When asked if Greenland was crucial to US national security, Michael O’Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said ‘it is important, but we are already able to protect it. In fact, by treaty, we are already obliged to.’ Greenland hosts a key US military base, and with Arctic ice melting, new shipping routes and access to natural resources are becoming increasingly viable.

This has driven much of the US interest in the island, according to media reports. *Xinhua*

## China medical team bring free medical services to orphans

DAR ES SALAAM

The 35<sup>th</sup> China medical team in Tanzania’s Zanzibar has conducted a free clinic at a local orphanage as part of the ‘100 Medical Teams in 1 000 Villages’ free medical services program.

The event held recently provided medical services to about 70 children across eight specialties, including internal medicine, surgery and traditional Chinese medicine. To address the orphans’ health needs, the team also organised

a health education session.

Using Swahili-language leaflets, team members taught the children about disease prevention, and hands-on demonstrations taught children proper hygiene, handwashing and dental care.

After the session, the team donated essential supplies, including medicine, stationery and food.

Bao Zengtao, leader of the medical team, said that children were the future of China-Africa friendship, and the team aimed to promote

in-depth exchanges and cooperation by responding to the call of the 2026 China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges.

Khalid Msabah Rashid, head of the logistics department at Zanzibar’s Ministry of Health, expressed gratitude for the help provided by the China doctors, noting that the initiative not only addressed immediate health issues but also improved the orphanage’s management through knowledge sharing. *Xinhua*



DAR ES SALAAM - Doctors from the 35<sup>th</sup> China medical team in Zanzibar conducting free clinic services for orphans in Tanzania recently. Photo: Xinhua

## Ethiopia declares end of Marburg outbreak

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health on Monday declared the end of the Marburg virus disease outbreak in the country.

Addressing an event in Ethiopia, Minister of Health, Mekdes Daba said with no new cases reported for 42 consecutive days, the country was now free from the virus, as per the criteria set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

She described the milestone

in controlling the outbreak as ‘a success in the history of our country’s health system.’

Meanwhile, the Ethiopia government has expressed its condolences to the families of those who lost their lives due to the virus.

Ethiopia confirmed a Marburg virus disease outbreak in Jinka town in southern Ethiopia last year November, following laboratory testing of samples from a cluster of suspected cases of viral

hemorrhagic fever.

The country has recorded 14 confirmed cases and nine deaths. Five patients have recovered from the disease, according to recent data from the ministry.

The Marburg virus, a highly infectious pathogen with a high fatality rate, causes hemorrhagic fever. Symptoms, including high fever and severe headache, typically appear within a week of exposure, according to the WHO.

*Xinhua*



# Arts & Culture

## Digital preservation safeguards and promotes China ancient relics

TAIYUAN

When Wang Yiran directed the beam of her flashlight onto the mural in front of her, the deities depicted on the wall seemed to come to life.

They sat with solemn dignity or appeared to whisper among themselves, presenting her with a grand ceremonial procession of nearly 300 Taoist deities paying homage to the supreme one.

However, this was not a real scene. Its original form was crafted almost 700 years ago as the 'Chaoyuan Tu,' which is housed in Yongle Palace, a Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) structure in the city of Yuncheng, north China's Shanxi Province.

The exhibition Wang explored, located some 400 kilometers from Yuncheng in Taiyuan, Shanxi's capital city, is a testament to China's cutting-edge digital cultural relics preservation technology.

Themed: Black Myth: Wukong, the ancient Chinese architecture exhibition brought renowned historical sites in Shanxi, such as the Hanging Temple, Xiaoxitian Temple and Yungang Grottoes, vividly to life for visitors via digital light projections, 3D printing and other advanced technologies.

"The exhibition is fantastic. I never imagined ancient architecture could be presented in such diverse forms. It makes me even more eager to visit these places in person," Wang said.

Today, cultural relics are no longer confined to glass cases in museums but are being presented to audiences in more captivating and interactive ways, thanks to China's sustained efforts in digital preservation. Over the past two decades, China has issued multiple documents to support this work, using 3D laser scanning

equipment and professional software to digitally preserve ancient structures, murals, bronze ware and other artifacts.

Shanxi Province, dubbed China's 'above-ground cultural relics museum,' boasts 531 nationally protected key cultural relic sites, including three intact wooden structures from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) the highest number in the country.

As early as 2015, the province took the initiative to digitally scan its immovable cultural relics.

Digital scanner Jia Zhi entered the field after graduating from university and has witnessed the transformation of cultural relics preservation in China from traditional methods to digital approaches.

"Twelve years ago, when I was documenting the nearly 5000m<sup>2</sup> Meiligengzhao Temple in Inner Mongolia in north China, it took two people almost two weeks to complete the task. Now, the same workload can be finished in just three days," he said.

Technologies like 3D laser scanning, drone mapping and close-range photogrammetry have resulted in revolutionary breakthroughs in cultural relics preservation.

Jia explained that laser scanning could capture the three-dimensional information of ancient structures from a distance and without physical contact, with data accuracy and completeness far surpassing that of traditional methods.

This data not only provides precise scientific references for the restoration of ancient buildings but also helps establish permanent digital archives.

To date, Jia's team has scanned 350 immovable cultural relic sites, including 1500 ancient structures, 1500 painted sculptures and 15 000m<sup>2</sup> of murals, accumulating a total of 2 petabytes of data.

They have also been invited to conduct digital scanning work in other parts of China, such as Zhejiang Province in the east

and Xizang Autonomous Region in the southwest. Such digital preservation achievements are playing an astonishing role in raising public awareness of cultural relics and traditional culture.

In December last year, an exhibition featuring the UNESCO World Heritage Site Yungang Grottoes was held in east China's Shanghai.

Stone carvings, representing the pinnacle of 5th-century global sculptural art, were replicated through 3D printing and displayed in outdoor exhibition sheds, attracting many visitors. These "mobile grottoes" have traveled over 5,000 kilometers across China in recent years.

"The 'long journeys' of these grottoes have planted 'seeds in the hearts of people far away,' said a staff member at the Yungang Grottoes, while adding that the number of visitors to the actual Yungang Grottoes had surged from 3 million in 2023 to 5 million in 2025. Another widely recognised application of digital cultural relics preservation is China's gaming industry. "Black Myth: Wukong," China's first AAA game that took the world by storm in 2024, invested significant effort in scanning cultural relics.

By accurately incorporating ancient structures and sculptures from across China into the game, it greatly enhanced immersion levels and sparked greater interest in cultural relics among the younger generation.

Li Runhang, an art teacher from Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong Province, has for two consecutive years spent his summer vacations exploring and sketching in Shanxi, which served as the most important filming location for "Black Myth: Wukong."

Once back at school in Shenzhen, he assigned his sketches as homework to his elementary school students, thus inspiring more children to appreciate the beauty of ancient architecture. Amid a growing emphasis on cultural relics preservation and promotion in Chinese society, Jia's team now includes many Generation Z members, who are innovative and passionate about cultural relics work.

Currently, the team has completed scanning above-ground cultural relics in southern Shanxi and plans to scan all 531 nationally protected key cultural relic sites in that province, along with other lower-level key relics, by 2028.

"This job has made me deeply realise that inheriting traditional culture is not about sticking to old ways but using contemporary technology to inject new vitality into it.

Being able to contribute my professional skills to the 'eternal preservation' of ancient architecture makes this work particularly valuable and meaningful," said 23-year-old Yuan Xiaofan. **Xinhua**



**SHIJIAZHUANG** - A snowboarder at Yulongwan ski resort in Yutian County, Tangshan City of north China's Hebei Province recently. Photo: Xinhua

## Photographer captures winter memories

SHIJIAZHUANG

Among a sea of bundled-up skiers on the gleaming snow, Qu Xiaotong, 32, stands out thanks to his signature move, which consists of gliding backward down the slope with a heavy camera firmly secured in his grasp.

This motion, however, is not designed to showcase his athletic prowess, but rather to capture fascinating moments involving excited skiers in rapid motion, at their request.

Qu in 2020 embarked on this career as a ski photographer, working in Chongli District of Zhangjiakou City, north China's Hebei Province, with the aim of perpetuating the pleasure of skiers via his lens. Qu's passion for skiing started during his college years.

"I was hooked on the sport instantly and nothing could stop me from skiing," he recalled, adding that he had become a licensed ski coach even before graduation.

While honing his skills, the observant instructor noticed a trend in the industry, which saw skiers not only enjoying the appeal of the sport itself, but also their desire to retain their ski memories through visual materials. Qu decided to seize the opportunity.

"I have been interested in taking pictures since childhood," he said to himself. And, he said he thought of bringing his two main hobbies together.

Given the popularity of short videos in recent years, Qu has provided both picture and video services to skiers.

Before a shoot, he chats with his clients to figure out their needs. Additionally, he has also opened social media accounts to promote his business.

Despite his dedication, Qu also noted the difficulties that come with this work. "This job requires top-tier skiing and cinematic skills to keep pace and frame the action from different angles," Qu noted. Accidents have occurred in this process.

Three years ago, a mishap during a shoot left him with one broken leg and damaged gear, forcing him to stop work for months.

"I once doubted my choice because of this painful experience, but after recovering from the injuries, I still returned to the ski runs with enthusiasm," he said.

Qu's persistence has gradually

paid off.

"The current number of orders I receive per month amounts to that of the entire snow season during my initial years in this field," he said, adding that the growing winter sports fanbase in China, especially after the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, has been the main driver of his business.

Statistics show that since the start of the current snow season, a total of 1.32 million ski visits have been made to Chongli District, up 12 per cent year on year.

Renowned for its Olympic snow venues, Chongli now draws those seeking both the immediate thrill of skiing and a lasting token of their experience, which can be gained from professionally captured images that crystallize their joy into tangible and lasting forms. In response to the burgeoning market, local people are leveraging their creativity and entrepreneurship to attract the attention of tourists.

Guo Qiannan, a freelance designer, is one of these locals. Still a beginner in this business, Guo has nonetheless already launched 18 cultural and creative products featuring local elements, which combine both practical and aesthetic values.

One example is a best-selling fridge magnet. Shaped like ski goggles, the magnet features craft sand which simulates the effect of falling snow. Buyers can also insert their own pictures into the slot in this magnet, thereby turning it into a unique memento.

During the ongoing snow season, Guo has unveiled a plush toy modeled on cable cars in the ski resorts of Chongli.

"It is not only a decorative bag charm, but also a purse for skiers to hold small items, especially key cards and ski pass cards," she said. As a ski lover herself, Guo's design process is rooted in firsthand empathy.

"With careful observation and research, I try to translate the needs and feelings of skiers into my designs. I think that is why my products resonate with consumers. I am lucky to engage in my beloved career and gain external recognition at the same time," she noted.

Beyond design, Guo is also sharing slices of local life as an online content creator. "I hope more people will visit my hometown and take a piece of fond memories back home." **Xinhua**



**ZIGONG** - Tourists visiting the 32<sup>nd</sup> Zigong International Dinosaur Lantern Show in southwest China's Sichuan Province recently. This year's show featured 11 groups of large light sets and more than 200 groups of small and medium-sized light sets. Photo: Xinhua





TENNIS AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR OPEN UPDATE

Ntungamili Raguin will play against Luis Guto Miguel of Brazil in quarter finals billed for tomorrow



Botswana is set to host the CANA Zone IV Swimming Championships in Gaborone on September 5. The event is expected to attract teams from eSwatini, Lesotho, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

# Botswana to Host CANA swimming championships

Anastacia Sibanda  
**GABORONE**

Gaborone is set to become a hive of sporting activity on September 5 when Botswana hosts the CANA Zone IV Swimming Championships.

The regional event is anticipated to draw teams from Lesotho, eSwatini, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia as well as Botswana, uniting some of Southern Africa’s finest swimming talent.

Team Botswana is reportedly in peak form, with high hopes that the country’s swimmers will rise to the occasion and put forth a strong performance on home soil.

The Botswana Swimming Sports Association (BSSA)

has expressed confidence in the team’s preparedness. BSSA spokesperson Bokang Mokobi emphasised that the association prioritises individual performances over medal counts, aiming for athletes to showcase their skills.

Mokobi noted that swimmers have been training throughout the year, with some already breaking records in their respective categories.

Moreover, he highlighted that hosting the CANA Zone IV Swimming Championships would benefit Botswana by elevating the profile of swimming and showcasing local talents. The championships are also expected to enhance sports infrastructure as existing facilities will be utilised and upgraded, creating a legacy for the country’s sports sector.

In addition, the event will stimulate the economy by attracting visitors and generating

revenue for local businesses.

According to Mokobi, the BSSA plans to leverage the championships as a platform to further develop swimming in Botswana, including conducting clinics and identifying young talents.

“With the support of sponsors such as DTCB and ITIQ, who have contributed in terms of funding, Botswana is well-prepared to host a successful event,” Mokobi stated.

Botswana is no stranger to hosting prestigious swimming events; in 2020, the country successfully held the CANA Zone IV Swimming Championships, which attracted over 250 swimmers from across the region. During that edition, local swimmers such as James Freeman and Andile Bekker opened the championships in style, clinching gold and silver respectively in the 800-metre freestyle event. **BOPA**

WORLD SPORT

## Uganda women team prepares for ITTF world table tennis championships

KAMPALA

Uganda’s women’s team will make history when it competes at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026.

In the draw conducted on Monday by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), Uganda was placed in Group 6 alongside India, Ukraine and Rwanda.

The ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships will take place from April 28 to May 10, 2026, at the OVO Arena Wembley in London.

It will be Uganda’s first appearance at the ITTF World Team Championships. The event will also mark 100 years since the founding of the ITTF and the World Championships. Cyrus Mark Muwanga, president of the Uganda Table Tennis Federation, said he was excited the national team would showcase its talent at the World Team Championships for the first time.

“This has come as a result of hard work and we are making sure the team prepares well to be able to put up a good show,” he added.

Uganda, along with 10 other African women’s teams ; Egypt, Algeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Benin, Ghana, Madagascar and Angola will compete at the World Team Championships in London.

Judith Nangozi, who was part of the team that qualified for the event, told Xinhua on Monday that she was excited to be among the players at the competition.

“We worked so hard to qualify and we shall make sure we put up a good show,” added Nangozi.

Uganda’s team, which also includes Jemimah Nakawala and Judith Mirembe, began its international journey at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Britain and had climbed the rankings through performances in various tournaments. **Xinhua**

## Sabalenka proceeds to Australia Open semi-finals

MELBOURNE

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka defied sweltering heat in Melbourne on Tuesday to overwhelm Iva Jovic in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open.

Sabalenka took another step toward reclaiming the title she won at Melbourne Park in 2023 and 2024. There were moments in the tournament’s first week when Sabalenka’s form was patchy, but she was sharp and composed in an 89-minute 6-3, 6-0 victory over 18-year-old Jovic.

“It was a tough match. Do not look at the score, it was not easy at all,” Sabalenka said modestly. “I am super happy with the win.”

Temperatures were forecast to reach 45 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and had already hit 35



Aryna Sabalenka

degrees by the start of the match. With the roof not yet closed at Rod Laver Arena, Sabalenka’s heavy ball striking kept Jovic under constant pressure.

The Belarusian finished with 31 winners and seven aces. Sabalenka is on a semifinal collision course with American rival Coco Gauff, who plays 12th seed Elina Svitolina in Tuesday’s night session. **Xinhua**

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