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General News

Health worker among 45 affected by Dengue fever, GHS probes 229 suspected cases

The Eastern Region of Ghana is witnessing a sharp increase in Dengue fever cases, with 45 confirmed infections spread across five districts as of July 17, 2024.

The affected areas include Birim Central, Achiase, Akyemansa, Birim South, and Birim North.

A total of 229 suspected cases have been reported, spanning ten districts, including New Juaben South, Lower Manya Krobo, Fanteakwa North, Abuakwa North, and Kwaebibirem.

On July 17, health authorities recorded 34 new positive cases, bringing the cumulative total of suspected cases to 229.

Among those infected is a health worker, comprising 2.2% of the confirmed cases. The Eastern Regional Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) is actively coordinating with the affected districts.

National, regional, and district Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) have launched a joint outbreak investigation, with District Public Health Emergency Management Committees (PHEMC) activated to manage the situation.

The joint Regional RRT and National Team are present in the affected districts, supporting response activities.

Meetings have been held with District

Chief Executives (DCEs) and local chiefs in Birim Central, Birim South, Achiase, and Akyemansa to enhance local coordination.

New districts reporting suspected cases have been instructed to activate their District PHEOCs.

Case Definition and Surveillance

Suspected cases are defined as individuals with acute febrile illness lasting 2-7 days with at least two of the following symptoms: headache, retro-orbital pain, myalgia, arthralgia,

rash, hemorrhagic manifestations, or leucopenia.

Additionally, any individual confirmed for malaria who has completed a three-day course of antimalarials and remains unwell is also considered a suspected case.

Confirmed cases require laboratory confirmation through positive IgM antibody, a rise in IgG antibody titers, positive PCR, or viral isolation.

Laboratory Results

Out of the 229 cumulative suspected cases, 138 lab results have been received. Of these, 45 are positive, 93 are negative, and 91 results are still pending.

Health authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, working to prevent further spread of the disease and provide necessary care to those affected.

Source: Independent Ghana

Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File photo

LGBTQ: UG's new statutes to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns

The University of Ghana is taking a significant step towards gender inclusivity by revising its Statutes to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns.

This development was announced by the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Gordon Akanzuwine Awandare, during the launch of the university's new five-year strategic plan.

The strategic plan, unveiled on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at the Great Hall, also introduced updated human resource and administrative procedures.

Prof. Awandare highlighted the importance of these changes, stating, "One of the significant changes is our shift towards a gender-inclusive stance. The language has been updated to reflect more inclusive terms, moving away from solely 'he' or 'she' references."

The revision of the statutes is part of a broader initiative to align the university's regulations with contemporary and emerging national and institutional policies and processes.

This move supports the Vice

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File photo



General News

LGBTQ: UG's new statutes to incorporate gender-neutral pronouns

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Chancellor's vision of creating a vibrant and responsive governance and management system.

"The revision is in furtherance of the Vice Chancellor's vision, which is to make the institute a vibrant and responsive governance and management system, and also to update and align the statutes with current and emerging national and university-level policies and operational processes," Prof. Awandare explained.

The previous statutes, established in 2014, already included provisions aimed at promoting gender inclusivity and fostering an environment free

from gender-based discrimination and bias.

The new revisions build on this foundation, underscoring the university's ongoing commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others) community embraces a wide spectrum of gender identities beyond the traditional male and female binary.

This inclusivity encompasses individuals who identify as non-binary, genderqueer, genderfluid, agender, and various other identities

that do not conform strictly to conventional notions of gender.

Since 2020, the University of Ghana has faced several distressing incidents targeting its LGBTQ community, reflecting broader societal and legislative challenges in Ghana.

One notable incident occurred in January 2024, when a gay man was brutally assaulted on the university's Legon campus. This attack began when women who had accommodated him discovered his sexual orientation, and he suffered further violence the following day from a refuse collector.

In a related event, the Supreme Court

of Ghana has postponed its ruling on the injunction applications filed by Broadcast Journalist Richard Dela Sky and Researcher Dr. Amanda Odoi regarding the transmission of the controversial anti-LGBTQ bill to President Nana Akufo-Addo.

The court announced that it will deliver its ruling on the injunction applications concurrently with the final judgment. Chief Justice Gertrude Torkornoo, presiding over a five-member panel, emphasized that an expedited trial would better serve the interests of justice in this matter.

Source: *The Independent Ghana*

Prove vehicle ownership or forfeit in 21 days – EOCO warns owners

The Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) has issued a stern directive to owners of eight luxurious vehicles, demanding they provide proof of ownership within 21 days or risk forfeiture.

These vehicles were seized during operations targeting criminal syndicates involved in trafficking stolen cars.

In a statement referenced DP/145/145V.1/13, EOCO stated, "The under-listed vehicles were

seized by the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) following a series of operations over the years. The Office entreats owners of the published vehicles to come forward with proof of ownership to claim their vehicles. The Office will dispose of the vehicles in 21 days."

This announcement comes in the wake of international efforts to curb auto theft, which saw over 40 stolen vehicles from Canada traced to Ghana last year.

These efforts involve cooperation between the FBI and EOCO to tackle the issue.

The stolen vehicles are often sold in Ghana, sometimes with their original documents intact, raising concerns in Canada about the extent of organised crime's involvement in auto theft and exportation.

"Auto theft is considered a 'national crisis' in Canada, with nearly all stolen cars exported by organised crime," a report indicated.

One notable case involved a vehicle stolen from a Toronto driveway in under five minutes. Months later, journalists from CBC News informed the owner that the car had been found in Ghana.

EOCO's directive is part of a broader effort to ensure transparency and accountability in the fight against vehicle trafficking and organized crime.

Source: *Independent Ghana* / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



COP Maame Tiwaa Addo Danquah, EOCO Boss

General News

We will vote based on development, not ethnicity – Kumasi market women

Traders at the Racecourse Market in Kumasi have expressed their dissatisfaction with the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) and urged voters in the Ashanti region to consider other options in the upcoming December 2024 general elections.

The market women, at a press conference on July 15, 2024, voiced their frustrations and criticized the NPP for neglecting the region despite its longstanding support for the party.

Their discontent is partly due to the selection of Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, the Member of Parliament for Manhyia South, as the running mate for the party's flagbearer, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia.

"If Bawumia thinks we will vote for him because he is from the Ashanti Region, then he should forget about it. We are no longer going to vote based on where we come from, but rather who can

bring development to Asanteman," stated the Racecourse market women.

The traders highlighted the halted construction of critical projects, such as the Kumasi Central Market and the Krofrom Market, as the basis for their grievances.

Spokesperson for the traders, Christabel Amoah, emphasized that Dr. Opoku Prempeh's nearly two-decade tenure as MP has not resulted in significant benefits for the community.

"We don't have a proper place to use as our market. We live in water. Racecourse has been deserted. We stay under the sun from morning till dusk for our daily bread. Sometimes we are overrun by vehicles and some even lose their lives through it," said Amoah.

"NAPO has been MP for 16 years and the abandoned Krofrom Market is in his constituency, so we expected him to fix it so we could use it, but he didn't. And we don't expect him to address our

problems at this juncture when he has been appointed as running mate," she added.

The traders also emphasized their lack of support during crises, such as fire outbreaks, noting that the MP has not engaged with them to help find solutions.

"A lot has happened in our market, including fire outbreaks, but there has not been a single instance where he has come to us to share in our problems to help solve them," Amoah concluded.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Traders at the Racecourse Market in Kumasi

I never wanted running mate position; I can't speak good English - Chairman Wontumi

The Ashanti Regional Chairman of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Bernard Antwi Boasiako, popularly known as Chairman Wontumi, has openly stated that he never aspired to be the party's running mate.

In an interview with Onua FM on July 15, 2024, Chairman Wontumi humorously acknowledged his limitations in English proficiency.

He emphasized that his language skills are not sufficient for such a high-profile position and expressed his preference for roles that do not put his language abilities in the spotlight.

"I never wanted the running mate position. I can't even speak better English to become a running mate. I have a limit to my English, so I won't go and say anything for me

to become a topic of discussion because of my English," Wontumi explained.

Chairman Wontumi also expressed his full support for Dr. Matthew Opoku Prempeh, also known as NAPO, who has been selected as the NPP's running mate.

He highlighted the importance of party unity and dismissed any rumours of internal conflict within the NPP regarding NAPO's selection.

"We are committed to ensuring their victory in the 2024 elections," Wontumi affirmed, reiterating his dedication to endorsing NAPO and contributing to the party's unified front as they prepare for the upcoming elections.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku



Bernard Antwi Boasiako (Chairman Wontumi), NPP Ashanti Regional Chairman



General News

IGP Dampare congratulates COP Christian Tetteh on Dep. IGP role

The Inspector-General of Police, Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, and the Police Management Board have congratulated Commissioner of Police (COP) Christian Tetteh Yohuno on his promotion to Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of Operations.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, July 18, the police administration expressed their commitment to working together to maintain peace, security, law, and order in Ghana.

The post read, "The Inspector-General of Police Dr. George Akuffo Dampare, Members of the Police Management Board and the entire Police Service wish to congratulate you Mr. Christian Tetteh Yohuno on your promotion to the rank of Deputy Inspector-General of Police."

It continued, "We wish you all the best as we continue to work together with our colleagues in the pursuit of peace, security, law and order in our beloved country."

President Akufo-Addo appointed COP Christian Tetteh Yohuno to the role following the Police Council's recommendation during its meeting on Wednesday, July 17. The Presidency, in a press statement by Eugene Arhin, Director of Communications at Jubilee House, highlighted COP Yohuno's distinguished career spanning over three decades in law enforcement and his previous key roles within the Police Service.

President Akufo-Addo also extended his congratulations to COP Yohuno, expressing confidence in his abilities and wishing him success in his new responsibilities.

Profile

COP Christian Tetteh Yohuno has over a decade of experience in the Ghana Police Service and holds an Executive MBA in Project Management.

He served as Divisional Commander for Accra Central from November 2007 to May 2009, doubling as Accra

Regional Operations Commander.

In January 2012, he received a special promotion to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCOP) and was awarded the Grand Medal in 2011 for his service in combating armed robbery and other criminal activities.

He later became Deputy Accra Regional Commander and rose to Regional Commander in 2013, serving until December 5, 2015.

On December 5, 2015, Mr. Yohuno was appointed Director-General of Police Operations and was promoted to Commissioner of Police (COP) effective January 1, 2016.

He is a member of the Police Management Board (POMAB), which assists the IGP in the day-to-day administration of the Ghana Police Service.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



IGP, Dampare congratulates Christian Tetteh

Over GHS480K paid to unqualified LEAP beneficiaries, deceased - Report

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Management Secretariat paid cash grants totaling GH¢84,480 to 44 deceased beneficiaries, according to the Auditor General's report.

The report also revealed that beneficiaries who were no longer eligible for the program received payments totaling GH¢396,620. LEAP is a government-run social protection program aimed at reducing economic and social hardship by providing cash grants to extremely poor and vulnerable households.

"We found that LMS paid cash grants to caregivers of deceased beneficiaries in one-member households, resulting in payments to 44 deceased beneficiaries amounting to GH¢84,480," the report stated.

"We also noted that LMS did not conduct reassessments of LEAP as required. Despite identifying positive impacts of the programme, LMS failed to graduate or exit beneficiaries even when their socioeconomic status had improved. This led to payments

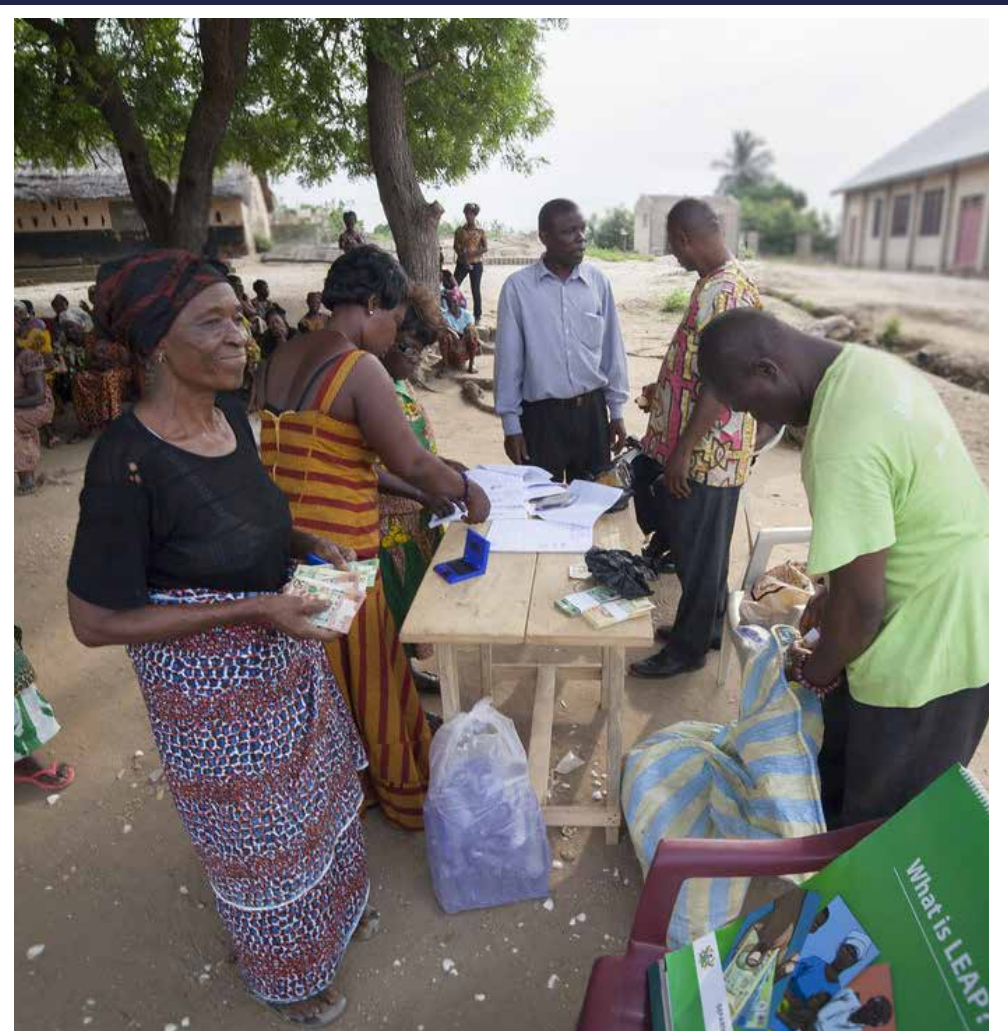
of GH¢396,620 to beneficiaries who no longer qualify to be on the programme," it further stated.

On August 8, 2023, Johnson Akuamoah Asiedu, the Auditor General, sent a transmittal letter to the Speaker of Parliament containing this information.

The audit, covering the years 2017 to 2022, was conducted at the LMS and five districts across three regions from February to October 2022. The Auditor General noted that LMS had violated fund utilization guidelines, resulting in GH¢15,369,309.97 in overspending, which endangered the program's viability. Additionally, the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MOGCSP) failed to keep accurate records of the money spent.

To improve accountability, the Auditor General proposed that MOGCSP should enhance its record-keeping procedures.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku



File photo

General News

Transport fares to surge by 15% amid fuel price hikes

The Concerned Drivers Association of Ghana has announced a 15% increase in transport fares, effective Monday, July 22.

This decision is due to the rising cost of fuel and essential vehicle maintenance items, which have significantly impacted the transport sector.

Public Relations Officer of the association, David Agboado, explained in an interview with the media on Wednesday, July 17, that the surge in fuel prices has left drivers with no choice but to raise fares.

He noted that some oil marketing companies are now selling fuel at prices exceeding GH¢15 per litre, placing additional financial strain on drivers.

"We will be increasing transport fares by Monday by 15%. The reason is that fuel prices have gone high. All that we use in servicing our vehicles has gone high. That necessitated the 15% increment," Mr. Agboado stated.

The fare hike is also driven by the

rising cost of spare parts, which are crucial for maintaining vehicles in good working condition.

Mr. Agboado emphasized that drivers are unable to continue absorbing these increasing costs, which are eroding their earnings and threatening the sustainability of their operations.

"The fare increase is justified given the current economic pressures," he added, highlighting that the decision

was necessary to ensure the viability of the transport sector.

The association clarified that the Transport Ministry was not consulted regarding this fare adjustment. "Transport Ministry is not aware, and we don't need to sit with Transport Ministry before we increase our transport fares. We keep saying this," Mr. Agboado asserted.

This announcement comes amid a

series of price hikes by several oil marketing companies (OMCs) at the start of July's second pricing window.

Shell, a leading OMC, has increased the price of a litre of petrol from GH¢14.80 to GH¢15.10, and a litre of diesel from GH¢14.92 to GH¢15.25. Other OMCs are expected to follow suit, further driving up fuel costs.

Source: The Independent Ghana



File photo

A major part of the success of Ghana's democracy depends on you - Parliament to Police

The Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Andrew Asiamah Amoako, has commended Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Dr. George Akuffo Dampare for his leadership of the Ghana Police Service.

Mr. Amoako highlighted that the IGP and the current Police Management Board have been instrumental in maintaining the country's stability and advancing its democratic credentials.

At a ceremony on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, to award the Democracy Cup to the IGP at Police Headquarters, Mr. Asiamah Amoako emphasized Ghana's reliance on the IGP to safeguard national security.

He praised Dr. Dampare's contributions, showing trust in his capability to lead the Police Service in protecting the nation's peace and democratic values.

"We believe that a major part of the success of our democracy depends on the Ghana Police Service. We are here to present this democracy cup to you IGP as a symbolic gesture so that as the holder of the peace of this country, we can implore you to continue holding our peace together as you have always done with your administration since you took over."

"We are grateful for your leadership. The transformation in the police service under you has been inspirational, and we are grateful," he said.

In response, the IGP assured the parliamentary delegation that he and his team are encouraged by the acknowledgment from the legislative chamber and remain committed to their responsibilities of safeguarding and upholding the country's democracy.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



Andrew Asiamah Amoako, (L) and Dr George Akuffo Dampare (IGP) (M)

General News

GMA calls for elimination of certificate and diploma courses in nursing

The Ghana Medical Association (GMA) has called for the discontinuation of certificate and diploma nursing programs, advocating for all nursing education to be elevated to the degree level.

This proposed reform aims to address challenges within the country's healthcare sector by ensuring a more qualified and professional nursing workforce.

Speaking during a media engagement on July 18, 2024, Vice President of the GMA, Prof. Ernest Yorke, mentioned the pressing need for a highly skilled nursing population, calling the current system "bizarre" for allowing three different entry levels into the

nursing and midwifery profession.

According to him, the prevalence of auxiliary nurses, comprising nearly 60% of the workforce, stressed the urgency of increasing the number of degree-prepared nurses to become the majority.

"We think that the majority must be degree-prepared," Yorke stated, stressing the need for a more skilled nursing population. "We have to cancel certificate programmes, we have to cancel diploma programs, and train nurses and midwives at the degree level," he added.

Drawing comparisons with Nigeria, where a first degree is mandatory for registered nurses and midwives, Prof. Yorke argued

that Ghana has the necessary resources and educational institutions to implement similar standards.

"We have the human resources and the schools so we can do that. The diploma and degree-trained nurses and midwives are professional nurses," he noted.

The GMA's recommendation to elevate nursing education to the degree level is seen as a crucial step towards enhancing the quality of Ghana's healthcare system.

In Ghana, the nursing and midwifery profession has three main entry levels: Auxiliary/Enrolled Nurses, who are typically trained for a shorter duration

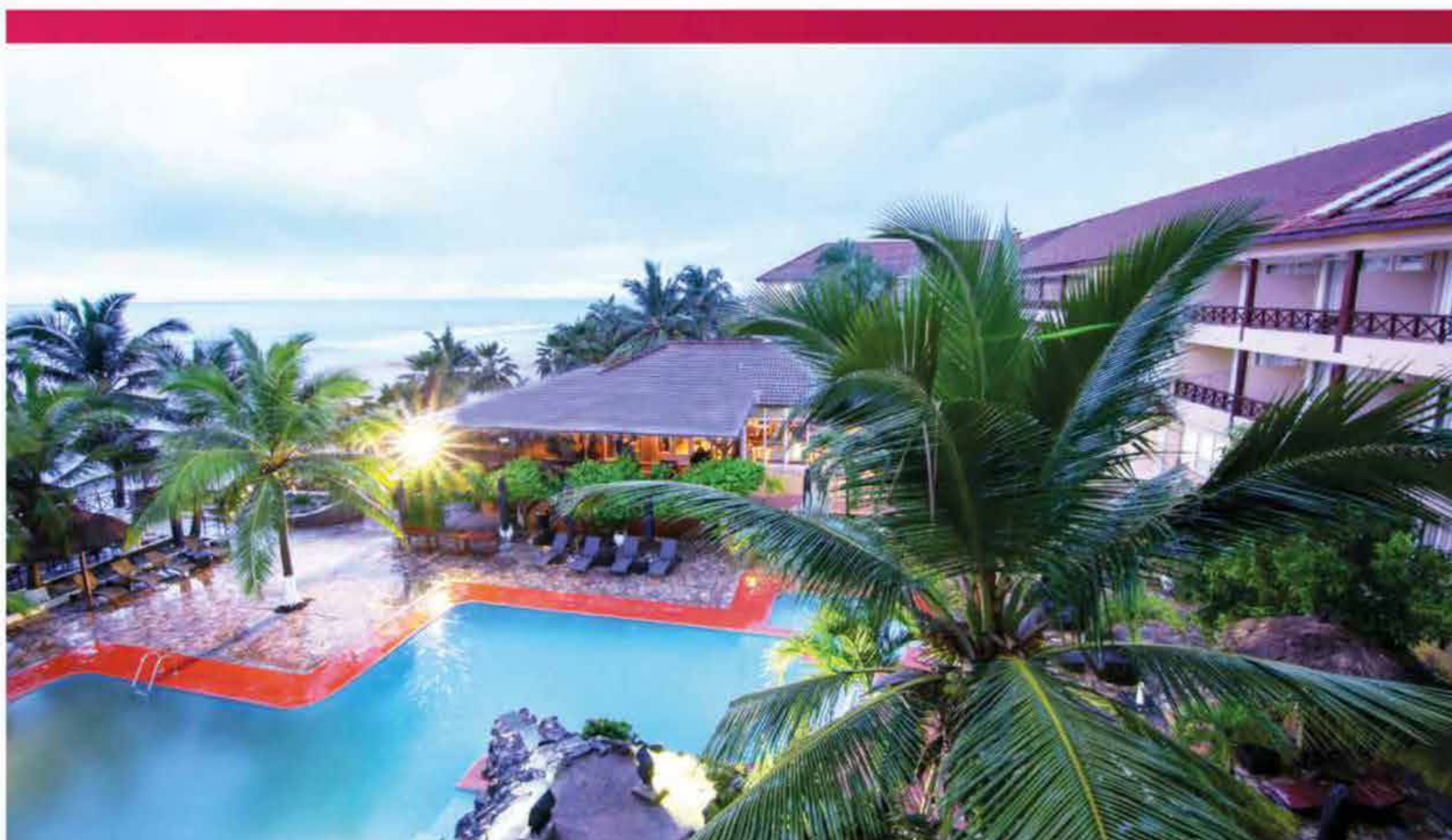
(usually about 2-3 years) in nursing and midwifery at auxiliary or enrolled nursing schools; Registered General Nurses (RGN), who undergo a longer and more comprehensive training program (usually 3-4 years) at nursing training colleges; and Registered Midwives (RM), who focus specifically on midwifery care.

The successful implementation of this proposal will require collaboration among stakeholders, but the potential benefits to the healthcare system and the nation as a whole make it a worthwhile endeavour.

Source: *The Independent Ghana* / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



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Business

Producer Price Inflation increases to 25.9% in June

The Producer Price Inflation rate for June 2024 climbed to 25.9% from 23.6% in May 2024, according to the most recent data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS).

This rate shows that the rate increased by 25.9% between June 2023 and June 2024.

Compared to the rate observed in May 2024, the increase denotes a 2.5 percentage point spike in producer inflation.

Between May 2024 and June 2024, there was a 2.7% month-over-month change in the rate.

The average change in selling prices of goods and services received by domestic producers over time is measured by the Producer Price Index.

The data shows that in the industry sector that does not include the construction sector, the producer price inflation went from 28.5

percent in May 2024 to 29.4 percent in June 2024.

In June 2024, the rate in the construction industry rose to 29.4%. From 11.4 percent in May 2024 to 12.2 percent in June 2024,

the services sector's rate rose.

The activities related to water supply, sewerage, and waste management recorded the lowest inflation rate of 2.6% in June 2024, while the activities

related to mining and quarrying, construction, lodging, and food services recorded rates above the national average.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe.M.Doku



Prof. Samuel Kobina Annin, Head of Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

Approximately 80% farmers not registered on govt PFJ Phase II - Report

The Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) has revealed that about 80 percent of farmers have not been registered on the government's Planting for Food and Jobs Programme Phase II (PFJ 2.0) as of June 2024.

The National President of the Association, Wepia Awal Addo, said the situation is worrying since the planting season is very close.

He added that farmers are uncertain about their future, as they do not have an idea where and when to receive farm inputs such as fertilisers and seeds.

"As at June, around 80 percent of the farmers have not been registered and their farms have not been mapped. Which is a source of worry for us because the rainy season has started. If you go to many places people are planting

and they need the inputs to be able to grow food." Mr. Addo said.

He disclosed this during the PFAG's joint hosting with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) of a national validation workshop for the assessment report on PFJ 2.0 implementation on July 17, 2024, in Accra.

Mr. Addo expressed concerns about what appears to be a disregard for farmers' welfare, noting a lack of essential information for farmers to plan effectively.

Characterizing PFJ Phase II as lackluster, he criticized the neglect of the agriculture sector, highlighting the absence of direct investments benefiting farmers.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



File photo

International

Namibia refuses to extend visa for Ugandan monarch

The Namibian government has refused a request to extend the visa for a Ugandan king who has been getting medical treatment in the country since April.

King Mutebi II of the Buganda has been receiving treatment for an undisclosed condition. The centre where he has been staying requested his visa extension earlier this month.

But in response, the international relations ministry said Namibian immigration law provided for a maximum stay of only 90 days in a year to foreign citizens.

This comes weeks after authorities reportedly expressed displeasure over protests by Ugandan activists at Namibian diplomatic missions.

"Having checked the records, I wish to inform you that the request for an extension is declined," the state broadcaster NBC quoted a

ministry official as saying.

The Ugandan envoy in South Africa said recently that Namibian authorities were unhappy over the harassment of their diplomatic officials regarding the king's stay.

In May there were protests at the Namibian High Commission in the UK, with Ugandan demonstrators demanding transparency over the king's extended stay.

They wanted Namibia to disclose information about the king's whereabouts to put to rest suspicions that he had been kidnapped.

The Namibian government then referred the matter to the Buganda traditional authorities.

Two weeks ago, Buganda traditional chiefs travelled to Namibia to seek the truth about the king's health, sparking diplomatic concerns and a rebuke from Uganda's President

Yoweri Museveni.

"I request all the Ugandans to stop embarrassing Uganda by opportunistically trying to show how much they are for the Kabaka [king]," Mr Museveni said.

The delegation, which was said to have travelled without the knowledge of either the Buganda kingdom or the Ugandan authorities, was briefly detained and questioned by Namibian officials, who reportedly asked if they had authorisation to see the monarch.

They had gone even though the Buganda king had addressed his subjects through a pre-recorded video, where he spoke about his improving health, and expressing hope that he would return soon.

On Wednesday, the Namibian newspaper quoted a state official saying that it was "normal practice" for a foreign national who had

stayed for 90 days to return to their country.

"There is nothing controversial about that," foreign relations officer Erastus Hailwa said.

Uganda has said it will respect Namibia's decision.

"Namibia has decided that they are not interested in this kind of bad publicity, and we should respect [their] position," Uganda's Monitor newspaper quoted the country's Foreign Minister Henry Oryem Okello as saying.

"We have to respect their rules and ways of life. Since Kabaka went to Namibia, many people have turned the country into... a market where they enter as they wish," he said.

Buganda is the largest of Uganda's four ancient kingdoms, none of which have any political power but remain influential.

Source: BBC



King Mutebi II of the Buganda

International

Kenya's government appeals for protests to stop, but court suspends ban

Kenya's government on Thursday ratcheted up its appeal for weeks of protests to stop and police tried to ban demonstrations in the heart of the capital Nairobi only to be overruled in court.

Police introduced the ban saying the protests, which have claimed at least 50 lives since erupting nearly a month ago, had been infiltrated by criminal gangs. But a court on Thursday suspended the ban while a case challenging it was heard.

Some activists called for people to gather on Thursday with camping gear to "occupy" Uhuru Park adjacent to the city centre, amid a heavy police presence across Nairobi.

The youth-led protests across Kenya against proposed tax hikes have continued even after President William Ruto withdrew the legislation and fired almost all of his cabinet.

Activists say they want Ruto to resign and are calling for reforms to clean up corruption and address poor governance.

The country has lost approximately 6 billion Kenyan shillings (\$46 million) as a result of the demonstrations, government spokesperson Isaac Mwaura said, without explaining how he arrived at that figure.

"The president and the government at large (have) heard you loud and clear and we are ready to act on your concerns," Mwaura said in a televised statement.

The protests, which have been organised online without the apparent support of opposition political figures, have created the biggest crisis of Ruto's two years in power.

"We have credible intelligence that organised criminal groups are planning to take advantage of the

ongoing protests to execute their attacks, including looting," chief of police Douglas Kanja Kiricho said in a statement late on Wednesday.

"No demonstrations will be permitted in the Nairobi Central Business District and its surroundings until further notice."

Kenya's High Court in Nairobi suspended the police order until a case filed by public interest litigation group Katiba Institute was heard and ruled upon, the court order said.

In his latest concession, Ruto last week pledged to set up a broad-based government, but the opposition coalition on Wednesday rejected the idea, calling instead for a constitutional convention.

The rallies began peacefully but later turned violent.

Some demonstrators briefly stormed parliament on June 25, and the police opened fire.

Ruto's office planned "multi-sectoral" talks for this week to address the protesters' grievances, but by Thursday there was no sign they had begun.

Most of the leading figures behind the protests have rejected the invitation, instead calling for immediate action on issues such as corruption.

"(The police and president Ruto) have no power to suspend rights guaranteed by the constitution," activist Boniface Mwangi wrote on the social media platform X in response to efforts to ban protests.

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), a regulatory body, has cautioned the media against "perpetuating" violence in their coverage of the protests, "which could potentially cause widespread civil unrest in the country".

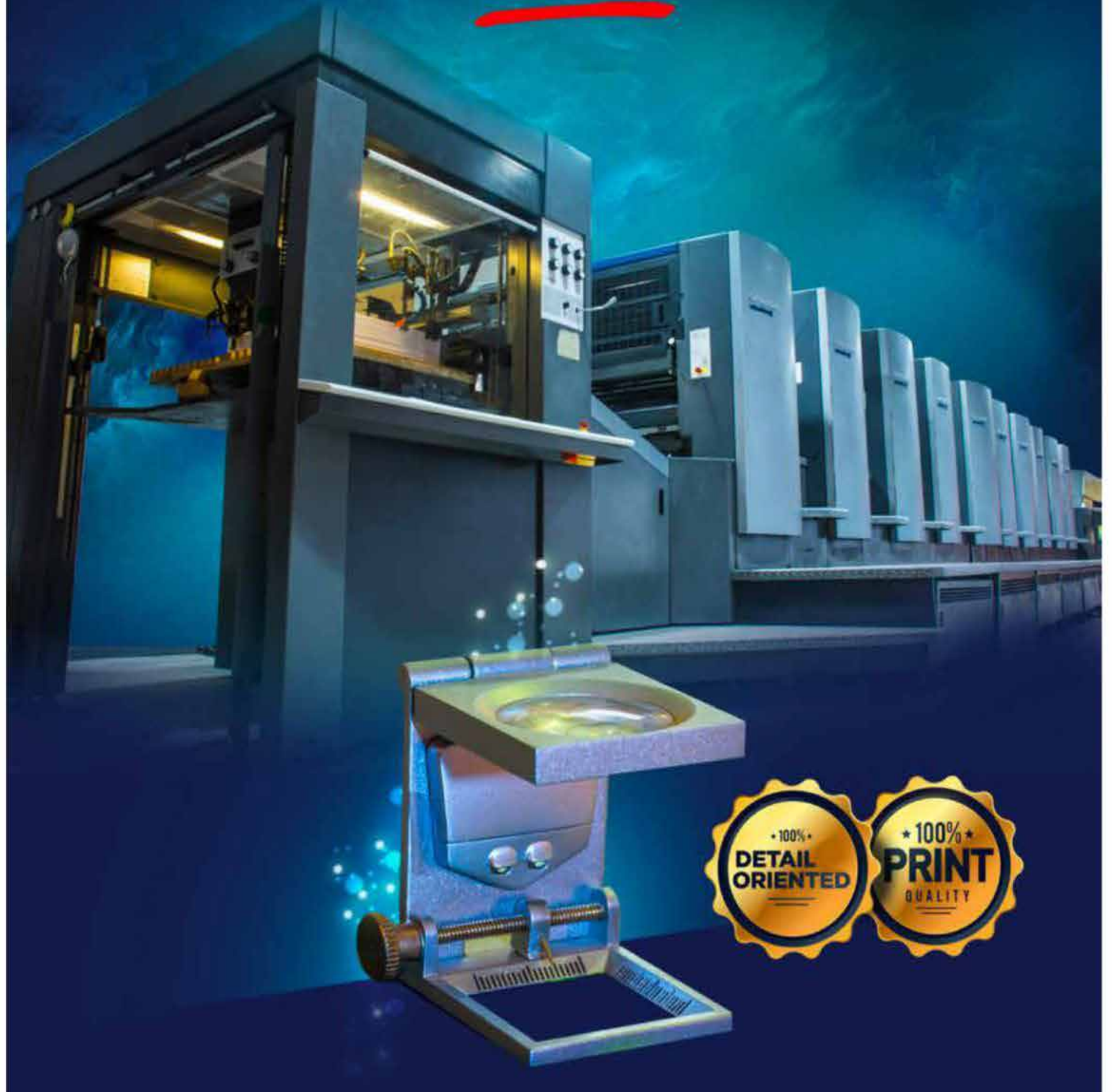
Source: Reuters



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