

Sports

Golf

Long game Set to begin on June 20, the Serena Series is to be played this year over a period of 28 weeks but it is well-structured. **P.39**



Must step up. Uganda Cranes skipper Rogers Torach runs away from a Nigerian player during a 2024 Africa Nations Championship (Chan) at Namboole Stadium last year. While players will know that the standards at the Afcon are much higher than the Chan, the same applies to technocrats in charge or organising the event. PHOTO/EDDIE CHICCO

SPORTS SUMMARY



Sailfish top Junior gala

Sailfish Swim Club topped the April 18-19 Dolphins Junior Championship held at Kampala Parents School, Naguru with 465.5 points. Sailfish is led by coach Joseph Kabogoza. **P.38**

CRICKET

ESB: Guard of honour for a guardian of game

Between 1976 and 1986, ESB extended his influence in Kenya, playing for Wanderers, Impala, and Africa Cricket Club (ACC) in Uganda earlier. / **P.37**



UCL

PSG host Bayern in first leg of Euro semifinals

PSG and Bayern Munich are used to mouth-watering ties, having progressed past Liverpool and Real Madrid respectively in the last eight, and this one can be added to the list. With 38 goals each in the competition this season – the most of any clubs – it is hard not to get excited about this opener in the French capital. To reach a second consecutive final, Paris must overcome the side who have given them the most trouble in recent seasons including a 2-1 victory this season.



Forget Chan, Afcon is a different shape of ball

Bar. Part of East Africa's pressure comes from the fact that their Afcon follows Morocco 2025, which raised standards with its infrastructure.

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

Afcon 2027

Dates: June 19- July 18, 2027

Hosts: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania

Stadiums: 6

Teams: 24

Champions: Morocco

The Confederation of African Football (Caf) Acting General Secretary Samson Adamu has intimated to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania that a completely different mindset will be needed to host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon).

The three East African countries, under the Pamoja umbrella, successfully bid to host the continental showpiece and had a rehearsal through the Africa Nations Championships (Chan) held in August last year.

"Chan was a great and gave valuable lesson for us but I will also be very honest, we need to have a completely different mindset towards Afcon because it is the centre of the world," Adamu said in his opening remarks at the Caf

Afcon 2027 Kickoff Meeting that started Wednesday and ends Thursday at Méstil Hotel. The meeting brings together representatives of the governments of the three host nations, the presidents of the three football federations involved, and members of their various Local Organizing Committees (LOCs).

"I want us to leave Chan behind us because Afcon is a completely different tournament with different expectations. The scale of the expectations of Afcon is completely different as more teams, more fans, more expectations, more media, more broadcast and more requirements have to be met.

"The project is moving extremely, extremely fast. We are roughly one year from Afcon itself so what could wait before cannot wait anymore. Time is not going to slow down for us. Every moment really matters," Adamu, who until late March served as Caf director of tournaments and events, added.

"We must be together with everybody knowing what is expected of us in terms of roles and responsibilities. We must also discuss in terms of serious-

ness what is ahead of us and how we need to deal with that. The milestones must be extremely clear. The structure also is very important. We need a lot of government support," Adamu, who will also be organising his first Afcon as Caf GS said. "What I would say is that the Caf President believes in this competition. Caf ourselves believe in this competition. We are here with you. The success of this tournament is also our success in Caf. We succeed together and also the challenges, we share the challenges together. We cannot fail. I will not allow us to fail."

Legacy project

Adamu was speaking to the converted and got assurances from Uganda's State Minister for Sports Peter Ogwang that the tournament, which Uganda is ready to invest over Shs2.2 trillion is, has good political will across the region. "I want to assure all of us who are here that the three governments are committed to ensuring whatever resources are needed are provided for to ensure this tournament takes place as scheduled. I also want to thank Caf for continuing to provide technical assistance to all of us in our quest to host this tournament," Ogwang told the meeting.

Fufa president Moses Magogo believes Afcon could be "20 to 50 times bigger

than Chan" and hopes the investment in infrastructure will create a lasting legacy of the tournament.

"What has never been in doubt for me is that as East Africa, we have the ability to host these events. What we are lacking is the opportunity and the experience. We are going to rub off Caf because they have the biggest experience in hosting Afcon as they are involved in every edition. "We won the bid and government has invested a lot of money to support it. For us, the biggest goal in bidding for this was to have better infrastructure which we can also have for our local competitions. Now we have to fight for the legacy of this tournament and we can already see that with the multi-purpose stadiums. There is also a lot of non-sporting infrastructure like the road that the country is going to benefit from," Magogo said on the sidelines of the meeting.

Magogo's Kenyan counterpart Hussein Mohammed also believes the Pamoja project will be judged by its legacy while Tanzanian Football Federation president Wallace Karia assured Caf, they will do their part to meet the December deadlines for finalising infrastructural developments. "What happens after 2027 is what we will be judged with. What will we leave behind for future generations? The legacy will be critical for us," Mohammed said.