

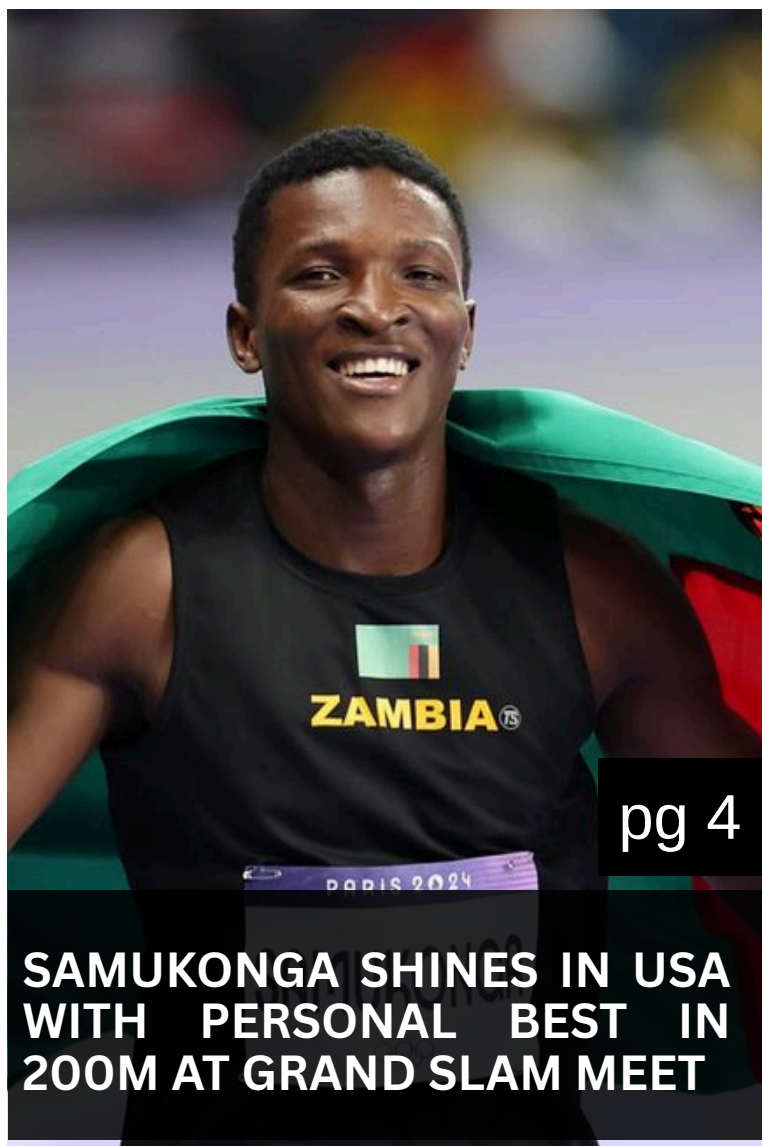


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POWER ERUPTS! DYNAMAMOS SEAL TITLE IN GLORIOUS FASHION

pg 3



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ZAMBIA HOLD HOSTS EGYPT IN U-20 AFCON BATTLE

By Joseph Tembo



Zambia’s U-20 side produced a disciplined and determined performance to hold hosts Egypt to a 0-0 draw on Saturday night, maintaining their unbeaten run in the 2025 TotalEnergies U-20 Africa Cup of Nations and keeping their quarter-final hopes alive.

Coming into the match on the back of a goalless opener against Sierra Leone, the Young Chipolopolo showed grit and defensive organisation to shut out a determined Egyptian attack in front of their home crowd in Ismailia.

Goalkeeper Levison Banda stood tall

once again, pulling off several important saves, while defenders Charles Buyoya and Happy Nsiku marshalled the back line effectively under intense pressure. Egypt controlled possession for long periods, but Zambia held firm and created chances of their own — the best falling to David Simukonda in stoppage time, only for the forward to sky his effort with the goal beckoning.

Joseph Sabobo and Rickson Ng’ambi were lively throughout the match, offering attacking spark for Zambia on the counter, though the final touch continued to elude the

team.

Zambia now sit on two points from two matches and will face South Africa in a decisive final group game. A win would likely send them through to the knockout stages, while a draw could still offer a chance depending on other results.

Meanwhile, the draw heaps more pressure on Egypt, who remain second in the group but face a must-win encounter against Tanzania on Friday.

LUMWANA RADIANTS RESPOND TO FIFA REGISTRATION BAN, SEEK CLARIFICATION

By Lucky Chma



Lumwana Radiants Football Club has officially addressed the recent decision by FIFA to impose a ban on the club registering new players.

In a statement released by the club, they informed their supporters that a formal response has been sent to the world football governing body, requesting comprehensive details and clarification regarding the reasons underpinning the sanction.

The club expressed surprise at the ban, stating that they were not previously notified of any complaint that led to this decision. Lumwana Radiants emphasized their commitment to engaging with FIFA

through the established and appropriate channels to resolve the matter. They also assured their fanbase that they would be kept informed of any significant developments as the situation unfolds.

FIFA’s decision to bar Lumwana Radiants from registering new players stems from the club’s alleged failure to fully adhere to the terms of player contracts. This breach of regulations has resulted in a significant penalty for the Zambian Super League outfit.

The imposed sanction prevents Lumwana Radiants from registering

any new players for a period of three consecutive transfer windows. This lengthy ban means the club will be unable to bolster their squad with fresh talent until the January transfer window of 2027.

This kind of stringent punishment from FIFA is not unprecedented for Zambian clubs. Indeni Football Club, who were recently relegated from the Super League, faced a similar fate. FIFA had previously banned Indeni from registering new players for two transfer windows due to contractual issues. However, Indeni is expected to be eligible to sign new players again in the upcoming transfer window.

SCORING ROYALTY: NG’ANDU AND ZULU TOP CHARTS IN ZPL WOMEN’S LEAGUE ZONES

By Lucky Chama



The excitement of the season has subsided, the last whistles have been blown, and the dust has settled on the captivating 2024/25 ZPL Women National League campaign. With the season coming to an end, individual excellence emerges as the Golden Boot awards find their rightful owners, leaving a mark on the history of Zambian women’s football.

In the fiercely competitive Northern Zone, it was the predatory instincts of Mufulira Wanderers Queens’ own Chisola Ng’andu that ultimately prevailed. Ng’andu, a constant menace to opposing defences, showcased her lethal finishing prowess throughout the campaign, bagging an astounding 28 goals to clinch the Golden Boot. Her goal count reflects her reliability and skill in scoring, guiding the Wanderers’ offense with strong determination.

The competition for the top scorer in the Northern Zone was intense, with two other outstanding players challenging Ng’andu closely. Blessings Ng’onga of Konkola Blades, who helped her side earn

promotion to the Eden University Women’s Super League, a formidable force in her own right, narrowly missed out on the top prize, netting an impressive 27 goals.

Ruth Muwowo also deserves immense credit for her stellar season, registering a remarkable 24 goals, in the Northern Zone.

In the Southern Zone, attention is on the prolific Zangose Blessings Zulu from Pataaki Girls. Zulu spearheaded her team’s attack with dynamism and precision, ending the season as the top scorer of the Southern Zone with 18 goals. Her consistent goal-scoring performance was vital for sixth-placed Pataaki Girls, leading to her prestigious Golden Boot award.

Although Zulu dominated the South, a group of skilled players displayed their goal-scoring talents. Memory Zulu, Constance Mubanga, and Bertha Banda each showcased their attacking skills by scoring 17 goals.



MASANYINGA’S LAST-GASP PENALTY SEALS LEAGUE TITLE FOR POWER DYNAMOS

By Joseph Tembo



Power Dynamos were crowned MTN Super League champions on Saturday after a dramatic 98th-minute penalty from Brian Masanyinga secured a 1-0 victory over Green Eagles, clinching their eighth league title with a game to spare.

The defending champions appeared set to take the title race to the final day, but Masanyinga kept his composure from the spot in stoppage time, sending the Dynamos faithful into wild celebrations at the final whistle. The result lifts Dynamos to 67 points from 33 matches, seven ahead of second-placed ZESCO United, who play on Sunday and can no longer catch them.

Despite missing out on the title,

ZESCO United have at least secured a return to continental football, confirming their place in next season’s CAF Confederation Cup. That was sealed after Nkana FC suffered a 5-2 thrashing at the hands of FC MUZA. Nkana had led 2-1 through goals from Lazarous Kambole and Idriss Mbombo, but MUZA stormed back with braces from Andrew Phiri and Rickson Ng’ambi, plus a goal from Given Kalusa.

Elsewhere, relegation battles took center stage as Lumwana Radiants became the first confirmed side to drop to the National Division One following a 2-0 home defeat to NAPSA Stars. Goals from Mathew Tolopa and Evans Kayombo Jr sealed their fate.

Forest Rangers find themselves three points adrift of safety after losing 1-0 to Red Arrows, with Noris Mubanga Kalamba netting the winner. Meanwhile, Atletico Lusaka boosted their survival hopes with a 2-0 victory over already-relegated Indeni thanks to goals from Benjamin Chisala and Thomas Chisi. They now sit two points above the relegation zone.

Zanaco are also two points clear after a 2-0 home win against Mufulira Wanderers, with Chawanangwa Kaonga scoring twice in the first half.

In the day’s other match, Green Buffaloes and Nchanga Rangers played to a goalless draw.

FC MUZA CRUSH NKANA TO END KALAMPA’S HOPES IN CONTINENTAL SEVEN-GOAL THRILLER

By Joseph Tembo



FC MUZA delivered a stunning 5-2 comeback victory over Nkana Football Club on Saturday at Nakambala Stadium in Mazabuka, ending the Kitwe giants’ hopes of qualifying for continental football next season and securing their own top-flight survival in emphatic fashion.

Nkana made a blistering start to the match, with Lazarous Kambole opening the scoring just three minutes in. However, their momentum was short-lived as goalkeeper Patrick Chooma was shown a red card in the 8th minute for a foul on Andrew Phiri outside the box, leaving Kalampa with ten men for the remainder of the game.

Despite the numerical disadvantage, Idris Mbombo restored Nkana’s lead in the 38th minute after Phiri had equalized for MUZA on the half-hour mark. But MUZA responded swiftly, with Given Kalusa leveling the scores again just before halftime.

In the second half, the Elegant Dynamites dominated proceedings. Substitute Rickson Ng’ambi emerged as the game-changer, scoring a brace, while Andrew Phiri netted his second of the match. Solomon Mpasela also added his name to the scoresheet, capping off a commanding performance that sealed Nkana’s fate.

With Power Dynamos crowned champions and ZESCO United

claiming Zambia’s CAF Confederation Cup slot, Nkana’s defeat officially rules them out of next season’s continental competitions.

MUZA’s assistant coach Cosmas Mujika was full of praise for his side’s fighting spirit and tactical execution:

“Sweet victory. Our boys played with determination; we dominated play especially in the second half. We told our bench that everyone is part of this game. When you come in, you must change the game.”

Now safe from relegation, MUZA will end their campaign with a local derby against Green Eagles in Choma. Mujika expressed satisfaction with the club’s progress:

“I feel happy as a coach. Everyone is happy because MUZA is now a big club. It doesn’t deserve to go to the national league.”

In other results, Atletico Lusaka boosted their survival hopes with a 2-0 win over already relegated Indeni, thanks to goals from Benjamin Chisala and Thomas Chisi. ZANACO also strengthened their safety with a 2-0 victory over Mufulira Wanderers. Red Arrows edged Forest Rangers 1-0, ending their 10-match unbeaten streak, while Green Buffaloes and Nchanga Rangers played out a goalless draw at Edwin Imboela Stadium.

FULL TIME

Power Dynamos

1-0

Green Eagles

Brian Masanyinga 90'(P)

Forest Rangers

0-1

Red Arrows

Noris Mubanga Kalamba 51'

Green Buffaloes

0-0

Nchanga Rangers

Indeni

0-2

Atletico Lusaka

Benjamin Chisala 32'
Thomas Chisi 53'

Lumwana Radiants

0-2

Napsa Stars

Mathew Tolopa 3'
Evans Kayombo Jr 85'

FC Muza

5-2

Nkana Fc

Andrew Phiri 30',81'
Given Kalusa 41'
Rickson Ng'ambi 65',90'+4

Lazarous Kambole 3'
Idriss Mbombo 36'

Zanaco FC

2-0

Mufulira Wanderers

Chawanangwa Kaonga 13',45'

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FAZ PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL ADRIAN KASHALA PLEDGES STRONGER MEDIA TIES, PROPOSES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

By Lucky Chama



Adrian Kashala, a candidate vying for the presidency of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) in the upcoming May 9th elective Annual General Meeting (AGM), has issued a message on World Press Freedom Day, emphasizing the vital role of the media in the growth of Zambian football and pledging a collaborative approach if elected.

In his statement, Kashala expressed deep appreciation for the media’s contribution to the sport, acknowledging their “critical role in shaping and supporting the growth of football in our country.”

He highlighted his own positive experiences with the press throughout his professional career. “Throughout my professional journey, I have enjoyed a strong and constructive relationship with members of the press, whose contributions have been instrumental in advancing the game.”

Kashala further emphasized the symbiotic relationship between football development and media coverage, asserting, “Our efforts to

develop football would not have been possible without the consistent support and coverage provided by the media.”

Looking ahead to the FAZ elections, Kashala pledged to maintain and strengthen this relationship if elected. “As we look ahead, including a future role within the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), we remain committed to fostering open, respectful, and collaborative engagement with the media—for the good of the game and the nation,” he stated.

In a concrete demonstration of his commitment to media engagement, Kashala announced his intention to establish a media advisory committee within FAZ.

“I therefore wish to reiterate that if elected as FAZ president, I shall form a media advisory committee that will assist in administering the game and reaching out to our different publics,” he revealed.

This proposed committee would serve to streamline communication

between FAZ and the media, ensuring transparency and facilitating the dissemination of information to the public. Kashala’s pledge underscores the importance he places on a strong and open relationship with the press, recognizing their crucial role in promoting and developing Zambian football.

Concluding his message with a friendly and inclusive tone, Kashala extended his World Press Freedom Day greetings, saying, “Happy World Press Freedom Day once again, ba journo!”

Kashala’s message highlights the significance of media freedom and its impact on sports development, while also outlining his vision for a collaborative partnership between FAZ and the press should he win the upcoming election. His pledge to establish a media advisory committee could mark a significant step towards improved communication and transparency within Zambian football administration.

K100,000 IS A DROP IN THE OCEAN’: MWEEMBA CALLS FOR OVERHAUL OF FOOTBALL FUNDING IN ZAMBIA

By Lucky Chama



Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) presidential candidate Keith Mweemba has unveiled his vision for improving the financial health of Zambian football, focusing on sustainability, transparency, and respect for democratic principles.

Appearing on ZNBC TV1’s Race to Football House, Mweemba emphasized the need for realistic and achievable funding strategies. He stressed that clubs across the country face both general financial challenges and specific infrastructural issues, which require tailored solutions rather than blanket promises.

“Clubs are run by smart, capable people. We can’t offer them unrealistic promises. We need sustainable, workable ideas,” he said.

Mweemba proposed a mix of funding sources, including grants from FAZ, to support clubs, especially those in the lower leagues. He cited the K100,000 currently given to National League teams as grossly insufficient, pointing out that it barely covers two fixtures. He highlighted the struggles

of clubs like Chirundu United, which had to relocate due to a lack of infrastructure, and contrasted them with better-equipped teams like Konkola Blades.

In addition to increased financial support, Mweemba called for a clear separation of powers between FAZ and the Zambian Premier League (ZPL). He argued that for the ZPL to become truly professional and commercially viable, it must operate independently, free from excessive FAZ interference.

“We must respect the principle of separation of powers. If ZPL is to be autonomous, FAZ should not be micromanaging it,” Mweemba stated. He added that his leadership would uphold democratic governance and avoid dictatorial tendencies.

Mweemba’s approach blends financial realism with structural reform, aiming to create a stronger, more professional football environment that respects both the autonomy of leagues and the needs of clubs across Zambia.

SAMUKONGA SHINES IN USA WITH PERSONAL BEST IN 200M AT GRAND SLAM MEET

By Lucky Chama

Zambian sprinting sensation Muzala Samukonga continues to impress on the international track scene, delivering another strong performance at the Grand Slam Track meet in the USA. In his second appearance at the prestigious event, the young athlete secured a commendable third-place finish with an impressive time of 20.23 seconds in the 200m race.

This result marks a significant milestone for Samukonga, as it represents a new personal best in the 200m discipline. The time underscores his consistent progress and burgeoning talent on the global stage, further solidifying his reputation as a rising star in the

world of athletics.

The fiercely contested race saw Trinidad and Tobago’s Jereem Richards clinch the top spot, demonstrating his experience and skill. Finishing second was Alexander Ogando, showcasing the level of competition Samukonga faced and successfully navigated.

Samukonga’s ability to not only compete but also achieve a personal best against such accomplished athletes speaks volumes about his dedication, training, and natural talent. His performance in the USA will undoubtedly provide a significant boost of confidence as he continues his preparations for future international competitions.



PIRATES SINK CHIEFS AGAIN TO COMPLETE SOWETO DERBY DOUBLE

By Fulltime Desk



FNB Stadium, Johannesburg – Orlando Pirates extended their dominance over archrivals Kaizer Chiefs with a hard-fought 2-1 comeback victory in the Soweto Derby on Saturday, completing a league double and keeping their Premier Soccer League title hopes alive.

Chiefs struck early through Glody Lilepo, capitalizing on a precise setup from Dillan Solomons in just the third minute. But Pirates responded with intent, and their persistence paid off in the 23rd

minute when Evidence Makgopa finished off a swift counterattack orchestrated by Mohau Nkota.

The second half saw Pirates take control of the tempo, and in the 68th minute, Relebohile Mofokeng punished some sloppy Chiefs defending to slot home the winner — his fifth league goal of the season. Chiefs’ frustrations boiled over late on as defender Bradley Cross was sent off, leaving them to finish the game with ten men.

The result piles more pressure on

struggling Chiefs coach Nasreddine Nabi, whose side has now gone seven league matches without a win and sits ninth on the table with 30 points from 26 games. Pirates, meanwhile, move to 49 points — nine behind leaders Mamelodi Sundowns — and remain firmly in the title race.

The two sides are set to meet again next weekend in the Nedbank Cup final, with tensions and stakes running even higher after this fiery derby result.

VERSTAPPEN BEATS NORRIS TO MIAMI POLE



Verstappen headed Norris, who won the sprint race earlier on Saturday, by 0.065 seconds.

Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli, on pole for the sprint, grabbed third ahead of the second McLaren of Oscar Piastri.

Mercedes' George Russell was fifth ahead of the Williams of Carlos Sainz and Alex Albon, as Ferrari struggled, with Charles Leclerc eighth and Lewis Hamilton down in 12th.

Verstappen's pole, in a car with an upgraded floor this weekend, was won with a blistering first sector of the lap. The Red Bull's speed in the fast sweepers there was too much for McLaren to claw back in the remainder of the lap.

"It's been a great qualifying," Verstappen said. "We improved the car a tiny amount, which helped me rotate it a bit better.

"Q1, Q2, Q3 improving every run.

Trying to find the limit. I had a tiny moment into Turn One trying to find more time there but it's very tricky here with the tyres. It's qualifying, try to correct it and floor it out of the corner."

It was a second piece of good news for the four-time champion this week, after the birth of his first child, a daughter called Lily.

Norris said: "Congrats to Max, especially being a dad now. I was hoping it would slow him down a bit but it clearly didn't.

"Max did a Max lap again and I'm happy for him. The pace is there. I have been feeling good. It is what it is, I'm P2, Max on pole, ready to see what I can do into Turn One."

Antonelli's third place proved his pole in the sprint on Friday was not a flash in the pan, on a weekend where he is showing the spark of prodigious talent that convinced Mercedes to put the 18-year-old straight into their team in his debut

season. He beat team-mate George Russell by 0.114secs.

It also made amends to some degree for a disappointing sprint result, where he lost the lead at the start and then was hit by Verstappen's car in the pits and finished seventh.

"This weekend is going well so far," he said. "It was a bit disappointing this morning, but happy to bounce back. I was a bit too greedy into Turn One but the rest of the lap was quite good. The gaps are super-tight."

A strong showing for Williams in sixth and seventh underlined the troubles of Ferrari, where Leclerc was 0.483secs off the pace and Hamilton failed to make it into the top 10 shootout.

He was less than 0.1secs off Leclerc in the second session, but that was enough for four places.

"It's always a surprise every session you go out what the car is doing," Hamilton said. "It's a bit of a mess at the moment balance-wise. Unfortunate to have not got through. Same old."

Leclerc said: "It is just not good enough. It is frustrating because it is those kind of days and it has been quite a few races already that I feel I am doing a really good job. But when you are finishing P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, it is just a shame. I have no satisfaction of doing a good job.

"I am just hoping we can turn the situation around as soon as possible but at the moment that is the situation we are in and there is not much I can do."

ARSENAL TO USE 'ANGER AND RAGE' OF BOURNEMOUTH LOSS AGAINST PSG

BBC



What Arsenal needed before the biggest game in their recent history was momentum.

What they didn't need was a full-strength side going down to a first-ever home defeat by Bournemouth. Unfortunately for Mikel Arteta that is what happened as the Gunners' preparations for Wednesday's pivotal Champions League semi-final second leg at Paris St-Germain were dealt a blow by Saturday's 2-1 loss to the Cherries.

Arsenal's aspirations for the remainder of this campaign rest entirely on success in Europe, and they head to the French capital needing to overturn a 1-0 loss from the first leg.

That task looks even harder now, after Bournemouth battled back from Declan Rice's opener with two goals in the second half, but Arteta believes such a loss could ultimately work in their favour.

"It didn't create the right momentum," he said. "It created a lot of anger, frustration, rage, disappointment. "Let's use all of that on Wednesday. That's what we have to do."

What do Arsenal need to do to beat PSG?

For a start, the Gunners need to be better at defending set-pieces. While they were far from at their best against Bournemouth they were in control of the game, as the visitors did not manage a shot on target for the first hour.

But their first such attempt resulted in an equaliser as Dean Huijsen headed in from Antoine Semenyo's long throw.

A set-piece was again Arsenal's undoing for the winner as a corner was flicked on to the far post for Evanilson to bundle in.

Of the goals Arsenal have conceded this season 38.7% have come from set-piece situations - the most in the English top flight.

Arsenal have to score on Wednesday and then somehow keep out a PSG side that has scored a league-high 42 goals in 16 Ligue 1 games at home so far this season.

In their past five Premier League games Arsenal have taken the lead, but in four of those games they failed to hold on to that advantage. In total they have dropped 21 points from winning positions in the Premier League this season, their joint-most in a single campaign (also 21 in 2019-20).

The other concern to arise from Saturday's defeat was that after Bournemouth took the lead in the 75th minute, the Gunners did not manage a single attempt on or off target.

"At the minute, looking at that you just cannot see it [Arsenal beating PSG]," former West Ham goalkeeper Rob Green said on BBC Radio 5 live.

"You take Declan Rice out of the equation of this team and you've got a group of players bereft of confidence and ideas on how to score goals and have an incisive edge.

"There's work to do and so little time to do it."

