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The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT

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VOL. 8 NO. 185

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Pres. George M. Weah

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Mr. Ashok Kumar Sivaram

-As Indian deportee heads company



Continental News

Ethiopia's Abiy gives half of ministerial posts to women

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has appointed women to half of his government's ministerial posts, including the job of defence minister.

Explaining his decision in a speech to Parliament, Mr Abiy said women were "less corrupt than men" and would help restore peace and stability.

Ethiopia is now the only African state after Rwanda to have equal gender representation in the cabinet.

Mr Abiy also cut the number of ministerial jobs from 28 to 20. Since becoming prime minister in April, he has carried numerous massive reforms.

He has ended two decades of conflict with neighbouring Eritrea, released thousands of political prisoners and loosened the state's tight grip on parts of the economy.

Aisha Mohammed was named as Ethiopia's first female defence minister. She is from the country's Afar

region in the north-east, and had served as construction minister.

Muferiat Kamil, the former speaker of parliament, became the country's first Minister of Peace. She will be overseeing the country's intelligence and security apparatus, including the federal police. Mahlet Hailu,

Ethiopia's deputy permanent representative to the UN, tweeted the list of new ministers:

50% Femmes!!!. Maintien de la parité de genre au sein du remaniement du gouvernement du Premier Ministre de l' #Ethiopie. Un nouveau elan pour délivrer les reformes Mr Abiy said that

his reform process needed to continue to address the structural and strategic problems that pushed the country into chaos.

He said women had made a great contribution to restoring peace and stability, were less corrupt, respected their work and could sustain the drive for change. The 42-year-old became prime minister in April after the unexpected resignation of

Hailemariam Desalegn.

It followed three years of protest led by ethnic Oromos, who were demanding an end to what they considered their political and economic marginalization.

Mr Abiy is Oromo himself, but his appeal for trust and unity to "heal our wounds... and work together to develop our country" has received a cautious welcome from many within Ethiopia.-BBC



Image copyright AFP: Aisha Mohammed was construction minister before becoming Ethiopia's first defence minister

Boko Haram faction kills second aid worker in Nigeria

An aid worker with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been killed in Nigeria by Islamist militants who kidnapped her last March.

Hauwa Liman, a midwife, was killed days after kidnappers set a deadline.

The ICRC said it was devastated by the news. The Nigerian government called the murder "inhuman and ungodly".

Ms Liman was taken with two others in the northern Nigerian town of Rann. Fellow midwife Saifura Ahmed Khorsa was killed last month.

What more do we know about the kidnappings?

Ms Liman, 24, and Ms Khorsa were working with internally displaced people at a health centre supported by the ICRC in Rann, Borno State, the epicentre of militant activity. Alice Loksha was working as a nurse in another centre supported by Unicef.

They were abducted after Iswap fighters attacked the town on 1 March 2018. Three other humanitarian workers and eight members of the security forces were killed in the attack.

Last month, the ICRC



Image copyright REUTERS: Midwife Hauwa Liman was helping displaced women and children when she was kidnapped

Uganda says landslide death toll rises to 43, begins relocations

The death toll from a landslide in Uganda last week has risen to 43 and displaced residents deemed most at risk in the disaster-prone region will be resettled immediately, the government said on Tuesday.

Torrential rains unleashed a

deluge of boulders, mud and water down Mount Elgon near the border with Kenya, uprooting trees, pulverizing homes and burying residents in the town of Bukalasi and some nearby villages.

Landslides have become more common in mountainous

parts of the East African country in recent years because of expanding settlement and cultivation that have denuded mountainsides of forest cover and other vegetation.

A government statement put the final death toll at 43, up from an initial figure of 31, and said a further 21 people were injured with around 800 left homeless.

It said the cabinet had "directed resettlement of persons at risk of (further) landslides to begin immediately". Around 32.7 billion shillings (\$8.66 million) had been allocated to finance emergency relocations of the most vulnerable people.

A 2,800-acre plot had been procured for relocations, with a further 5,500 people also vulnerable to landslides to follow the initial 800. In all, some 100,000 people deemed to be living in the likely path of landslides will be resettled in coming years.-Reuters



FILE PHOTO: A man crosses the Sume river carrying an empty coffin on his head after a landslide rolled down the slopes of Mt. Elgon

A 15-year-old schoolgirl, Leah Sharibu, is being held by the same militant group, Islamic State West Africa Province (Iswap), which is affiliated to the Islamic State group and is a faction of the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram.

Ms Sharibu was one of 110 schoolgirls who were kidnapped in the northern town of Dapchi last February. Most of the other students were freed but Ms Sharibu, who reportedly refused to convert to Islam, remains in captivity.

received a video showing the killing of Ms Khorsa.

Exactly a month later, on Monday, another video appeared showing the killing of Ms Liman. A local reporter, who said he had seen it, reported that Ms Liman was shot at close range.

The ICRC said she was a "sociable, dynamic and enthusiastic woman who was much loved by family and friends. She was truly dedicated to her work helping vulnerable women in her family's home area".-BBC

EDITORIAL

Where the Ministry of Education fails

THE DEPTH OF complacency or sheer lack of supervisory will, by educational authorities in the country, particularly officials at the Ministry of Education has come to public glare with the excruciatingly damning reports of persistent rape of young girls between ages 10 and 16 at More Than Me Academy, infecting the victims with the HIV virus.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY if the Ministry of Education had effectively exercised its supervisory functions at learning institutions across the country, the sad situation involving less fortunate and vulnerable little girls at the American-run charity where its Liberian liaison officer, HIV/AIDS-positive McIntosh Johnson persistently raped and infected his preys, from 2014 up to his demise in prison in 2016 would have quickly been brought to check.

NEWS ABOUT THE incident broke here after separate publications by two American outlets, *ProPublica* and *TIME*, respectively, graphically detailing the abuses.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO), Ms. Katie Meyler confirms the number of girls, who were raped at the MTM Academy, could have been a quarter of the school, saying, "Everyone over the age of 11."

HOW COULD THE Government of Liberia, particularly the Ministry of Education, which licensed MTM Academy, and placed 20 schools in its care under the Liberia Education Advancement Program or LEAP turn a blind eye on what unfolds in those institutions that saw our young girls or dare say, babies being sexually exploited, abused and infected, as they suffered.

THE MINISTRY'S COMPLACENCY is so glaring, as indicated in statement issued by the charity, calling on the Ministry of Education to visit the Academy at any time for a complete inspection. Does the Ministry need an official invitation to carry on its statutory functions? We say absolutely no! It is not only frustrating, but highly disheartening that, in the words of the Female Journalists Association of Liberia or FeJal, an NGO could carry a humanitarian face yet leads its targeted beneficiaries through another dark and bleak path with life-threatening consequences.

MORE THAN ME is an American charity that was reportedly established in 2009 by U.S. citizen Katie Meyler, to rescue vulnerable girls in Liberia by taking them off the streets into schools, specifically from the densely populated impoverished slum community of West Point along the U.N. Drive in Monrovia.

BUT REPORTS REVEALED the girls were raped right from the onset of the program that was meant to help transform their lives and give them hope.

"WE ARE DEEPLY, profoundly sorry. To all the girls who were raped by Macintosh Johnson in 2014 and before: we failed you.

"WE GAVE JOHNSON power that he exploited to abuse children. Those power dynamics broke staff ability to report the abuse to our leadership immediately. Our leadership should have recognized the signs earlier and we have and will continue to employ training and awareness programs so we do not miss this again. We are moved by the courage and bravery of the girls who came forward and it is a tragedy that they ever had to. To the survivors that have HIV, we remain committed to supporting you. We are heartbroken by what happened and also have fundamentally changed how we operate as an organization since this incident", MTM pleads in a statement issued subsequently.

IN A RATHER belated response, the Ministry of Education says it takes all incidents of sexual assault against students extremely serious and will speedily inquire into the article to ascertain the details of allegations made, being aware that its first duty is to protect Liberian children while educating them. But we still maintain this is a responsibility it failed to execute in the first place.

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COMMENTARY

By Daoud Kuttab

The Martyrdom of Jamal Khashoggi

Arab countries have a long history of rewarding journalists who toe the official line, while punishing those, like the disappeared Saudi commentator Jamal Khashoggi, who dare to speak truth to power. And the United States has a long history of arming their oppressors.

AMMAN - The London-based daily Al-Araby Al-Jadeed recently published a cartoon, by the Jordanian artist Emad Hajjaj, depicting a faceless man wearing a red and white keffiyeh and sweeping his brown thawb in such a way that it looks almost like he is performing a magic trick. Whipped up by his movement, papers float around him. At the bottom of the frame, the hand of another man, wearing what appears to be a white button-down shirt, reaches up, apparently having let go of his pen in order to try to grab onto something, to save himself. The caption reads, "The disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi."

The cartoon names the victim, but not the perpetrator. True, any Arab - indeed, virtually everyone - knows exactly who is responsible for Khashoggi's disappearance: Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. But the fact that a well-known cartoonist had to disguise the culprit's image speaks volumes about the fear felt by independent journalists in the Arab world. Khashoggi's disappearance has only deepened their anxiety.

Arab countries have a long history of rewarding journalists who toe the official line, while punishing those, like Khashoggi, who dare to speak truth to power. Since the failed Arab Spring revolutions - of which Tunisia is the only success story - citizens across the region have found themselves with a stark choice between radical Islamist regimes and military rule. Efforts presenting democratic alternatives have been systematically repressed.

Discrediting, constraining, or otherwise silencing independent journalists is a key tool of this repression. Autocratic governments create laws and regulations to protect themselves and their cronies from criticism or exposure by independent media. They claim that only the journalists on their payroll - who praise their rulers and criticize the regime's opponents - are legitimate; all others are enemies of the state.

Such behavior is not limited to dictatorships. Even in the United States - long admired for its robust free press, protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution, and powerful investigative journalism, which once brought down a president - President Donald Trump's administration routinely attacks independent journalists, labeling them traitors, paid agents, and purveyors of "fake news."

Trump may simply be trying to appease his right-wing base and avoid accountability for his innumerable mistakes and misdeeds. But his attacks on the US press, together with his silence on attacks occurring elsewhere, have gone a long way to embolden violators of press

freedom around the world.

It does not help that many of those press-freedom violators - including Saudi Arabia - are among America's closest allies. Trump has been true to America's all-too-frequent willingness to place lucrative military contracts ahead of human rights, saying that he would be "very upset and angry" if Saudi Arabia were found to be responsible for Khashoggi's death, while ruling out a halt to big military contracts.

America's fellow NATO member Turkey is the world leader in imprisoning journalists, yet the Trump administration has complained only about the detention of one (recently released) American pastor, and that was just to placate America's "religious right" (beginning with Vice President Mike Pence). The US authorities have said nothing about Al Jazeera journalist Mahmoud Hussein's nearly two-year detention in Egypt.

Nor has the Trump administration commented on the fact that, in March 2017, the United Arab Emirates sentenced the Jordanian journalist Tayseer al-Najjar to three years imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 UAE dirhams (approximately \$136,000) over a Facebook post. Even countries that are not particularly close US allies - such as Myanmar, where two Reuters journalists have been sentenced to seven years imprisonment - do not face pushback from the US.

Independent journalists have one goal: to find the truth and share it widely. When governments can repress those journalists with impunity, and when others compromise their supposed commitment to basic human rights for political or partisan goals, the truth remains hidden, with serious consequences.

I have known Khashoggi for years, both in a professional and a personal capacity. He is a Saudi patriot, who is not opposed to his country's system of rule. Yes, he has critiqued policies, such as the inhumane war in Yemen and how Saudi rulers deal with dissent. But his arguments were always based on facts. He is not a dissident or a rebel, but a monarchist who wants to see his country do better than it is. And now he may have paid the ultimate price for that.

For Arab freedom fighters, the road ahead is long and treacherous. Building on the sacrifices of true heroes and genuine democrats, journalists and cartoonists like Hajjaj will continue to speak truth to power, as they fight for basic human rights like freedom of the press. It is truly unconscionable, however, that they must go into battle without the support of those who claim to have their backs.

O-PED

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

America's Ongoing Civil War

NEW YORK - America continues to be in a state of civil war. Not just a civil war, but the civil war. In the first round, back in the 1860s, the Confederacy lost. Yet now the Confederacy is temporarily on top. The United States remains one country divided by two cultures.

From the start, the US has been a battleground of two competing visions. America's founding credo was that "all men are created equal." Yet the founding reality was that white males were far more equal than everyone else. White men owned slaves, denied the vote to women, and took the lands and lives of native Americans.

During the 1861-1865 Civil War, the slaveholding Confederacy, formed by 13 secessionist states, was defeated by 19 northern states and then occupied by the federal government for a dozen years. Yet after "Reconstruction" ended in 1877, the South vigorously practiced systemic racism for almost a century, until the US Congress enacted the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, mainly with the support of northern Democrats. From that moment, Southern white voters deserted the Democratic Party en masse. The Republicans embraced the so-called Southern strategy, based on resisting the rise of African-Americans and other minority groups and opposing legislation that would transfer any funds, status, or power to them.

The Republicans thereby became the party of the South, and the Democrats the party of the Northeast and Pacific West, with the Midwest and western mountain states the swing regions. The industrial Great Lakes region tended toward the Democrats while the Midwestern farm states and mountain states leaned Republican. The Midwestern and mountain states also carried the frontier culture of white settlers suppressing native Americans and Asian and Hispanic immigrants.

Gun ownership marks another divide between Democrats and Republicans. The Republican Party's gun culture reflects the same cultural forces that shape its anti-minority views. In a brilliant book, *Loaded*, historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz reminds us that the "well-regulated militias" mentioned in the US Constitution's Second Amendment, which enshrines the right to bear arms, were groups of white men that raided native American villages and hunted down escaped slaves.

As Avidit Acharya, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen powerfully argue in their recent book *Deep Roots: How Slavery Still Shapes Southern Politics*, it is the legacy of slavery and post-Civil War segregation that gave rise to the South's current political culture. "It is within formerly high-slave areas," they show, "that whites are the most likely to oppose the Democratic Party, oppose affirmative action, and express sentiments that could be construed as racially resentful."

Both before and after the Civil War, poor Southern whites accepted their lowly status because they prized their superiority over even more desperate African-Americans. Racial politics thus blocked the emergence of class politics, which would have brought poor whites and poor blacks together to demand more public services paid for by higher taxes on elite whites.

Of the 26 senators representing the 13 former Confederate states today, 21 are Republicans and five are Democrats. Of the 38 senators now representing the 19 northern states of 1861, 27 are Democrats and nine are Republicans (two Independents, Bernie Sanders and Angus King, caucus with the Democrats). President Donald Trump is a geographical anomaly, a pro-southern racist from liberal New York. Trump, a champion of the white male southern culture, is shunned by his home state (59% disapproval as of September 2018). He is more Mississippi than Manhattan.

The cultural divide was on full display in the Senate proceedings that recently confirmed Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the US Supreme Court. Kavanaugh's Senate defenders were mainly white men of the South and Midwest who deflected the questioning of Kavanaugh's white male prerogative to drink and carouse as a young man by instead attacking the nominee's accusers. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, a former slave state, successfully orchestrated Kavanaugh's confirmation. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the first slave state to secede in 1860, was Kavanaugh's most aggressive promoter on the Senate Judiciary Committee, describing sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh as "the most unethical sham since I've been in politics." John Kennedy of Louisiana, another former Confederate state, called the hearings "an intergalactic freak show."

The Democrats and Republicans are parties not just of different cultures and regions, but also of different economies. The Northeast and Pacific states lead the US in high technology, innovation, higher education, well-paying jobs, and per capita income. The South lags far behind. Not only are the working-class white men of the South and Midwest defending their status and racial privileges; they are also fighting for their jobs in industries where automation and foreign trade have steadily eroded employment.

Working-class southern whites would have much to gain from abandoning the Republicans' race-based politics in favor of class-based politics. It is, after all, white corporate elites, not poor African-Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities, who deprive working-class whites of quality public schools, affordable health care, and environmental safety. Southern white male senators play up the culture war in part to shield the Republicans' mega-rich donors, who feast on corporate tax cuts and environmental deregulation while the party scapegoats African-Americans and Hispanics.

The declining predominance of non-Hispanic whites in the total population has probably widened America's cultural divide during the past 20 years. And with non-Hispanic whites expected to become a minority of the total population by around 2045, America's ongoing civil war could worsen. It will not end until working-class Americans of all regions, races, and ethnicities join forces to demand higher taxes and greater accountability of the rich corporate elite.

OPINION

By Robert Skidelsky

The Brexit Endgame

LONDON - The United Kingdom's "Remainers," who still hope to reverse Britain's decision to leave the European Union, have placarded British cities with a simple question: "Brexit - Is It Worth It?" Well, is it?

The answer given by economics is clear: certainly not. In terms of the costs and benefits of leaving, the result of the 2016 Brexit referendum was plainly irrational.

And yet economics also clearly shaped the decision. The Brexit propagandists brilliantly channeled palpable economic resentment, especially against immigration, into hostility toward the EU. But the resentment was against the home-grown damage inflicted on the British economy by its neglectful rulers. As Will Hutton and Andrew Adonis accurately note in their recent book *Saving Britain*, "Our problems are made in Britain; they can only be solved in Britain. Europe does not impede this mission..."

But Hutton and Adonis miss Brexit's crucial non-economic dimension. They rightly recall the long and intimate relationship between Britain and the European continent. But Britain has never been part of a European state. Although the European Union is very far from being the "superstate" of Margaret Thatcher's nightmare, its governmental aspirations lack legitimacy, not just in Britain, but among many of its members. Despite talk of European citizenship, politics remain obstinately national. Britain's Leave campaign was a revolt against not only economic mismanagement, but also the pretension of supranational government.

One possibility is that Britain doesn't leave the EU after all. The organizers of a campaign for a "people's vote" - a second referendum on the final exit terms - believe that when people know the true cost of leaving, they will reverse the decision taken in 2016. A second vote could be triggered by the government's failure to win parliamentary approval of the divorce settlement it has agreed with the EU.

A second possibility is that Britain "crashes out" of the EU on March 29, 2019, with no divorce deal. In this case, forecasters paint a doomsday scenario of economic collapse, gridlock on roads and rail, shortages of food, medicine, and fuel: 1940 all over again (but not exactly Britain's finest hour).

British Prime Minister Theresa May's government is promoting a third possibility: half in, half out. Approved by the Cabinet in July at the prime minister's country house, the so-called Chequers plan proposes that when Britain leaves the EU, the two sides enter into a free-trade agreement covering goods and agricultural produce, but not services. The plan, devised by May's adviser Oliver Robbins, is a heroic attempt to solve the Irish border problem.

That problem arises from a commitment by both Britain and the Republic of Ireland to keep a "frictionless" border between the Republic of Ireland, which remains in the EU, and Northern Ireland, which, as part of the UK, leaves it. But to maintain an open border in Ireland would mean creating a customs border between two parts of the UK.

Hence the Chequers plan for a continuation of free trade in goods between Britain and the EU. Britain would make sure that goods entering Northern Ireland, but bound for the EU via the Republic of Ireland, paid their EU customs duties and conformed to EU health and safety standards.

The Brexiteers in May's Conservative Party oppose the Chequers plan, because it implies too much integration with the EU. And EU leaders don't like it, either, because Britain cannot be allowed to be in for some purposes and out for others.

The final possibility is another "half in, half out" scenario. Britain would leave the customs union, but remain in the European Economic Area, which includes the 28 members of the EU plus Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland. EEA countries, though free to set their own tariffs, follow nearly all of the EU rules and pay contributions to the EU budget. So the EEA option would be even more anathema to hardline Brexiteers than the Chequers plan.

So what will happen? Most bets are on Britain formally leaving the EU in March 2019, but "temporarily" remaining in the customs union, giving it two or three years to negotiate the final divorce settlement. The Brexiteers will be enraged by such a "soft" exit, but it will probably be enough to ensure parliamentary approval. The referendum decision to leave the EU will be honored, but its harsh economic consequences will be postponed: a triumph of pragmatism over ideology.

If the Brexit trajectory turns out this way, it will be a good illustration of the double character - and function - of politics. John Maynard Keynes put the matter well: "Words ought to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts upon the unthinking," he wrote in 1933. "But when the seats of power and authority have been attained there should be no more poetic license. On the contrary, we have to count the cost down to the penny which our rhetoric has despised."

Politicians exist to give voice to resentments bottled up by "unthinking" conservatism. They let loose feelings which we would be better off without, but whose suppression threatens political explosions. But it is also their job to ensure that such eruptions do not have extreme consequences. From time to time, the balancing act breaks down, as it did in 1914, when the momentum of events overwhelmed belated attempts at compromise. It happened again in the 1930s, because fascism and communism were irredeemably extremist. But mostly politicians do their double job, which, in the last analysis, is to preserve domestic and international peace.

Thus, the Brexit compromise, if it happens, may be a moderately optimistic foretaste of the fate of populism in our century. The resurgence of economic nationalism which unites Brexit, Trumpism, and the European far right will not lead to the breakdown of trade, hot wars, dictatorship, or rapid de-globalization. Rather, it is a loud warning to the political center - one that may cause even the current crop of extremists to shrink from the consequences of their words.



Liberia Airport Authority (LAA)



Republic of Liberia
Request for Bids (IFB)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR THE
(Rental of Roberts International Airport Terminal Stores/Outlets)

IFB No. RIA/ICB/002/16/17

1. The Liberia Airport Authority acting intends to LEASE out stores and outlets in the new Robert International Airport Terminal once the terminal comes on line in the next 3(three months) as of the tender date. To this end, the LAA-RIA is requesting bids from interested and qualified firms with vast experience in operating the below listed airport facilities:

Item No.	Lot No.	Description
1.	1	Business Class Lounge
2.	2	High End Restaurant
3.	3	Duty Free Shop/Outlet
4.	4	Shops

- The LAA-RIA now invites bids for the rental and operation of the aforementioned facilities within the new RIA's terminal building from firms eligible and qualified firms.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (ICB) as specified in the Amended and Restated Public Procurement & Concessions Act Published and Approved September 11, 2018 and is opened to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
- Interested firms must demonstrate a strong commercial vision, expertise, outstanding shops and customer service program, and provide a passenger experience at RIA that is competitive with the world's leading international terminals.
- Eligibility and Qualification Requirements

Item No.	Lot	Description	Minimum Qualification Requirements
1.	1	Business Class Lounge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Business Registration Certificate Valid Tax Clearance Article of Incorporation At least five years' experience in Airport Lounge Management or other private lounges Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$250,000.00 for the last three (3) years Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years
2.	2	Duty Free Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Business Registration Certificate Valid Tax Clearance Article of Incorporation At least five years' experience in operating an Airport Duty Free Store/Shop or related store/shop. Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$500,000.00 for the last three (3) years Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years

3.	3	High End Restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Business Registration Valid Tax Clearance Sanitary Health Permit At least five (5) years' experience in operating high end restaurants Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$150,000.00 for the last three (3) years Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years Must have at least one nutritionist and dietician
4.	4	Shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valid Business Registration Valid Tax Clearance At least five (5) years' experience in operating shops in airports or related stores/shops Must have a minimum average annual turnover of US\$75,000.00 Must provide audited financial statement for the past three (3) years

- A complete set of Bidding Documents and attached copy of historical passenger information from 2013 to 2017 in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred United States Dollars (US\$100.00). Interested Bidder can make payment for the bidding documents at the Roberts International Airport Procurement Section, Margibi County.
- There will a walk through of the facility for the benefit of participants conducted on Thursday, October 18, 2018.
- All bids should be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday, the 25th of October 2018 at 12:00 Noon** Liberian Time. Electronic bid will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened on the same day in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below on **October 25, 2018 at 12:00 Noon** Local/Liberian Time.

Attention:

**Procurement Department
Roberts International Airport**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Finance Ministry to partner with CAB

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Deputy Finance Minister for Fiscal Affairs Samora Wolokollie says government is committed to partnering with the Liberia Christian Association of the Blind (CAB) in fighting discrimination against persons with disabilities in Liberia.

The Deputy Finance Minister made the assertion on Monday, 15 October when he proxied for Finance Minister Samuel Tweh at the celebration of the World White Cane Safety Day held at the Monrovia City Hall.

He spoke on the theme: "Engaging Government's Pro-Poor Development Strategy for Inclusive Social Development and Economic Sustainability of the Blind in Liberia."

Deputy Minister Wolokollie asserts that the George Weah-led government will develop a sustainable framework for the development of the physically challenged persons, stressing that being a blind person is not a state of choice.

He indicates that after nine months, the government has drafted a pro - poor development agenda for prosperity and development of

the country which will shortly be presented to the Liberian people for their inputs.

Mr. Wolokollie pleads with Liberians not to discriminate against persons with disabilities on the basis of their condition in society.

The Deputy Finance Minister assures that government will increase support to the blind and ensure that they have equal access to education, health and public transportation, and build the

capacity of persons with disabilities.

According to Minister Wolokollie, government will also ensure that public buildings are erected in a way that persons with disabilities can access them and provide them with equal work and equal pay.

On behalf of Minister Tweh, Minister Wolokollie presented \$77,500.00 Liberian Dollars to CAB and additional \$5,000.00 Liberian Dollars as

his personal package to CAB to enhance the operations of the blind organization.

Meanwhile, CAB is calling on government to pay particular attention to the disadvantaged and underprivileged sector of society during the Poor-Pro Consultation process.

The organization pleads with government to ensure

that persons with disabilities are included in the planning and implementation process.

Additionally, the organization notes that improved security in Liberia will help to prevent disability on grounds that about 25% of disability results from injuries, violence and vehicular accidents.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



Persons with Disabilities (Blind) at World White Cane & Safety Day at the Monrovia City Hall

DEA arrests Nigerian national with drugs in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Liberian Drugs Enforcement Agency (DEA) Bong county detachment has arrested a Nigerian national with 33.3 kilograms of heroin in the County.

Heroin, also known as diamorphine among other names, is a dangerous drug that damages the brain and makes people abnormal.

The street value of the 33.3 kilogram of Heroin is put at a little over \$39,000.00 Liberian Dollars.

According to DEA Bong County detachment

issues in their various communities.

Commander Taweh states that the DEA will charge and send suspect Martin to court as soon as possible.

For his part, suspect Martin has told our Bong County Correspondent that he decided to engage into drugs deal as due to hardship.

He claims that since his wife gave birth at the government run John F. Kennedy Hospital, he has been finding it very difficult to cater to her health condition due to lack of finance.



commander Alex Taweh, suspect Tony Martin was arrested in David Dean Town while enroute to market the drugs.

It is reported that suspect Martin has been involved with drug trafficking in the Kokoyah region, a practice that the Bong DEA Commander says is against the law.

In the wake of the Nigerian national's arrest, the Bong DEA Boss is urging residents of the County to join the fight in battling drug trafficking by informing the DEA about such

"When my wife gave birth, she encountered another problem with her stomach and I had no money to treat her that is why I started drugs dealing few months ago" he adds.

Mr. Martin is seeking mercy from the DEA, saying he will never repeat his act.

But he denies report that he has been involved in drugs dealing, saying he only got into drug trafficking recently due to his wife's condition at the Hospital.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Liberia-Cuba friendship joins 'unblock Cuba' campaign

By Ethel A. Tweh

Liberia-Cuba Friendship organization has joined 191 countries around the world in a campaign to "Unblock Cuba."

The Liberia-Cuba Friendship organization joins the campaign amid sanctions against Cuba that are causing huge losses in the country's revenue.

According to the group, they are totally and extremely pressed by the atrocious and inhuman act on the side of the government of the United States of America to continue with the imposition of the economic blockade on the government and the people of Cuba for their own destiny (Socialism).

The group continues that the blockade which has lasted

for more than half a century intends to suffocate, strangulate and make life unbearable for the peace loving people of the Island.

"We have learned about many different systems governing the world including socialism and capitalism. We have also learned that Cuba with socialism has been able to zero on illiteracy," Liberia-Cuba Friendship organization notes.

The group indicates that Cuba has been able to provide free quality health care for all Cuban across Cuba, and wonders if it is really wrong for a government to serve and develop its people irrespective of the nomenclature of the form of government.

"We want [to] add our voice to the rest of the world that say, this must stop. We want to say to the government of the United State of America to please use her financial and technological resources to eradicate poverty, hunger, preventable diseases and other scourges as Cuba do with her mega resource," the group mentions. -*Edited by Winston W. Parley*



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Weah vows regular inspection of pro-poor projects

President George Manneh Weah has vowed to regularly inspect pro-poor projects being undertaken by his government.

targeted 45 feeder roads construction and pavement projects in the country.

Asked about the motivation for his visit to the Community,



President Weah made the vow Monday, 15 October during an assessment of the Plank Field Community Road Project in Battery Factory which is due to start in November.

It is part of government's

President Weah says he is under obligation to build the road so as to give residents easy access to the main Somalia Drive Road.

"By November, we want to start this road," he asserts,

while wavering to residents shouting his name repeatedly.

"As you can see, the road is very bad; the place is muddy and unhealthy," President Weah exclaims.

President Weah indicates that it is government's responsibility to ensure that the people have good road in the community.

He adds that building the Plank Field road is imperative because it also creates access to Bali Island which separates the community from Monrovia.

During his assessment of the road, President Weah pierced his way through a jubilant crowd welcoming him to the Battery Factory community, also known as the Plank Field Community.

Throngs of overjoyous residents, including children, women and youth abandoned their regular chores to greet and welcome the Liberian leader.

"Our Papay is here; thank you Mr. President for coming into our community," the residents chanted as they made their way behind the President, walking a few miles deep into muddy path towards the nearby swamp.

"We are glad to have you today," said the residents.-- *Press release*

Bong County Health Team wants budget increased

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The Chief Administrator of the Bong County Health Team Jonah Tokpah has launched an appeal to government through the county authorities to increase the Health Team's budget from US\$200,000 to at least US\$500,000.00.

Speaking in an interview with our Bong County

populated county.

According to Mr. Tokpah, it is important for the County Health Team to be supported so that it can effectively discharge its duties.

At the same time, Mr. Tokpah denies report that health workers in the County collect money from struggling patients before treating them.



correspondent on Tuesday, 16 October, Mr. Tokpah says such increase will help the Health Team to expand its activities, ensure the purchasing of additional ambulances and motorbikes.

Currently, the County Health Team has eight functional ambulances but Mr. Tokpah says the number is small for the nation's third

He argues that it is the responsibility of health workers to treat patients and there is no way that a health worker will collect money from patients at public facility.

He pledges the commitment of the Bong County Health Team to working in the best interest of the County citizens.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

MCC holds training for city parking staff

By Lewis S. Teh

The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) on Tuesday, 16 October conducted a day-long intensive training for newly recruited parking attendants for the corporation's city parking Management Team on 1st Street, Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia.

42 persons participated in the exercise to help regulate proper parking of vehicles to avoid huge traffic congestion here.

The MCC says out of 50 persons interviewed recently, 42 were selected to form part of the City Parking Management Team that will steer the affairs of the city parking management team.

The 42 persons who are to be recruited will join the current team of 50 previously recruited to regulate the proper parking of vehicles in Sinkor.

According to the MCC, the initiative is part of the Monrovia City Corporation's youth empowerment and employment program under the leadership of Mayor

Jefferson T. Koijee.

MCC adds that since the ascendency of its new Mayor Koijee, he has placed the issue of youth empowerment key on the corporation's agenda, evidenced by the proliferation of young people employed within the entity.

The city corporation says majority of those selected are students of various universities including the

University of Liberia where they were hopeful to be recruited and trained as members of the Monrovia City Corporation Parking Management Team.

At the same time, the MCC through its Youth Affairs Department has the the Monrovia City Corporation Youth Affairs' second edition of the National University Debate Championship.

According to the MCC, the



debate brings together 10 Universities and Colleges in Liberia, including the United Methodist University, African Methodist Episcopal University, African Methodist Episcopal Zion University and Blue Crest University College for this year's edition.

Others are St. Clement University, Adventist University, Williams VS Tubman University and Lincoln College.

The Youth Affairs Unit of MCC has a mandate to promote, organize and coordinate youth activities both academically and socially within the city of Monrovia.

As part of its mandate, the Unit creates programs to build the capacity of young people. The debate tournament is being organized to encourage

Liberian students develop a positive attitude of learning and their intellectual and academic abilities.

The competition will serve as a platform to select exceptional debaters from participating universities to form part of a team or delegation to represent Liberia in Tanzania at the Transnational Pan African Debate.

It can be recalled that the Monrovia City Corporation through its Youth Affairs Unit organized a successful Inter-Universities pilot project debate competition in March of this year.

Four universities participated in the pilot project debate competition.

United Methodist University won with Stella Maris Polytechnic as second winner.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Français

Scandale financier : Le LP tape fort sur le pouvoir

L'opposition accuse le président de la République, le président de la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir, et les officiels du gouvernement libérien d'avoir semé la confusion pour brouiller l'affaire concernant la disparition présumée de plusieurs milliards de dollars libériens.

S'exprimant dimanche 14 octobre lors d'une conférence de presse, le président par intérim du Parti de la Liberté, le sénateur Steve Zargo, a fait part de son inquiétude et accusé les représentants du gouvernement d'acheter des maisons dans les pays voisins seulement en moins neuf mois de pouvoir.

Le président George Manneh Weah, la Banque centrale du Libéria et le ministre des Finances, Samuel Tweah, ont affirmé qu'aucun argent n'a disparu.

Mais l'administration a mis en place une commission

d'enquête spéciale chargée de faire la lumière sur cette question d'argent. Elle a aussi invité les partenaires internationaux, y compris les États-Unis, à participer à l'enquête.

Selon le sénateur Zargo, à peine neuf mois à la tête du

pays, le gouvernement de la CDC a provoqué le plus grand scandale financier de l'histoire du pays, faisant spécifiquement référence aux 15,5 milliards de dollars libériens présumés manquants.

Le sénateur de Lofa et

membre du bureau exécutif du LP a indiqué que, compte tenu des prétendues irrégularités et fraudes qui ont entaché les élections de 2017, les Libériens pensaient qu'avec l'arrivée d'une nouvelle équipe gouvernementale, le pays prendrait une toute nouvelle direction.

« Malheureusement, l'émergence du gouvernement CDC a ravivé et renforcé le cauchemar que les Libériens avaient connu avec la corruption sous les administrations précédentes. Du président au ministre des Finances ; du ministre des Finances au ministre de la Justice ; du ministre de la Justice au ministre de l'Information ; du ministre de l'Information au président du CDC, au maire de la ville de Monrovia, et ainsi de suite, il y a eu une vague de déclarations non coordonnées, imbibées de mensonges et de distorsions d'informations », a affirmé le sénateur Zargo.

Selon le sénateur Zargo, cette affaire de 15 milliards de dollars libériens est la preuve que le gouvernement de la Coalition pour le Changement démocratique se dirige tout droit dans le gouffre.

Pour lui, le conseil des gouverneurs de la Banque centrale a déjà sapé le travail de la commission d'enquête par le fait de publier ce qui est censé être un rapport interne selon lequel tous les billets de banque imprimés et importés dans le pays sont arrivés à bon port.

« En tant que parti politique qui s'engage à faire respecter la loi, nous avons publié une déclaration le 25 septembre 2018, attirant l'attention du gouvernement sur la nécessité d'une enquête rapide, structurée et indépendante sur cette affaire afin de préserver l'image de notre pays », a déclaré le sénateur Zargo.

Selon lui, une telle démarche permettrait de gagner la confiance des partenaires internationaux du Libéria, principalement des institutions financières auprès desquelles ce pays sollicite de l'aide au

développement. "Ceci, pour nous, est la marque d'une opposition mûre", a-t-il ajouté.

Il a dit qu'alors que l'on attend de voir le gouvernement prendre honnêtement l'initiative de résoudre ce qui constitue aujourd'hui un casse-tête national, "un vaste projet apparemment destiné à déformer, à confondre et finalement à enfouir l'affaire au fond de la mer, est en train d'être mis en place par les membres du parti au pouvoir."

Répondant à une déclaration du président du parti au pouvoir, Morlu, qui a récemment estimé que le parti de la liberté (LP) devrait faire l'objet d'une enquête car il avait introduit dans le pays une flotte de véhicules pendant la campagne de 2017, le sénateur de Lofa a indiqué que « le Parti de la liberté n'avait jamais exercé de contrôle sur le coffre-fort de la Banque centrale ». « Nous n'avons aucune autorité pour commander l'impression de billets de banque. Nous ne contrôlons pas les points d'entrée (Roberts Field et le port franc de Monrovia). Comment alors aurions-nous pu prendre une partie de vos plus de 15 milliards de LRD pour acheter des pick-ups? ».

Dans le même temps, le Parti de la liberté félicite le gouvernement des États-Unis pour avoir proposé des experts pour aider le pays à déterminer les circonstances entourant les prétendus conteneurs d'argent manquants.

Le parti de Charles Brumskine, candidat malheureux aux élections présidentielles de 2017, a appelé le gouvernement à fournir aux experts étrangers tout le confort dont ils peuvent avoir besoin pour faire leur travail efficacement.

Il a dit suivre de près le travail de l'équipe internationale d'enquêteurs, appelant le gouvernement du président George Manneh Weah à agir rapidement et à intervenir dans les situations difficiles auxquelles le peuple libérien est confronté à l'heure actuelle.



Des natifs de Nimba s'en prennent à Prince Johnson

Des natifs du comté de Nimba, membres d'une association intitulée « Citoyens de Nimba Unis pour la Paix et la Réconciliation », fustigent avec énergie le sénateur Prince Yormie Johnson qu'ils accusent d'avoir dit du mensonge qui, selon eux, est dangereux pour la population de Nimba.

Le secrétaire général de l'association, Aphonso Korto, s'est inscrit en faux par rapport à la récente déclaration du sénateur Johnson selon laquelle le représentant de Samuel G.

Kogar veut inciter le peuple à la révolte contre le gouvernement du Libéria. « Cette affirmation est fautive et erronée », a-t-il dit dans une déclaration qu'il a lue lundi.

Le représentant Kogar a dû nier avec véhémence, affirmant que jamais il n'a incité qui que ce soit à révolte. Selon Korto, leur enquête indépendante a établi que le législateur de Nimba n'a jamais été associé aux propos que lui prête le sénateur Johnson.

L'association dit regretter que ce mensonge ait non seulement créé une distance dangereuse

entre les deux dirigeants du même comté, mais risque aussi de nuire à l'image de l'ensemble du comté de Nimba. « Comme vous le savez, le comté de Nimba a été affecté par ce type de comportements malsains, comme cela avait été le cas au temps de feu chef Jerry Gonyon qui, dans les années 1990, a mal informé et dit des mensonges au feu président Samuel K. Doe, qui, sans procéder à aucune enquête, a arrêté et tué arbitrairement bon nombre de fils du comté de Nimba. Et malheureusement aujourd'hui, le sénateur Johnson a repris le flambeau du célèbre chef Jerry Gonyon pour confondre les gens de Nimba », a-t-il expliqué.

Le groupe a par ailleurs condamné les récents propos du sénateur Johnson selon lesquels il dispose d'hommes et de femmes natifs de Nimba pour faire obstacle à l'établissement de quelque tribunal des crimes de guerre que ce soit au Libéria. Il a dit cela ouvertement au peuple libérien et au monde entier.

Le groupe demande ainsi au conseil traditionnel de Nimba de convoquer le sénateur Johnson pour l'interroger. Il veut aussi que le groupe parlementaire de Nimba se saisisse de la question pour ouvrir une enquête complète.



Français

Scandale financier : Le ministre de la défense demande au libériens de la fermer

Le ministre libérien de la Défense, Daniel Ziahnkan, participe désormais au débat sur la disparition présumée des 16 milliards de dollars libériens. Il demande aux libériens, particulièrement aux critiques, de se taire et de permettre au gouvernement et aux partenaires internationaux de mener l'enquête de manière approfondie. « Il serait décent de la part de ces gens s'ils accordent une chance au processus en gardant leurs opinions », a-t-il dit.

Le ministre Ziahnkan a déclaré lors d'une émission radiodiffusée lundi à Paynesville, dans la banlieue de Monrovia : « Ce n'est pas parce que vous connaissez la théorie de la demande et l'offre que vous n'allez pas donner une chance à l'enquête. Je pense que le commandant en chef, le président George Manneh Weah, a ordonné l'ouverture d'une enquête immédiate sur l'argent manquant. Cet ordre devrait être respecté en attendant le résultat de l'enquête. » Du président George Manneh Weah au ministre des Finances en passant par les ministres de la Justice et de l'Information, le président du CDC et le maire de la ville de Monrovia, la liste est longue, il y a eu des flots d'annonces contradictoires sur la disparition présumée des

milliards de dollars libériens.

Le ministre Ziahnkan estime que « trop de commentaire ne contribuera pas à résoudre ce scandale financier. Seule une enquête menée par des experts internationaux et des enquêteurs locaux peut faire toute la lumière sur ce scandale ». Il a salué les États-Unis et l'Union européenne pour avoir accepté de contribuer à la recherche de la vérité, ajoutant que l'intervention de ces deux puissances mondiales permettra à l'enquête d'aboutir à des conclusions fiables répondant aux meilleures normes internationales. En ce qui concerne l'hôpital militaire, le ministre Ziahnkan a expliqué que les travaux de construction sont en cours et que le gouvernement libérien a débloqué 2 millions de dollars américains. Selon lui, l'hôpital sera terminé l'année prochaine, en octobre. Tout récemment, l'ambassade des États-Unis près de Monrovia, par l'intermédiaire de l'USAID, a annoncé avoir contacté des firmes indépendantes et reconnues sur le plan international, spécialisées dans les enquêtes judiciaires, pour mener une mission de cadrage qui permettra de savoir si oui ou non de l'argent a disparu et dans quelle mesure une mission plus large sera nécessaire.

La BAD décaisse € 50 millions pour un projet d'interconnexion routière Guinée - Guinée-Bissau

Les gouvernements de la Guinée et de la Guinée Bissau vont bénéficier de 50 millions d'euros sous forme de dons et de prêt, en financement de la première phase du projet d'aménagement de la route Boké-Québo, corridor routier entre Conakry-Bissau.

Le coût total du projet est estimé à 117,19 millions d'euros. La première phase va coûter 79,94 millions d'euros et la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) a déjà mobilisé 30 millions d'euros de l'Union européenne, rapporte un communiqué de presse de la banque panafricaine publié jeudi.

C'est dans cette perspective que le Conseil d'administration de la BAD a approuvé au profit de la Guinée un don du Fonds d'assistance technique (FAT) de 4,07 millions d'euros; un don du Fonds africain de développement (FAD) de 20,49 millions d'euros et un prêt FAD

de 6,06 millions d'euros. Pour la Guinée Bissau, le Conseil d'administration de la Banque a approuvé un don du FAT de 1,78 millions d'euros et un don FAD de 16,77 millions d'euros.

Par ailleurs, la Guinée et la Guinée Bissau ont bénéficié respectivement d'un don de la Facilité d'investissement pour l'Afrique (FIAf) de 20,38 millions d'euros et 9,62 millions d'euros. (1 € = 655,957 FCFA)

« Cette route Boké-Québo est très importante pour les deux pays, et fait partie du corridor routier Transafricain N°7 Dakar-Lagos », a souligné le directeur général adjoint pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, Serge-Marie N'Guessan.

Ces interventions du Groupe de la Banque produiront entre autres résultats, l'accroissement des échanges commerciaux entre les deux pays, de 60,46 tonnes de marchandises à 2000 tonnes de 2017 à 2025;

COMMENTAIRE

Par Daoud Kuttab

Le martyr de Jamal Khashoggi

AMMAN - Le quotidien Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, basé à Londres, a récemment publié une caricature du dessinateur jordanien Emad Hajjaj, montrant un homme sans visage portant un keffieh rouge et blanc. Le mouvement qu'il a imprimé à son vêtement a fait s'envoler des feuillets manuscrits sur un fond sombre, évoquant un tour de magie. Dans le bas du dessin, la main d'un autre homme, vêtu d'un chemisier blanc, s'élève et semble avoir lâché son stylo-plume pour saisir quelque chose qui pourrait le sauver. La légende du dessin est « La disparition du journaliste saoudien Jamal Khashoggi ».

La caricature nomme la victime, mais pas l'auteur du crime. A vrai dire, tout Arabe - en fait quasiment tout le monde - sait exactement qui est responsable de la disparition de Khashoggi : le prince héritier d'Arabie saoudite, Mohammed ben Salman. Le fait qu'un dessinateur renommé soit contraint de masquer l'identité du coupable en dit long sur la peur ressentie par les journalistes indépendants dans le monde arabe. La disparition de Khashoggi n'a fait qu'intensifier leurs appréhensions.

Les pays arabes ont depuis longtemps l'habitude de récompenser les journalistes qui suivent la ligne officielle et de punir ceux qui, comme Khashoggi, osent dire leurs quatre vérités au pouvoir en place. Depuis l'échec des révolutions du Printemps arabe - la Tunisie étant l'exception - les citoyens de la région ont été confrontés au choix difficile entre des régimes dominés par les islamistes radicaux et des régimes militaires. Toutes les tentatives faites pour mettre en place des alternatives démocratiques ont été systématiquement réprimées.

Discréditer, contraindre, ou simplement réduire au silence les journalistes indépendants est une composante fondamentale de cette répression. Les gouvernements autocratiques ont adopté des lois et des réglementations qui les mettent à l'abri, eux et leur entourage, des critiques ou de révélations de la part des médias indépendants. Seuls les journalistes à leur solde - qui chantent les louanges des dirigeants et critiquent les opposants au régime - sont légitimes ; tous les autres sont des ennemis de l'État.

Cette attitude n'est pas le propre des dictatures. Même aux États-Unis - longtemps admirés pour la robuste liberté de la presse, protégée par le premier Amendement de la constitution américaine, et un journalisme d'investigation tenace, à l'origine de la destitution d'un président - l'administration Trump et le président lui-même ne cessent de dénigrer les journalistes indépendants, les qualifiant de traîtres, d'agents à la solde de l'étranger et de propagateurs de « fake news ».

L'intention de Trump est peut-être simplement de pacifier sa base électorale conservatrice et d'éviter d'avoir à rendre compte de ses innombrables erreurs et méfaits. Mais ses attaques contre la presse américaine, et son silence au sujet d'offensives contre la presse ailleurs dans le monde, ont beaucoup fait pour enhardir les auteurs de violations de la liberté de la presse où que ce soit.

Cela n'aide bien sûr en rien que ces contrevenants à la liberté de la presse - dont l'Arabie saoudite - figurent parmi les plus proches alliés des États-Unis. Trump s'est montré fidèle à l'empressement si fréquent des États-Unis à donner la priorité à des contrats militaires lucratifs sur les droits humains, disant qu'il serait « très troublé et furieux » s'il était avéré que l'Arabie saoudite était responsable de la mort de Khashoggi - tout en excluant la suspension des ventes d'armes à Riyad.

La Turquie, membre de l'OTAN comme les États-Unis, occupe la première place pour ce qui est de l'incarcération des journalistes, et pourtant l'administration Trump ne s'est mobilisée que pour faire libérer un pasteur américain (récemment relâché) et encore, ses pressions n'avaient que pour objectif de contenter les conservateurs chrétiens américains (à commencer par le vice-président Mike Pence). Le gouvernement américain n'a rien dit au sujet du journaliste Mahmoud Hussein d'Al Jazeera, en détention arbitraire en Égypte depuis bientôt deux ans.

L'administration Trump est restée tout aussi silencieuse lorsque les Émirats arabes unis ont condamné en mars 2017 le journaliste jordanien Tayseer al-Najjar à trois ans d'emprisonnement et à une amende de 136.000 dollars environ pour un commentaire publié sur son compte Facebook. Même des pays qui ne sont pas des proches alliés des États-Unis - comme la Birmanie, où deux journalistes de l'agence Reuter ont été condamnés à sept ans de prison - ne font pas l'objet de sanctions de la part des États-Unis.

Les journalistes indépendants ont un objectif : découvrir la vérité et la diffuser le plus largement possible. Lorsque les gouvernements répriment impunément ces journalistes et que d'autres abjurent leur engagement supposé envers les droits humains fondamentaux pour des raisons politiques ou partisans, la vérité reste occultée, avec de graves conséquences.

Je connaissais Khashoggi depuis de longues années, à la fois aux plans professionnel et personnel. Il était un patriote saoudien qui n'était pas opposé au mode de gouvernance de son pays. Il avait bien sûr critiqué certaines de ses actions, dont la guerre inhumaine au Yémen et la manière dont les dirigeants saoudiens traitent les opposants. Mais ses arguments étaient toujours fondés sur des faits. Lui-même n'était pas un dissident ou un rebelle, mais un monarchiste qui souhaitait que son pays soit plus progressiste et tolérant. Il semble qu'il ait maintenant payé le prix ultime pour ce vœu d'ouverture et de réforme.

Pour les défenseurs arabes de la liberté, le chemin à parcourir sera long et semé d'embûches. En s'appuyant sur les sacrifices de véritables héros et de vrais démocrates, des journalistes et dessinateurs comme Hajjaj continueront à dire la vérité à ceux qui détiennent le pouvoir, en luttant pour les droits humains fondamentaux tels que la liberté de la presse. Il est toutefois inacceptable qu'ils doivent livrer bataille sans le soutien de ceux qui prétendent les protéger.

FROM WHERE I SEE PRESIDENT WEAH'S GOVERNMENT

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Who Is President Weah's Public Works Minister "M.V. Nyenpan, Sr"?

Great men are unmistakably great within their amplitude of human characteristic when they leave an indestructible positive print in the lives of their neighbors, friends, relatives, countrymen/women, workmates, acquaintances, church members, students, a passerby, and even strangers, especially when their earned greatness and hard work reverberate or echo within the darkest pit of the Liberian society.

The unleashing of great men's unconditional private generosity, coupled with their countless and outpouring of overwhelming goodwill and extraordinary kindness to people whom they do not know even by an iota of change, many



times speaks volumes of those great men's unique character in the Liberian society.

The memories of great men lived endlessly in the judgment of the multitude of their benefactors because of those great men's indelible positive undertakings in the lives of friends, comrades and loved ones, and even the needy and the depressed ones in the Liberian society would serve as a testimonial to these truths.

The generosity of great men can sometimes assist in the fertilization of enormous social economic, and in some instances, yield a tangible and a very strong political salvation or rudiment in the lives of their comrades and loved ones. This is precisely the unquestionable sequence of unique events that clearly defined and summarizes Liberia's Public Work Minister, Honorable Mobutu Vlah Nyenpan, Sr. from a substantive and a candid perspective.

The appointment of Honorable Mobutu Vlah Nyenpan, Sr. to serve as Liberia's first Public Work Minister under President Weah's signifies one of the numerous political ordinations out of thousands of many equally qualified Liberians. The appointment of Hon. Nyenpan was one of the biggest and most appropriate choices ever made by President Weah for countless rationales, first, Hon. Nyenpan is not one of Liberia's most charismatic politicians, he is one of the many people's centered iconic personalities who believe in the philosophy of "teaching Liberians how to fish, rather than giving them fish for their sustainability." Leaders with such concept are developmental oriented and purposeful. Hon. Vlah has always endeavored to contextualize the value of development and dignifies the meaning of life especially in these difficult times in the history of Liberia.

Thought leaders are always needed for thought job, this is where the "Nyenpanism" fits within the political equation of the nation-building process not only in President Weah's government but as far back as facing some of the Herculean challenges within the territorial limits of the then Budubugram Refugee Camp, located in the Central Region of Ghana in the early 90s. when Hon Mobutu was spotted playing a transformational role as the biblical Moses

who led the children of Israel from captivity into a promised land, so was Honorable Vlah during those dark pages and complex moments in the lives of weary Liberians who were a victim of unthinkable wars and had to proceed to exile. Hon. Nyenpan has always been impregnated with passions and compassion for his compatriots even in contemporary Liberia.

Leaders shouldn't be defined by their academic pedigree or earned influential credentials. They should be defined by their outputs, accomplishments and their enormous impact on the lives of others, so is Hon Nyenpan. Many

Liberians from the Buduburam Refugee Camp are living testimonial to Hon. Nyenpan's transformational impacts and great rewarding generosity in our lives. Hon. Nyenpan judges Liberians not by their tribal connections or political affluence, but by their ability to achieve and make the difference in the lives of other Liberians at home and abroad.

The working population at LPRC, where Hon. Nyenpan once served as deputy managing director for administration will blatantly refuse to take him to the political crucifixion cross because of his impacts in changing the entire lives of LPRC's workforce at the time. He will continue to be a vivid reflective instrument in the compound of that great entity, LPRC. Hon. Nyenpan's Senate compatriots including those whom he once worked with, their lives had not been the same under Hon. Nyenpan's iconic and spirited goodwill and positive political affection and generosity.

The very fine people of Sineo, do not envisage Hon. Nyenpan as their friend, they qualified him as their developmental hero, who is known for lifting the spirit of the people of Sineo at its zenith as well as preserving their faith and advocating for their overall well-being as

a people in the vineyard of his fiercest critics like the systemic controversial..... but even at that, Hon. Nyenpan didn't betray his pledge to make Sineo great, calmed and a wonderful place to be in Liberia.



Hon. Nyenpan is one of the very few honest and trustworthy Liberian politicians known within Liberia's political circle. President Weah has got a trusted Minister of Public Work, who has come to this portfolio with the requisite engineering credential. This is one man whom I believe will do all in his powers to transform the population and the workforce of the Public Work employees and ensures that the objective of the Ministry of Public Work is achieved in the fullness of time, but with one big condition, that is with the unconditional support of President Weah including all his principled deputies and the sincere and committed task-oriented workforce. This doesn't in any way suggest that everything will be bread and butter during the Ministry's huge dispensation road projects which come with a familiar price tag.

Dark clouds over fiber cables

An Indian national, Ashok Kumar Sivaram, who was deported from Ghana a year ago, for alleged forgery of company's document is said to be heading the ongoing fiber optic cable transmission project here, amidst rising eyebrows.

According to Ghanaian Court documents, case number D2/73/18, Kumar Sivaram was deported after he was found to have forged the signature of Sachin Namber, the original owner of Jai Mai Communications or JMC at the Ghana Registrar General's office along with a local Ghanaian national, George Dankwa Otempong to re-register the company placing him as a 50 percent shareholder while Mr. Namber was away in India.

There are looming questions as to how Mr. Savaram surfaced in Liberia as implementer of the LIBTELCO fiber optic cables, which was originally awarded to CSquare, a company hired by LIBTELCO.

The connection of the fiber cable is expected to improve internet connectivity here at a faster speed, but the hiring of



a man who is said to have been allegedly involved into forgery and presenting of fake documents is raising security concern.

Reports from Ghana indicate that Sivaram did not only forged his boss's signature to re-register the company but he was also involve in another scam. Report say as part of effort to solidify his local backing, he married a

Ghanaian, while he was still legally married to the sister of Sachin Namber, the original head of JMC.

That move by Sivaram also landed him in trouble with local Ghanaian authority, who described his marriage to the Ghanaian as fake, and therefore saw his marriage certificate as fake.

Sivaram game plan for marrying the Ghanaian while

he was still marry to Namber's sister was to obtained a Ghanaian citizenship, at least local reports and documents suggests.

Sachin's arranged marriage to the Ghanaian was exposed after he applied for his Ghanaian citizenship. His letter of application was questioned by the Ghana Immigration Service or GIS.

"But under our law in Ghana, you have to divorce first before you remarry. He did not do so. He later apply for Ghanaian citizenship. When the authorities saw it, they arrested him," one source with knowledge of the case said.

Sachin was deported from Ghana in June of last year, according to documents and reports from Ghana.

When a member of our team of investigators contacted the offices of CSquare on Tuesday October 16, 2018, for comment, a Ghanaian national who only identified himself as the HR (Human Resource) Officer declined to comment referring the paper to his lawyer.

One of the lawyers he referred our team to for comment told one of the journalists: "I am not aware of this. But please call me tomorrow. I will check with the

law firm on this because we have people who work on contracts for various companies. I will be prepared to speak on that."

Sivaram's deportation is not a secret in Ghana as several Ghanaian media including Joy news and the Ghanaian Daily Graphic.

In one of the reports, his deportation was tied to the fact that he lied the GIS using a fake marriage certificate to support his application for a permanent residence permit and this led to his repatriation in June last year following an order issued by the Interior Minister in May 2017.

The running of the fiber cables worth hundreds of thousands of United States Dollar. There are concern as to how JMC was brought into the contract without a due diligence from the PPCC and the LIBTELCO management.

Dr. Lawrence Bropleh, former Information Minister is said to also have direct link with JMC. Dr. Bropleh did not answer his phone when his number was called and rang several times. He also did not return calls up to press time.

Mr. Sivaram office was also called for inquiry, but there was also no respond. **More detail.**

Weah extends tariff suspension on rice

President George Manneh Weah has issued Executive Order #93, extending tariff suspension on rice in a bid to keep the nation's staple affordable on the Liberian market.

An Executive Mansion release issued Tuesday, 16 October says Executive Order #93 takes immediate effect.

It extends Executive Order No. 87 earlier promulgated by Government to suspend tariff on the nation's staple in alleviating unnecessary burden on ordinary Liberians.

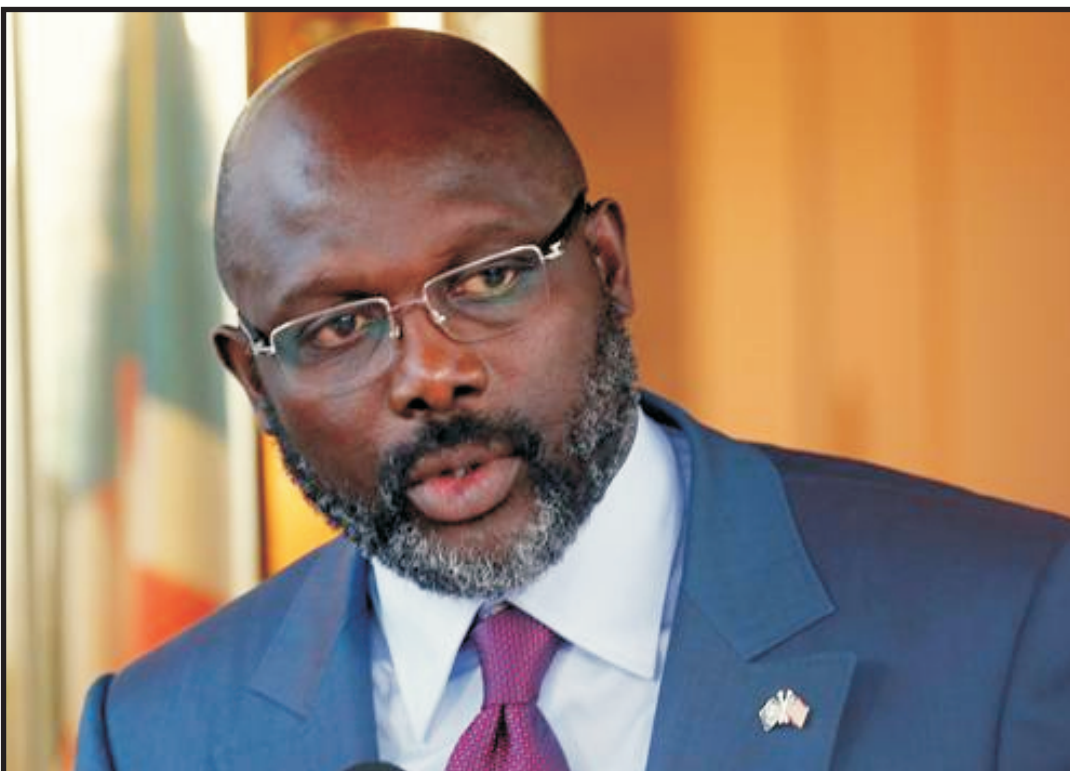
The issuance of the Executive Order follows an assessment and evaluation by Government to determine the causes of increase in the prices


of various essential commodities and to initiate measures to ameliorate the situation.

"Now therefore," the Executive Order asserts, "the Government of Liberia in its desire to continue to bring relief to the public, hereby [issues] Executive Order No. 93, suspending the import tariff on rice as classified under tariff Nos. 1006.30.00 (in packing of more than 5kg or in bulk); 1006.30.00 (in packing of at least 5kg); and 1006.40.00 (broken rice) under the Revenue Code of Liberia Act 2000 with immediate effect."

President Weah uses the Executive Order to stress the need for exigent measures to ease economic burdens on Liberian citizens and residents, enabling them to access the staple food at all times and with ease.

These measures follow former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Executive Orders Nos. 11, 19, 45, 61, 70, 80 and 87 suspending import tariffs on rice in the interest of the public.-- **Press release**





University of Liberia
Republic of Liberia
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

**Section I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items)
IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19**

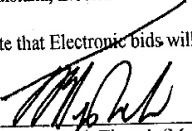
- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its internally generated revenue for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 and intends to apply it towards the printing and delivery of souvenir items for its 99th Commencement Convocation in Louisiana, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia.
- The University of Liberia now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the printing and delivery of the souvenir items.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), and is open to all eligible bidders in the Country.
- Specifications and quantity:


Item No.	Description	Quantity	Unit of Measure
1.	Printing and Delivery of Souvenir Items	Assorted	pieces
- Eligibility and Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia Business Registration
 - Valid Government of Liberia Tax Clearance
 - Must be registered with the PPCC Vendor Registrar
 - Past performance records in the last 4 years for similar job including the names and contact details of at-least three (3) clients
 - Bids must be duly signed by the bidder or person authorized on behalf of the bidder.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain copy of the bidding document from the Procurement Department, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, AC1-09, University of Liberia for a non-refundable fee of US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) beginning September 17 - October 10, 2018, between the hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. Mondays to Fridays and inspect sample of the souvenir items.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security valid for 90 days in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of US\$2,000.00 (Two Thousand United States Dollars) from a reputable commercial bank operating under the laws of Liberia.
- Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., October 10, 2018, and bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or representatives who choose to attend on October 10, 2018, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room, Room #: AC1-01, Administrative Complex Building, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:
In the upper left corner of the envelop, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PRINTING AND DELIVERY OF SOUVENIR ITEMS"
REF: IFB No.: UL/NCB/017/18/19.

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address

In the middle of the envelope, print the address below:
Procurement Department
Administrative Complex Building
Fendall Campus
Louisiana, Liberia

- Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: 
Fatu Rath Tipoteh (Mrs.)
DIRECTOR
Procurement Department, UL

Approved: 
Vice President, UL/Relations

LIBERIA KEEP AFCON HOPES ALIVE



The Lone Star of Liberia line-up

Liberia beat Congo 2-1 at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Monrovia on Tuesday to duly keep their 2019 Africa Cup of Nations hopes alive.

The Lone Stars were in desperate need of a win following a three game winless run in the qualifiers and got just that, with a hard fought victory in the Liberian capital.

Liberia hit the front as early

as the eighth minute through Teah Dennis. William Jebor doubled the hosts lead six minutes later to send the fans into absolute delirium as they looked well on course for all three points.

Congo, though, put those hopes in doubt as they pulled a goal back through Prince Ibara a minute later.

The Red Devils, who had defeated the same opponents

3-1 in Brazzaville this past weekend pushed for the equaliser, but Liberia ultimately held on to claim a much needed victory.

Victory moves Liberia level on four points with Congo in Group G with two rounds of qualifiers remaining. Zimbabwe lead the way with eight points, followed by DR Congo on five.

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Mauritania stun Burkina Faso to go top of Group I

Mauritania secured a 2-0 win over Burkina Faso in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualification Group I match at the Stade Olympique in Nouakchott on Saturday night.

As a result, Al Murabitun moved to the top of the Group I standings, while the Stallions slipped down to second spot.

Al Murabitun went into

this encounter having secured a 1-0 win over Botswana away in their previous Group I game in June 2017, while the Stallions had thrashed Angola 3-1 at home in their previous group match.

The deadlock was broken eight minutes before the half-time break and it was Ismail Diakhite who scored.

The 27-year-old striker beat Burkina Faso goalkeeper Herve Koffi to make it 1-0 to

Mauritania.

It was soon 2-0 to Mauritania as the hosts doubled their lead five minutes before the half-time break. Khassa Camara was the man who beat Koffi to ensure that the first-half ended with Mauritania leading 2-0.

The Stallions tried to pull one back in the second-half with Austria-based striker Zakaria Sanogo leading their attack.



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