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Weah shot CDC in the leg?



Mr. Urey, Chairman of the collaborating parties

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Continental News

Frugal Sudan's Eid post-Bashir era

As Muslims in Khartoum marked their first Eid al-Adha feast without Omar al-Bashir as a ruler in three decades, the mood was upbeat Sunday but the menu stayed frugal.

Months of bloody anti-regime protests created a historic opportunity for civilian rule in Sudan but also saw prices soar, putting a damper on celebrations. In Khartoum markets, the price of a sheep -- a must in the Feast of the Sacrifice which is considered the holiest day in the Muslim calendar -- has doubled since last year. "You used to be able to find a sheep for 3,500" Sudanese pounds (\$60), said Mohamed Abdullahi, a farmer who lives on Tuti, a rural island wedged between the twin cities of Khartoum and Omdurman, where the Blue and White Nile meet.

This year he paid 8,000 pounds, an amount he couldn't really afford even after raising the selling price

of the milk from the few cows he rears on a small plot by the riverbank. "I have three children, I had to bring them something for the feast," the greying 43-year-old said.

In Khartoum's Bori neighbourhood, considered one of the cradles of the

protest movement that brought down Bashir earlier this year, an Eid market known for its low prices is witnessing record turnover. "There's a lack of cash in Sudan at the moment. Here we are using electronic payment cards a lot, to make it easier for the

people," said one of the traders, Maki Amir.

"Many people feel happy because of the revolution and the peace that was signed last week, that's why they want a real Eid celebration," he said. Sudan's economy was sent into a tailspin when the oil-rich south seceded in 2011 and the past eight months of turmoil -- which initially erupted with protests over a tripling of bread prices -- have taken a further toll. As buyers swarmed the huddled sheep on the dusty open market ground and inspected the animals' teeth, the haggling was sometimes acrimonious.

Some men looking to buy a sheep to slaughter blamed traders for taking advantage of the power vacuum to raise their prices.

The traders retorted they were being taxed by the government more than ever before. Since the last devaluation of the pound in October by the then Sudanese authorities, the currency has plunged by a further 70 percent

against the dollar on the black market.

A deal was reached a week ago between the country's generals and protest leaders to transition to civilian rule in just over three years.

The landmark constitutional agreement is to be signed at a ceremony on August 17 but, even if its provisions are implemented, the country remains on the brink of economic collapse. On the capital's walls, some of the protest murals have already been painted over and its streets were largely empty, many residents having left town to celebrate Eid al-Adha in their villages.

At the market in Bori, Amir Abdullah came to buy a goat for an expatriate friend who wants it donated to charity but he will not be able to afford one for himself this year. He also said celebrating did not feel like a priority after so many protesters, an estimated 250, were killed in their efforts to take down the military regime. AFP



Muted celebrations for Sudan's first post-Bashir Eid

Seven dead in DR Congo lake boat capsized

Seven people drowned after a transport boat sank after hitting rocks on a lake in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo over the weekend, local authorities said on Monday.

Lake and river transport is widely used in the DRC as the highway system is poor,

but accidents are common, often caused by overloading and the unsafe state of vessels.

The "total number of deaths is seven," the local minister of transport and communication in South Kivu province, Claude Swedy Basila said in a statement. Authorities

rescued 102 survivors, it said.

The private boat, carrying 110 passengers, mainly traders, was travelling to the island of Idjwi when it struck a rock Saturday before capsizing. Saturday's disaster involved a "baleiniere" or "whaler" -- a commonly-used flat-bottomed vessel resembling a motorised canoe 15 to 30 metres (50 to 100 feet) long by two to six metres wide.

At least 30 people died and dozens more went missing in May after a boat accident on a lake in western DRC.

In the vast majority of accidents, passengers are not equipped with life jackets and many cannot swim.

Since the beginning of the year, at least 190 people have died in boat accidents in the DRC, according to an AFP count.

Earlier this year at least 167 people died in two accidents prompting



Lake and river transport is widely used in DR Congo because the road system is so poor

Tanzania tanker blast kills 75

The death toll from a fuel truck explosion in Tanzania rose to 75 on Monday as four more people succumbed to their injuries, a hospital official said. "We deplore four new deaths. Their bodies are currently resting at the morgue while we wait for relatives to identify them," said Aminiel Aligaesha, spokesman for the National Hospital in the economic capital, Dar es Salaam.

Funeral services which began Sunday were expected to continue Monday as the country concluded a period of national mourning declared by President John Magufuli. The explosion took place Saturday morning near the town of Morogoro, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Dar es Salaam. The dead were trying to collect leaking petrol from the overturned tanker.

Witnesses said the truck tipped over as it tried to avoid a motorcycle, and locals quickly converged on the scene to collect fuel.

The explosion was triggered

when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel, officials said.

It was the latest in a string of such disasters in Africa and at least the third this year.

Last month, 45 people were killed and more than 100 injured in central Nigeria when a petrol tanker crashed and then exploded as people tried to take the fuel. In May, a similar incident in Niger killed nearly 80 people.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said Sunday that of 59 people injured in the Tanzania explosion, 43 had been transferred to the National Hospital in Dar es Salaam while the rest were receiving treatment in Morogoro.

Aligaesha said Monday that the remaining 39 patients at the National Hospital were "doing better" and that medical staff were "striving to provide them with the best possible care". Morogoro Governor Stephen Kebwe said the 16 patients there were also improving. AFP

President Felix Tshisekedi to make it mandatory for boat passengers to have life jackets. Sub-Saharan Africa's biggest country, the

DRC is struggling with local conflicts, and in remote areas the control of the central government in Kinshasa is weak. AFP

EDITORIAL

President Weah is vulnerable

POLITICAL OBSERVERS AND pundits in Liberia are wondering whether President George Manneh Weah is conscious of his surroundings and his vulnerability politically. Unfolding situations around the President in the past few weeks are not pleasant and should be reasons for concern.

THEY RANGE FROM the disgraceful defeat of his governing Coalition for Democratic Change in the recent Montserrado County Senatorial By-election to disappointment and outcries within the CDC plus public threats from his political bedfellow and key supporter, Senator Prince Yormie Johnson whether to part company with the "Saye Gbehkugbeh" he asked his kinsmen in Nimba during the 2017 poll to elect as President or to continuously give support to his leadership.

BESIDES, THE GOVERNING CDC appears to be rapidly losing confidence in its ability to maintain grip on power less than two years after it won the Presidency.

THESE INDICATIONS AND more point to the fact that all is not well around the Liberian leader who won over 60 percent of the total votes at the poll in 2017.

BUT MR. WEAH SEEMS not to be conscious that he is losing grip on power too early for the six years tenure he has. Or if he did, the President is turning blind eyes on unfolding realities, believing it is still business as usual.

HAS MR. WEAH come to the knowledge that time matters in politics, particularly if voters' expectations were raised to the sky unnecessarily as was experienced in the 2017 presidential election? Oh year! After the victory euphoria from the ballot box, the reality emerges.

THE REALITY IS there is a vast difference between campaign speeches and the truth. The truth is President Weah is overwhelmed by Liberia's challenges, some of which he has contributed by surrounding himself with an empire of cronies.

IT IS HARDLY believable that the George Weah who lifted hands of candidates in campaigns and they unanimously got elected in previous elections, would take an entire day to rally support for CDC's Pualita Wie and yet she is massively defeated in Montserrado County that he claims to be his stronghold. But this is exactly what transpired in the July 29 senatorial by-election.

HOW TIME HAS changed the politics so rapidly! But the President and the CDC are not recalibrating. Instead, they seem bent on ranting jives and threats to counter public dissent thru "flesh and blood."

PRESIDENT WEAH AND the ruling establishment should beware, or else, they risk an end that could be far disastrous than now.

The New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

COMMENTARY

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

Trump's Deficit Economy

Economists have repeatedly tried to explain to Donald Trump that trade agreements may affect which countries the US buys from and sells to, but not the magnitude of the overall deficit. But, as usual, Trump believes what he wants to believe, leaving those who can least afford it to pay the price.

NEW YORK - In the new world wrought by US President Donald Trump, where one shock follows another, there is never time to think through fully the implications of the events with which we are bombarded. In late July, the Federal Reserve Board reversed its policy of returning interest rates to more normal levels, after a decade of ultra-low rates in the wake of the Great Recession. Then, the United States had another two mass gun killings in under 24 hours, bringing the total for the year to 255 - more than one a day. And a trade war with China, which Trump had tweeted would be "good, and easy to win," entered a new, more dangerous phase, rattling markets and posing the threat of a new cold war.

At one level, the Fed move was of little import: a 25-basis-point change will have little consequence. The idea that the Fed could fine-tune the economy by carefully timed changes in interest rates should by now have long been discredited - even if it provides entertainment for Fed watchers and employment for financial journalists. If lowering the interest rate from 5.25% to essentially zero had little impact on the economy in 2008-09, why should we think that lowering rates by 0.25% will have any observable effect? Large corporations are still sitting on hoards of cash: it's not a lack of liquidity that's stopping them from investing. 1

Long ago, John Maynard Keynes recognized that while a sudden tightening of monetary policy, restricting the availability of credit, could slow the economy, the effects of loosening policy when the economy is weak can be minimal. Even employing new instruments such as quantitative easing can have little effect, as Europe has learned. In fact, the negative interest rates being tried by several countries may, perversely, weaken the economy as a result of unfavorable effects on bank balance sheets and thus lending.

The lower interest rates do lead to a lower exchange rate. Indeed, this may be the principal channel through which Fed policy works today. But isn't that nothing more than "competitive devaluation," for which the Trump administration roundly criticizes China? And that, predictably, has been followed by other countries lowering their exchange rate, implying that any benefit to the US economy through the exchange-rate effect will be short-lived. More ironic is the fact that the recent decline in China's exchange rate came about because of the new round of American protectionism and because China stopped interfering with the exchange rate - that is, stopped supporting it.

But, at another level, the Fed action spoke volumes. The US economy was supposed to be "great." Its 3.7% unemployment rate and first-quarter growth of 3.1% should have been the envy of the advanced countries. But scratch a little bit beneath the surface, and there was plenty to worry about. Second-quarter growth

plummeted to 2.1%. Average hours worked in manufacturing in July sank to the lowest level since 2011. Real wages are only slightly above their level a decade ago, before the Great Recession. Real investment as a percentage of GDP is well below levels in the late 1990s, despite a tax cut allegedly intended to spur business spending, but which was used mainly to finance share buybacks instead.

America should be in a boom, with three enormous fiscal-stimulus measures in the past three years. The 2017 tax cut, which mainly benefited billionaires and corporations, added some \$1.5-2 trillion to the ten-year deficit. An almost \$300 billion increase in expenditures over two years averted a government shutdown in 2018. And at the end of July, a new agreement to avoid another shutdown added another \$320 billion of spending. If it takes trillion-dollar annual deficits to keep the US economy going in good times, what will it take when things are not so rosy?

The US economy has not been working for most Americans, whose incomes have been stagnating - or worse - for decades. These adverse trends are reflected in declining life expectancy. The Trump tax bill made matters worse by compounding the problem of decaying infrastructure, weakening the ability of the more progressive states to support education, depriving millions more people of health insurance, and, when fully implemented, leading to an increase in taxes for middle-income Americans, worsening their plight.

Redistribution from the bottom to the top - the hallmark not only of Trump's presidency, but also of preceding Republican administrations - reduces aggregate demand, because those at the top spend a smaller fraction of their income than those below. This weakens the economy in a way that cannot be offset even by a massive giveaway to corporations and billionaires. And the enormous Trump fiscal deficits have led to huge trade deficits, far larger than under Obama, as the US has had to import capital to finance the gap between domestic savings and investment.

Trump promised to get the trade deficit down, but his profound lack of understanding of economics has led to it increasing, just as most economists predicted it would. Despite Trump's bad economic management and his attempt to talk the dollar down, and the Fed's lowering of interest rates, his policies have resulted in the US dollar remaining strong, thereby discouraging exports and encouraging imports. Economists have repeatedly tried to explain to him that trade agreements may affect which countries the US buys from and sells to, but not the magnitude of the overall deficit.

In this as in so many other areas, from exchange rates to gun control, Trump believes what he wants to believe, leaving those who can least afford it to pay the price.

O-PED

By J. Bradford DeLong

America's Superpower Panic

History suggests that a global superpower in relative decline should aim for a soft landing, so that it still has a comfortable place in the world once its dominance fades. By contrast, US President Donald Trump's incoherent, confrontational approach toward China could seriously damage America's long-term interests.

BERKELEY - Global superpowers have always found it painful to acknowledge their relative decline and deal with fast-rising challengers. Today, the United States finds itself in this situation with regard to China. A century and a half ago, imperial Britain faced a similar competitive threat from America. And in the seventeenth century, the Dutch Republic was the superpower and England the challenger.

History suggests that the global superpower should aim for a soft landing, including by engaging with its likely successor, so that it still has a comfortable place in the world once its dominance fades. Sadly, US President Donald Trump is no historian. And his incoherent, confrontational approach to China could seriously damage America's long-term interests.

Like Britain and the Dutch Republic before it, America is the world's dominant military power, and its reach is global. It has some of the world's most productive industries, and dominates global trade and finance.

But, also like its predecessors, America now faces a rising power - a confident, ambitious country that has a larger population, is hungry for wealth and global preeminence, and believes it has a manifest destiny to supplant the current hegemon. And, unless something goes badly wrong, the challenger's continued rise is all but assured.

Inevitably, conflicts will arise. The up-and-coming superpower wants more access to markets and to intellectual property than the incumbent wishes to provide. And what the incumbent does not willingly give, its challenger will seek to take. Moreover, the rising superpower wants a degree of influence in international bodies commensurate to what its fundamental power will be a generation from now, and not to what it is today.

These are all legitimate disagreements, and the two powers need to manage them by advancing and defending their respective interests. But these tensions do not outweigh the two countries' common interest in peace and prosperity.

In the Anglo-Dutch case, a series of trade skirmishes and naval wars in the 1600s led to a remarkably large number of derogatory expressions entering the English language, such as Dutch book, Dutch concert, Dutch courage, Dutch leave, Dutch metal, Dutch nightingale, and Dutch reckoning. In the long run, though, Britain's fundamental strengths proved decisive, and the country became a global power. Yet the Dutch created a world in which they were largely comfortable long after their predominance ended.

The Dutch shift from opposing Britain to engaging with it was a crucial factor in this transition. On October 24, 1688, a change in wind direction allowed the Dutch fleet to leave harbor in support of the aristocratic Whig faction in England, thereby ending the would-be absolutist Stuart dynasty. Thereafter, the two powers' joint interests in limited government, mercantile prosperity, and anti-Catholicism formed the basis of a durable alliance in which the Dutch were the junior partner. Or, as a viral slogan of the 1700s more bluntly put it, there would be "no popery or wooden shoes!" - the latter being a contemporary symbol of French poverty. And with British backing, the Dutch remained independent, rather than falling involuntarily under French control.

More than a century later, imperial Britain eventually adopted a similar strategy of engagement and cooperation with America. This culminated, as Harold Macmillan unwisely (because too publicly) put it when he was seconded to General Eisenhower's staff in North Africa during World War II, in Britain playing Greece to America's Rome. As a result, the US became Britain's staunchest geopolitical ally of the twentieth century.

Today, US policymakers could learn much by studying the actions of the Dutch Republic and Britain when they were global hyperpowers pursuing soft landings. In addition, they should read "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," the 1947 article by US diplomat George F. Kennan that advocated a US policy of containment toward the Soviet Union.

Three of Kennan's points stand out. First, he wrote, US policymakers should not panic, but recognize what the long game is and play it. Second, America should not try to contain the Soviet Union unilaterally, but rather assemble broad alliances to confront, resist, and sanction it. Third, America should become its best self, because as long as the struggle between the US and Soviet systems remained peaceful, liberty and prosperity would ultimately be decisive.

But since taking office in January 2017, Trump has steadfastly ignored such advice. Instead of forming alliances to contain China, Trump withdrew the US from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. And he continues to make random, incoherent demands - such as immediately eliminating the bilateral US-China trade deficit.

Rather than carefully playing the long game with regard to China, Trump seems to be panicking. And, increasingly, China and the world know it.

OPINION

By Ngairé Woods

Democracies in Danger

OXFORD - By abruptly revoking the special, constitutionally protected status of Jammu and Kashmir, India has become the latest major democracy to act against a minority community for short-term political popularity. Kashmir will henceforth be ruled more directly from the government in New Delhi, and Hindu nationalists are thrilled. Carefully maintained constitutional arrangements are in tatters.

Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Boris Johnson has committed to leaving the European Union with or without a "backstop" protecting the border arrangements between British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. His hardline position ignores the concerns of Northern Irish constituents entirely. It is geared toward rallying his pro-Brexit English base, even if that means threatening the fragile peace and prosperity in Ireland.

In the world's other great democracy, President Donald Trump has upended America's relationship with Mexico and other Central American neighbors, and rallied his base by repeatedly demonizing Hispanics. The US Hispanic community is now paying a harsh price for such rhetoric, as evidenced by the massacre in El Paso, Texas, this month.

The shredding of longstanding protections for minority communities is part of a wider trend in democracies around the world. Three worrying features stand out. First, politicians are imperiling the "public square," and the ability of citizens to argue, demonstrate, and debate without the threat of violence. Political leaders are deepening social divisions by pitting an "us" against a "them" that includes foreigners, neighbors, immigrants, minorities, the press, "experts," and "the elite."

In India, rights groups have accused Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of creating a "climate of impunity" for angry mobs. In America, many believe Trump is doing the same, pointing, for example, to his racist tweets targeting four Democratic congresswomen of color. During the Brexit referendum campaign in the UK, Facebook users were targeted with posts suggesting that staying in the EU would leave Britain vulnerable to receiving 76 million Turkish immigrants. One "Leave" ad showed a surly foreign man elbowing a tearful elderly white woman out of a hospital queue. A recent survey suggests that there has been a disturbing increase in racially motivated abuse, discrimination, and attacks against ethnic-minority Britons.

Second, having won power through democratic elections, these leaders are seeking to weaken independent institutions and checks on executive power. For example, Trump invoked national-emergency powers to secure funding for his wall on the US border with Mexico. Johnson refuses to rule out suspending Parliament in order to deliver Brexit, while his chief adviser, Dominic Cummings, describes Britain's permanent civil service as an "idea for the history books." In India, a fellow BJP member has accused Modi's government of "decimating" India's constitutional institutions, including the Supreme Court, the national investigative agency, the central bank, and the electoral commission.

Abusing emergency powers or executive orders, sidelining Parliament and government agencies, and weakening judicial independence and the "referees" that ensure political leaders play by the rules make it more likely that government decisions will not balance the interests of all citizens. These attacks on the independence of institutions leave minorities particularly vulnerable.

Finally, there is a risk that political power in the world's democracies is becoming more personalized. Patronage, personal influence, and favors are being used to create loyalty to the leader; and those who fall out of favor are being bullied from office or arbitrarily fired. Political leaders are also making ever-bolder attempts to cow the media and business community into silence, or to co-opt them by offering special privileges.

Indeed, nine officials have resigned or been dismissed from Trump's cabinet since 2017, and the president regularly uses Twitter (and even presidential pardons) to reward loyalty or to bully those who fall into disfavor. In the UK, Brexiteers' attacks on the UK civil servant leading negotiations with the EU became so aggressive as to elicit a highly unusual public statement from the acting cabinet secretary (telling those responsible that they should be "ashamed of themselves"). When Johnson became prime minister, 17 ministers were "purged" and new members of the government were required to pledge support for his goal of leaving the EU at the end of October.

The personalization of power replaces formal and fair processes with discretionary decisions and favors. It erodes the democratic principle that all citizens - including the head of state - are subject to the rule of law, and that politicians exercise delegated power, not a personal fiat.

Many voters have expressed outrage at the actions of Modi, Johnson, and Trump. But many other democracies are in trouble, too. Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro all stand accused of unconstitutional behavior. Nonetheless, each man continues to fan divisions, weaken independent institutions, and ignore open conflicts of interest, in many cases involving family members.

Shaming such leaders is unlikely to change their ways. They are all practiced in blithely dismissing mistakes and shrugging off incendiary past statements, conflicts of interest, corruption allegations, lying and deception, and improper dealings.

Rather than relying on outrage, democrats around the world need to apply with rigor the rules that prevent the personalization of power, while defending the institutions that protect individuals and minorities. Public officials should not be allowed to use their office to insulate themselves from accountability - through grants of immunity or presidential pardons to benefit friends and family members - or to hide evidence of their illegal behavior. We all must insist on clear and inviolable standards of transparency regarding the private interests of those in public office.

India, the UK, and America are each "model" democracies: India is the largest, Britain has the "Westminster model," and America has an extraordinary constitution. In each of these great democracies, minorities are under attack, as are the conventions that restrain executive power. Citizens in each country need to understand that if they do not defend the institutions that protect minorities today, they themselves may come under attack tomorrow.

LIBERIANS DEBATE

With Sally Gaye

President George Manneh Weah has responded to speech by this year's July 26 Orator Miss Leymah Gbowee, challenging her on several fronts, including asset declaration and governance. The New Dawn asks some Monrovia residents on the President's reaction and how does it promote tolerance in his leadership.



Arthur

"This shows that our President hate to hear the truth. President Weah, not with disrespect, you are contradicting yourself here. You earlier said 'she spoke well, but her assertions were all false.'

How did you analyze her speech to be very well, when all what she said, you say are not truth but lies? Fellow Liberians, President Weah is a serious embarrassment to Liberia, he hates to hear the truth, that's the reason Liberia is retrogressing under his watch!"



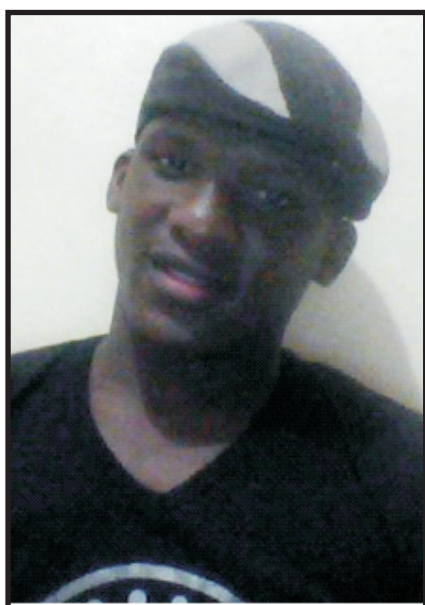
Ange Gray

"Where he said I declare my asset; it's at GAC, and LACC, go there if they agree to show you. Is that asset declaration? Publish it let everyone know.

We know you declared your assets after 7 months but you never made your assets public, but yet you want to excuse others of corruption, when you started building mansions as soon you took office."

Ansu Kabbah

"Facts should be the hallmark of everything we say... To another point, the President didn't attack her but was making celerity to the allegation stated by her. The first lie in her speech was the President did not declare his asset, which is not true. I hope you know the President did that; do you know the meaning of dictator? What has he done to be called a dictator? Or you just use words to satisfy your hateful desire. The President's just saying the truth."



"Leymah laid bare the low number of women in cabinet (a mere 2 out of 20 positions) though the President is a self-proclaimed 'feminist-in-chief'? But President Weah lashed back that there are more than two women in his government. Cabinet Vs. government! And we blame students for mass failure at WASSCE/WAEC or whatever they call it now."

Gustufus Kolubah

"You declared assets? Behind closed doors? We are demanding to see your assets! We don't trust you! 2005 your assets were very low! In 15 years without you being President, you couldn't have acquired those properties you have now! You took our money and have our country broke!"



BCTC first graduation expected in December

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

Bong County Technical College (BCTC) president Dr. Roland Y. Massaquoi says the first batch of graduates from the institution is expected in early December this year.

Addressing a press conference Saturday, 10 August 2019 in Gbarnga, Bong County at his BCTC office, Dr. Roland Massaquoi said despite the numerous challenges facing the college, the institution is fully prepared to put out its first graduates.

College is one of several community colleges that were legislated by government to be built in every county capital as part of government's support to education for its citizens.

Currently BCTC offers Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering, Mining Engineering, Civil Engineering, Agriculture Technology, Education Technology and Nursing.

Dr. Massaquoi explains that those students who will be awarded degrees by the college in distinct academic disciplines are students who have been academically examined and have satisfactorily gone through the ranks and files of the College's academic curriculum activities in line with best international academic standards and practices.

He furthers that as part of the college's mission to produce more qualified and knowledgeable Liberian professionals in different specialized studies, the institution remains

committed to providing quality educational services and fostering a 21st global century education in the Country.

Dr. Massaquoi has described the establishment of the BCTC as a "golden opportunity" that must be nurtured by every citizen through financial and moral support, instead of always negatively criticizing the leadership of the college.

The BCTC president also praises President George Mannah Weah, county authorities, students and partners for supporting the college since its establishment under the regime of former Liberian President Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

"... Liberians have been very supportive [of] this college's leadership," he says.

Dr. Massaquoi calls on citizens of Bong County to rally financial support for the college.

Additionally, he says it is time that government and educational stakeholders engage in practices that will bring a transformative agenda which will eventually put into place the platform of quality education for all.

He warns young people, especially university students to desist from vices that continue to undermine the existing peace and democracy in the country.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

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Court undermines its credibility -As Chief Justice, Solicitor General differ



Chief Justice Korkpor



Solicitor General Cllr. Cephus

By Winston W. Parley

Liberia's Solicitor General Cllr. Syrenius Cephus says the court here clearly undermines its own credibility, warning that it is one of the problems in building a capable state.

"For a court that chases and paints to deal with situation in addressing compelling national issues, the court clearly undermines its own credibility. This is one of the problems in building a capable state, looking back, moving forward in Liberia's development," Cllr. Cephus said on Monday, 12 August at the Temple of Justice.

He argued at the opening of the Criminal Courts Monday that in some instances, judges here are not respected largely because they befriend some lawyers practicing before court.

According to him, at one point when there is disagreement, it is the same lawyers who will go to the public and discuss the judges.

Cllr. Cephus continues that in other instances, counsellors and lawyers don't get assignments, lamenting that others stay in their offices and make a phone call and get assignment while others who write for assignments don't get them.

"Of course that amounts to the kind of problem we're having. So people who supposed to get a fair hearing, and then justice, whatever the situation, are being denied the opportunity to be heard," Cephus stresses.

He recalls a case in 2012 where he claims that the Minister of Justice at the time simply called a judge to give excuse for not going to court.

But Cllr. Cephus narrates that he had to hurry from

Kakata, Margibi County to come to court while the Justice Minister was simply making a call to be excused from court.

Upon appearing in court, Cllr. Cephus recalls that he was told that the Minister of Justice had asked for excuse and would therefore not have appeared that day.

However, Cllr. Cephus says in a subsequent case, he was required to write an excuse, unlike the Justice Minister that simply made a phone call.

Further, Cllr. Cephus observes that most times the courts, lawyers and legal practitioners prefer to deal with certain lawyers, certain judges and certain people's presence in a case before the case is assigned.

According to Cllr. Cephus, rather than leaving the situation head on, the argument is placed at the quality of the person standing,

and not at the quality of the argument raised.

Cephus says he has been on both sides, so he has been able to see and understand the dynamics, enabling him to be able to put [the issue] in proper context.

But in response to Cllr. Cephus' assertions, Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. says "there is no hard proof to that effect ... that judges are selectively assigning cases."

"... There's no hard proof to that effect, I don't want you to say that judges are selectively assigning cases. No. I don't think they're doing that," says Chief Justice Korkpor.

He says if judges are selectively assigning cases it will be wrong, urging that it be reported with hard proof to the Judicial Inquiry Committee and the Grievance and Ethics Committee.

According to Chief Justice Korkpor, the law says that the court can assign a case, but notes however that it will be better for the lawyer to request for assignment.

"Don't select cases as the Solicitor General tried to insinuate," Chief Justice Korkpor cautions judges.

He notes that when the court opens, the [the courts should proceed] on the basis of first - come - first - serve.

In the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice says when the court opens, the justices start with the calendar of events motion and bail of information, after which they start with government cases in accordance with the law.

Chief Justice Korkpor notes that if judges here go and assign the case, they would create the impression that they have a special interest in that case.

At the same time the Chief Justice indicates that he always admonishes lawyers here at the opening of courts not to be late in putting in their

assignments to the clerk of court.

Earlier delivering a charge at the opening of the Criminal Courts, Judge Roosevelt Z. Willie, threw a question out for all Liberians to answer if they have learned from their past mistakes and whether corrective measures have been taken?

Judge Willie drew his question from a presentation that he says he made in 2012 in the U.S. at the 44th Annual Conference of the Liberian Studies Association held under the theme: "Building a capable state: Looking back, moving forward in Liberia's development."

He recalls that the theme at that conference was specially predicated on findings by the International Crisis Group which indicated that the justice system here which includes the Judiciary, was one of the root causes of Liberia's civil war that resulted to over 250,000 deaths.

Judge Willie's question sparked the response of Solicitor General Cephus, and the subsequent response of Chief Justice Korkpor.

Judge Willie urges Liberians including Justices, Judges, Magistrates and other justice actors here to learn from the country's past mistakes so that development doesn't elude the citizenry.

He recalls that the report by the International Crisis Group spelled out that the judiciary here was subservient to the executive and the legislative branches of government, citing widespread corruption in the judiciary as judges and magistrates were not adequately compensated.

He cautions that other nations and organizations will not always be there to help, saying the country should learn from its past mistakes so that development doesn't elude its citizens.

Star Cement welcomes government's approval

The Management of STAR CEMENT welcomes approval by the Government of Liberia it to establish a cement manufacturing plant in Monrovia.

The special investment incentive was ratified by the National Legislature in June

2019 and signed into law by President George Manneh Weah, consistent with his campaign promise of giving "power to the people".

The investment, which is estimated at US\$ 41 million, will bring a factory that will create thousands of jobs for Liberians through

employment, contracts and distribution. Management is optimistic that this will benefit ordinary Liberians and expand government revenue base through income tax.

STAR CEMENT, when fully operationalized is expected to produce an estimated SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND Metric TONS (600,000 MT) per annum which is equivalent to twelve million (12,000,000) bags of cement.

With this factory, the price of cement is expected to drop in the Liberian Market which will see a boom in the construction industry, as many Liberians would have access to a competitive price and affordable market.

Meanwhile, the company is aggressively making effort to ensure that Liberia benefits from the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) by commencing export of cement which will help in earning United States Dollars to reduce the persistent scramble foreign currency, a key instrument for the



LFA bans referee

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and Margibi Counties at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville.

All LFA members, sub-associations, sub-committees, affiliates and partners,

including the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Liberia National Old-timers Association (LONA), have been asked to observe and enforce referee Torjilar's ban.

importation of goods and services.

STAR CEMENT is expected to begin production within the next 12-18 months at which time the company will begin sale of shares to interested Liberians who desire to invest in the industry.

Meanwhile, the

Management of STAR CEMENT extends gratitude to President George Manneh Weah and members of the National Legislature for creating the opportunity which will boost the Pro-Poor Agenda that seeks to alleviate the harsh economic environment in the country. - Press Release

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UL rallies public support for 700k

By Winston W. Parley

University of Liberia (UL) Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chairman for UL's 100th Commencement Committee Dr. William Ezra Allen announces that the University is asking for public support to raise US\$700,000 to establish a state-of-the-art printing press for the institution.

Dr. Allen told journalists on UL Capitol Hill Campus Monday, 12 August that "The printing press will be around \$700,000 dollars," consisting of different machines.

But he says the University could start with one machine and buy additional ones later as funding becomes available.

Dr. Allen explains that UL relies on government for support, but the University is equally looking out for ways to supplement the income it gets from the government.

According to him, UL sees the establishment of the printing press as a way forward, noting that it will serve the public by producing annual reports for entities and convocation programs for other schools, among others.

"So we're breaking ground for a printing press. The goal



is to establish, to procure a printing press for the University of Liberia - a commercial printing press," he says.

According to Dr. Allen, UL believes that business ventures like the commercial printing press will help to augment what it receives from the government.

He explains that letters are going out now, revealing that the University is asking for public support to help it with resources so that it can be

competitive among universities in the world.

"We are already looking for funding," he says, adding that they will appreciate help from the public.

The university's account numbers provided include US dollars account #6101669741 and Liberian dollars account #6101652192 held at Ecobank Liberia.

Unlike previous years, Dr. Allen says this year's convocation is a one-day event to be held at the S.K.D.

Sports Stadium in Paynesville on 11 December.

He however clarifies that the decision to hold the 100th commencement for one day is not due to financial constraints, but the objective is to really celebrate the graduation in one center by congregating all the colleges.

Additionally, Dr. Allen reveals that the UL is trying to preserve its memory so as to hand it over to the next generation by writing a concise history of the university including its centennial and establishing a Time Capsule.

Detailing the memory preservation strategy, Dr. Allen says it the Time Capsule is a container where you put paraphernalia, the university's sovereign, payroll and other important things that are sealed up for a prescribed length of time.

He discloses that the University has chosen to preserve its memory for 100 years before the Time Capsule is opened, meaning the Time's Capsule will be opened in 2119.

Dr. Allen says the University will put pieces of its history in

the Time Capsule which could be a big box, container or a tomb, adding that this will be done in collaboration with public and private partners.

He says they will ask Club Breweries, National Port Authority, GSM companies Orange and Lonestar MTN for example, to give some documents that best identify them so that they can be put in the Time Capsule to give the next generation the picture of what these institutions looked like in 2019.

He concludes that the Time Capsule will be stored on UL's Capitol Hill campus, adding that partners will be invited in September this year at which time items will be selected for preservation.

Also speaking, the Vice President for UL Relations Mr. Norris Tweah notes that a state of the art printing press is about to be inaugurated and erected at UL's Fendall Campus.

He says the event is slated for 22 August, inviting as many people as possible, including students, members of UL Alumni community in and out of Liberia and high profile persons for the ground breaking.

NAC concludes nationwide training in Liberia

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The National AIDS Commission (NAC) of Liberia has concluded a nationwide training with at least 300 school-going kids across Bong, Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties.

The training was conducted simultaneously in the three Counties with financial support from UNICEF.

Addressing newsmen at the closing of the seminar on 10 August in Gbarnga, Bong County, National AIDS Commission Communications Officer Necus Andrews stated that the training targeted 300 students from the three Counties in order to create massive awareness in their respective learning institutions against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

According to Andrews, based on their statistics, there are over 39,000 persons infected with the transmitted disease across Liberia, adding that beneficiaries of the program will be trained how to encourage their colleagues in terms of eradicating HIV in their neighborhoods.

Andrews reveals that the program is at the same time intended to establish health clubs in the various schools as

part of efforts to combat the disease among citizens in the Country.

"We are also calling on Liberians, most especially the youthful populace to use condom always during sexual intercourse because HIV/AIDS is now becoming alarming health issues in this Country," Necus Andrews adds.

He also calls on health workers at various hospitals and clinics here to desist from the act of exposing people living with HIV who seek medical attention.

"I want to inform the people of Liberia that if any health practitioner involved in the act of showing citizens infected with the virus, drastic action will be taken against said individual ranging from jail sentence," he warns.

Necus Andrews explains that while it is true that there is no cure for HIV, there are drugs meant to minimize the increase of the virus.

He maintains that people who have the disease should make use of the medical centers for the betterment of their lives.

Moreover, Andrews says the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STI) Control Program is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the provision of quality care and

treatment and support services for people affected and infected with HIV and AIDS in Liberia.

Some of the participants lauded the NAC for conducting such training in the country. They assured the NAC that they are going to use the knowledge acquired from the training at the various schools and communities to buttress NAC's efforts in reducing the spread of the virus.

The ceremony was graced by NAC commissioner and other executive members of the Commission.

The first case of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was diagnosed in a female trader in 1986, Zorzor, Lofa County, the north-west of Liberia.

This prompted the government of Liberia to establish the National AIDS and STI Control Program as an umbrella organization within the Ministry of Health with the mandate to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Country.

Barely two years after its formation, the Liberian civil crisis unfolded, and little was achieved up to 2004 because the database was destroyed during the civil hostilities.-- Edited by Winston W. Parley

India, Liberia renew

Starts from back page

school of excellence is expected to be established at the ministry through support by the Government and People of India.

The Liberian government official asserted that such support by the Indian Government is a clear manifestation of the strong bond of friendship that continues to subsist between the two countries.

He recalled that Liberia, as a country, has immensely benefited from the friendship with India in the area of education and other sectors.

"Through this long-standing relationship, our country has greatly benefited; Liberians have benefited scholarships and other things," the Minister revealed.

He also lauded the Indian government for its readiness to start the E-medicine program in Liberia and E-education program, which is expected to be added.

Minister Kruah, who is regarded as the Post Master General of Liberia, indicated that though deceased, Gandhi is remembered worldwide for his fearless advocacy during his struggle with Great Britain for India, stressing that his (Gandhi) legacy continues to live on.

"Today we will be unveiling Commemorative Postage Stamp in his honor and we do so because of the relationship that exist between Liberia and India, he noted.

Mr. Henry B. Fahnbulleh, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of Foreign Minister Milton Gbehzohngar Findley, thanked the Postal Affairs Ministry for the initiative of unveiling the commemorative postage stamp in honor of Gandhi.

"I am indeed highly gratified that this opportunity will also afford me the valuable chance to interact with my fellow compatriots at this great ministry and to see the valuable work being carried out by this visionary team headed by the venerable Minister Cllr. Cooper W. Kruah Sr.," he stated.

Deputy Minister Fahnbulleh asserted that India and Liberia are supportive of a new global financial order under the BRICS regime; which is inclusive of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"This new and emerging financial order takes into serious consideration the actual needs of developing countries and is sensitive to their developmental and financing challenges," he stated.

Visit: www.thenewdawnliberia.com

Français

Côte d'Ivoire : décès du chanteur de coupé-décalé DJ Arafat

Le chanteur ivoirien DJ Arafat, star du coupé-décalé, est mort ce lundi 12 août des suites d'un accident de la circulation survenu, dans la nuit de dimanche à ce lundi, a annoncé la Radio-Télévision ivoirienne (RTI) sur son compte Twitter.

Le chanteur ivoirien DJ Arafat, star du coupé-décalé, est mort ce 12 août des suites d'un accident de la circulation survenu dans la nuit, a annoncé la Radio-Télévision publique ivoirienne (RTI) sur son compte Twitter.

Décès de l'artiste DJ ARAFAT de son vrai nom Houon Ange Didier ce lundi 12 août à 8 heures, des suites d'un accident de la circulation qui s'est produit dans la nuit du dimanche 11 août à Abidjan.

Vers 23h ce 11 août, la star ivoirienne du coupé-décalé DJ Arafat et un groupe d'amis ont pris leur moto à Abidjan. L'artiste, amoureux de la vitesse, a alors cabré son véhicule,



c'est-à-dire qu'il a soulevé sa roue avant pour rouler sur sa seule roue arrière.

Quelques mètres plus loin, il a percuté un véhicule conduit par une journaliste de Radio Côte d'Ivoire. Le choc a été violent, comme en témoignent les images de l'engin complètement détruit diffusées sur les réseaux sociaux.

D'autres vidéos montraient

DJ Arafat allongé sur la route, inconscient. Il a été transporté d'urgence à l'hôpital. De nombreuses rumeurs avaient depuis circulé quant à son état de santé - fractures, décès ou encore consommation d'alcool et de stupéfiants - réfutées par Yves Jay Jay, le chargé de communication du chanteur.

Ce dernier avait publié un

message sur son compte Facebook pour rassurer les fans. D'après lui, DJ Arafat était toujours en réanimation, mais dans un état stable.

Selon le magazine ivoirien Life, la journaliste de Radio Côte d'Ivoire percutée est elle toujours hospitalisée. Elle serait désormais hors de danger, mais reste en observation.

Chronologie des événements

Joint par RFI, le ministre de la Culture et de la Francophonie, Maurice Bandaman, est revenu sur la chronologie des événements.

« J'ai été informé, ce matin, sous le coup de 9h00, heure locale, que l'artiste DJ Arafat était admis dans une clinique de la place, à la suite

de l'accident qu'il aurait fait hier, à moto. Le temps de prendre les dispositions pour me rendre dans cette clinique, j'ai été appelé par l'hôpital, autour de 12h00 qui m'a informé que l'artiste était mort, dans la matinée. [...] Il m'a été dit qu'il était gravement blessé et que c'était un accident très grave parce que c'est un accident en moto sans casque, et c'est souvent mortel, ici, en Côte d'Ivoire, ce type d'accident », a-t-il déclaré.

« Une grosse perte pour la culture et la musique ivoiriennes »

Après l'annonce de la mort de DJ Arafat, ce lundi après-midi, l'heure est au recueillement. Maurice Bandaman évoque une grande perte pour la Côte d'Ivoire.

« En tant que ministre de la Culture, j'ai, pour ce jeune homme, un respect que nous avons toujours célébré. Nous l'avons décoré l'année dernière, en tant qu'officier de l'Ordre du mérite culturel, et donc c'est une grosse perte pour la culture et la musique ivoiriennes. [...] Un artiste ne meurt jamais. Le corps est déjà peut-être inerte, mais l'artiste vit toujours à travers ses œuvres. La meilleure façon de pleurer DJ Arafat, c'est de le célébrer, de faire en sorte que sa mémoire vive et que nous puissions publier son œuvre », a ajouté le ministre ivoirien de la Culture.

« Les voix critiques ne sont pas des ennemis », l'opposant Simeon Freeman

L'opposant historique Simeon Freeman rompt le silence après avoir disparu de la scène politique depuis l'élection présidentielle de 2017. L'homme d'affaires reconverti à la politique s'en prend au régime du président George MannehWeah pour « sa mauvaise gestion des affaires de l'État ».

Ayant pris la parole lors d'un dîner de remise des prix

d'excellence de l'Union de la presse du Libéria (PUL), le vendredi 9 août, à l'hôtel de ville de Paynesville près de Monrovia, M. Freeman, leader politique du Mouvement pour le changement, s'est offusqué contre la tendance selon laquelle ceux qui critiquent le gouvernement sont des ennemis d'État. Cette tendance est pour lui "préjudiciable" au progrès du programme

d'action socioéconomique et de développement du pays.

Certains des responsables du président George MannehWeah ont assisté à la cérémonie qui est organisée chaque année par l'organisation de tutelle des médias au Libéria.

Il a indiqué que les Libériens qui critiquent le gouvernement ne sont pas des ennemis d'État, ajoutant : "Ils approuvent et soutiennent le développement national mais ne sont pas d'accord avec les approches ..."

Selon lui, une opposition forte est un atout pour le développement national. « Leur plaidoyer soulève des questions d'intérêt pour les décideurs publics. Un chanteur libérien a déclaré : «Le pouvoir est lourd» et une telle lourdeur attire les sycophants, qui déploient des vices pour jouir de la confiance prolongée du président », a-t-il déclaré.

Le leader politique du MPC a averti que quand un leader ne fait qu'écouter les sycophants et ne permet pas à ceux qui ont des opinions contraires au sien de s'exprimer, il s'isole de plus

en plus. Par contre, quand un leader permet aussi bien à ses adversaires qu'à ses proches de s'exprimer et de débattre des approches à adopter pour le développement national, il se donne des moyens nécessaires pour prendre des décisions rationnelles et optimales. « Ce serait une bonne chose si le cabinet du président élabore un plan et invite les acteurs politiques pour présenter un document alternatif. De tels échanges permettront de combler les lacunes en matière de politique publique, ce qui permettra de diminuer la pauvreté et la misère », a-t-il dit.

Le PDG de Consolidated Group, distributeur de télévision numérique (Dstv) à

Monrovia, a également critiqué le gouvernement dirigé par le président George M. Weah pour avoir suivi la voie empruntée par ses prédécesseurs, qui, selon lui, n'est pas viable.

« Les stratégies actuelles sont les mêmes stratégies adoptées par le passé. Elles ne sont pas durables. Ceux qui prennent le courage de dire la vérité au pouvoir sont insultés et brutalisés. Ils sont traités de voyous. L'insulte engendre l'insulte et la violence engendre la violence. Une société accablée par la pauvreté et le désespoir s'autodétruit quand la violence engendre la violence ou l'injure engendre l'injure », a-t-il averti.



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Français

Éditorial

Le président Weahse rend-il compte de la réalité

Les observateurs et les experts politiques du Libéria se demandent si le président George Manneh Weah est conscient des réalités sur le terrain et de sa vulnérabilité sur le plan politique. La situation dans laquelle se retrouve le président ces derniers temps n'est pas agréable et devrait être un sujet de préoccupation.

Cela va de la défaite honteuse de son parti, la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, lors de la récente élection sénatoriale partielle du comté de Montserrado, à la déception exprimée par certains militants du parti au pouvoir, en passant par les menaces publiques proférées par son allié politique et principal soutien, le sénateur Yormie Johnson, qui avait demandé à ses parents de Nimba lors du scrutin de 2017 de voter pour lui.

En outre, le CDC au pouvoir semble perdre rapidement confiance en sa capacité à conserver le contrôle du pouvoir moins de deux ans après son accession à la magistrature suprême.

Ces indications, et d'autres encore, montrent que tout ne va pas bien autour du dirigeant libérien, qui a remporté plus de 60% du total des suffrages au scrutin de 2017.

Mais M. Weah ne semble pas avoir conscience de perdre le pouvoir trop tôt pour son mandat de six ans. Ou le président ferme les yeux sur les réalités qui se déroulent, estimant que les choses se passent normalement.

M. Weah a-t-il compris que le temps compte en politique, vue que les attentes des électeurs avaient particulièrement été exagérées au lendemain de la victoire à l'élection présidentielle de 2017. Après l'euphorie de la victoire des urnes, la réalité se dégage.

La réalité est qu'il existe une grande différence entre les discours de campagne et la vérité. La vérité est que le président Weah est débordé par les défis auxquels le Libéria est confronté, auxquels il a contribué en s'entourant d'un empire de copains.

Il est difficilement concevable que George Weah, qui, lorsqu'il lève la main d'un candidat lors des campagnes électorales celui-ci se fait élire massivement, prenne une journée entière pour faire campagne pour un candidat dans son propre fief sans que ce candidat remporte la victoire. Eh oui, c'est exactement ce qui s'est passé lors de l'élection partielle sénatoriale du 29 juillet.

Les temps ont changé, les réalités politiques également, mais le président et le CDC ne se semblent pas avoir pied sur terre. Ils sont incapables de se réadapter aux nouvelles tendances. Son entourage semble animé par une velléité arrogante et résolu pour renier la dissidence publique.

Que le président Weah et le pouvoir en place fassent attention, sinon ils risquent une fin très désastreuse.

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COMMENTAIRE

By Joseph E. Stiglitz

Trump ou l'économie du déficit

NEW YORK - Dans ce nouveau monde auquel nous a habitués le président américain Donald Trump, où les chocs se succèdent à un rythme effréné, le temps nous manque pour songer pleinement aux conséquences des événements dont nous sommes bombardés. Au mois de juillet, le Conseil de la Réserve fédérale est revenu sur sa politique de rétablissement des taux d'intérêt à des niveaux plus normaux, après une décennie de taux ultra-faibles engendrés par la Grande Récession. Puis, deux nouvelles tueries de masse ont eu lieu en moins de 24 heures aux États-Unis, portant à 255 le nombre de massacres depuis le début de l'année - soit plus d'un par jour. Enfin, la guerre commerciale contre la Chine, dont Trump a tweeté qu'il s'agissait d'une « bonne chose », d'une guerre « facile à gagner », est entrée dans une nouvelle phase, plus périlleuse encore, agitant les marchés et soulevant la menace d'une nouvelle guerre froide.

À un certain niveau, la décision de la Fed importe peu, un changement de 25 points de base n'entraînant pas de véritables conséquences. L'idée selon laquelle la Fed serait en mesure de parfaire l'économie au moyen de changements de taux d'intérêt appliqués au moment optimal ne devrait plus convaincre personne - même si elle occupe les observateurs de la Fed, et fait travailler les journalistes de la finance. Si la réduction du taux d'intérêt de 5,25 % à pour ainsi dire zéro n'a pas exercé de réel impact sur l'économie en 2008-2009, pourquoi une diminution de 0,25 % aurait-elle un effet observable ? Les grandes sociétés demeurent assises sur un trésor de cash : ce n'est certainement pas le manque de liquidités qui les empêchera d'investir.

Il y a bien longtemps, John Maynard Keynes expliquait qu'un resserrement soudain de la politique monétaire, en réduisant la disponibilité du crédit, était susceptible de ralentir l'économie, mais que les effets d'un assouplissement de cette politique en période de fragilité de l'économie pouvaient en revanche se révéler insignifiants. L'emploi même de nouveaux instruments tels que l'assouplissement quantitatif peut n'aboutir qu'à un impact minime, comme l'a découvert l'Europe. En réalité, les taux d'intérêt négatifs auxquels s'essayaient aujourd'hui un certain nombre de pays pourraient même de manière perverse affaiblir l'économie, en raison d'effets défavorables sur les bilans, et donc sur les prêts.

De faibles taux d'intérêts conduisent en revanche effectivement à un faible taux de change. C'est sans doute le principal outil qu'utilise la Fed aujourd'hui. Mais ne s'agit-il pas d'une « dévaluation compétitive » pure et simple, que l'administration Trump reproche précisément à la Chine d'employer ? Par ailleurs, et sans surprise, cette démarche est imitée par les autres pays, qui réduisent eux aussi leur taux d'intérêt, avec en fin de compte un effet bénéfique éphémère pour l'économie américaine. Plus ironique encore, la récente réduction du taux de change de la Chine est survenue à cause d'une nouvelle vague de protectionnisme américain, et parce que la Chine a cessé d'intervenir dans le taux de change, c'est-à-dire qu'elle a décidé de ne plus le soutenir.

À un autre niveau, en revanche, la décision de la Fed en dit long. L'économie américaine était supposée enregistrer de « formidables » performances. Son taux de chômage de 3,7 % et sa croissance de 3,1 % au premier trimestre auraient dû faire bouillir de jalousie les autres pays développés. Mais il a suffi de gratter la surface pour s'apercevoir de nombreux motifs d'inquiétude. La croissance est retombée à 2,1 % au deuxième trimestre. Le nombre d'heures travaillées dans le secteur manufacturier au mois de

juillet a chuté jusqu'à un niveau jamais observé depuis 2011. Les salaires réels s'élèvent tout juste au-dessus de leur niveau d'il y a dix ans, avant la Grande Récession. L'investissement réel en pourcentage du PIB se situe bien en dessous des niveaux de la fin des années 1990, malgré une baisse des impôts qui était censée stimuler les dépenses des entreprises, mais qui a en réalité été principalement utilisée pour financer les rachats d'actions.

Après trois mesures majeures de relance budgétaire en seulement trois ans, l'Amérique devrait être en plein boom aujourd'hui. La baisse d'impôts de 2017, qui a principalement bénéficié aux milliardaires et aux grandes entreprises, est venue alourdir de quelque 1 500-2 000 milliards \$ le déficit à dix ans. Le shutdown gouvernemental de 2018 a par ailleurs été évité grâce à une augmentation de dépenses de presque 300 milliards \$ sur deux ans. Fin juillet, un nouvel accord est venu prévenir un nouveau shutdown en y ajoutant 320 milliards \$ de dépenses. Si un déficit annuel en milliers de milliards de dollars est nécessaire pour maintenir l'économie américaine sur la bonne voie en période favorable, combien faudra-t-il dépenser lorsque la situation deviendra plus difficile ?

L'économie des États-Unis ne fonctionne pas pour la majorité des Américains, dont les revenus stagnent - voire régressent - depuis des décennies. Ces tendances négatives s'observent dans le déclin de l'espérance de vie. La loi fiscale adoptée par Trump a envenimé la situation, en aggravant le problème des infrastructures vieillissantes, en affectant la capacité des États plus progressistes à soutenir l'éducation, en privant plusieurs millions d'Américains d'une assurance santé et, une fois pleinement appliquée, en conduisant à des augmentations d'impôts pour les Américains de la classe moyenne, ajoutant ainsi à leurs difficultés.

La redistribution des richesses de la base vers le sommet - marque de fabrique non seulement de la présidence Trump, mais également des précédentes administrations républicaines - vient réduire la demande globale, puisque les plus riches dépensent une moindre part de leurs revenus que les moins fortunés. Ceci affaiblit l'économie dans une mesure que ne sauraient compenser même les plus immenses cadeaux fiscaux consentis aux grandes entreprises et aux milliardaires. Les déficits budgétaires colossaux accumulés par Trump ont par ailleurs conduit à des déficits commerciaux tout aussi conséquents, bien supérieurs à ceux de l'ère Obama, dans la mesure où les États-Unis ont dû importer des capitaux pour financer l'écart entre l'épargne domestique et l'investissement.

Trump avait promis de réduire le déficit commercial, mais son profond manque de compréhension de l'économie a conduit à son augmentation, comme l'avaient prédit la plupart des économistes. Malgré les erreurs de gestion économique commises par Trump, malgré les efforts qu'il fournis pour faire chuter le dollar, et en dépit de la réduction des taux d'intérêt opérée par la Fed, les politiques de l'administration Trump ont abouti à un dollar qui reste fort, qui décourage les exportations, et encourage les importations. Les économistes ont à maintes reprises tenté d'expliquer au président que les accords commerciaux pouvaient déterminer auprès de quels pays l'Amérique achète et vend, mais pas atténuer la magnitude du déficit global.

Dans ce domaine comme dans tant d'autres, de la question des taux de change jusqu'à celle du contrôle des armes, Trump n'entend que ce qu'il veut entendre, laissant en payer le prix ceux qui peuvent le moins se le permettre.

PERSPECTIVES

PERSPECTIVES

Public Policy. Economics. Democratic Politics. Political/Economic Decentralization. Public Dishonesty. Dual Citizenship

LEADERS ARE TEACHERS, MENTORS OR ADVISORS; & LAND IS SOURCE OF HUMAN LIFE

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr. August 10, 2019

Indeed, Political Leaders of the Democratic Process are nationalists, loyalists and, above all else, patriotic to the People or Citizens and their Cause. As such, Politicians lead, not follow; they are mentors or advisors and teachers of the citizens. Admittedly, there are groups of Liberian Politicians/Leaders in 21st century Liberia:

Group 1. Leading Founders of the Republic

The overwhelming majority of our forefathers, the African-American settlers who constituted the ruling political Class and officials of government were addicted to graft/greed, massive stealing of public resources, with political and moral bankruptcy and profoundly deep in the cesspool of corruption. They rejected manual labor, but created US southern Aristocracy and Autocracy in Liberia, an inheritance of their descendants.

Group 2. Indigenous Generations of 21st Century Liberia

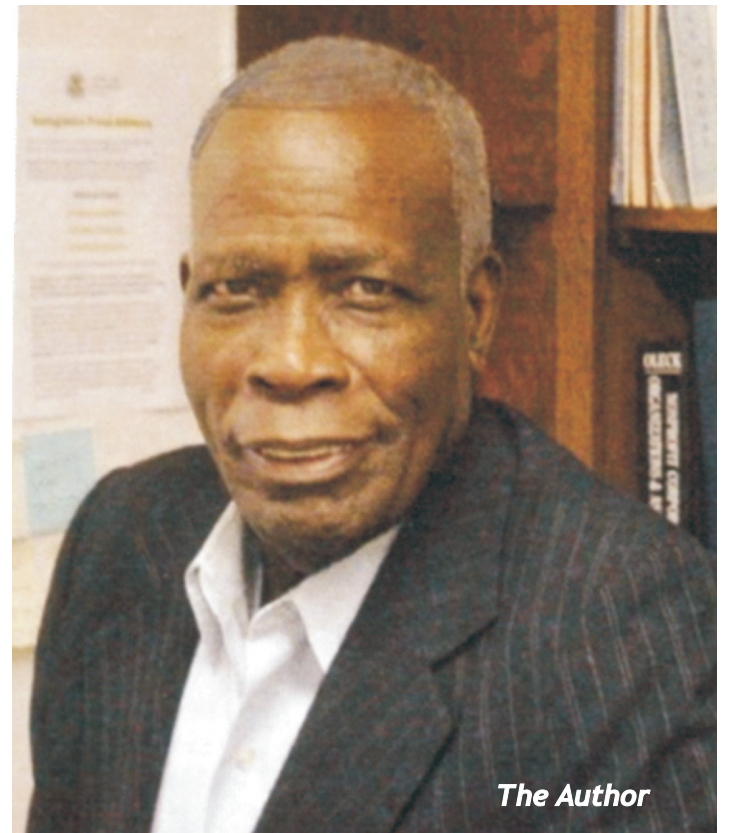
Also Liberians, the overwhelming majority of the nation's population of 21st century Liberia is extremely lazy, profoundly corrupt and reject manual labor, want and expect Government to do

such as rice, cooking oil, etc., our national staples, now imported from foreign lands, although Liberia is endowed more land than people and that the nation, Liberia, and its citizens are held hostages by the Rice Import Cartel, because the majority of Liberians are lazy and corrupt.

This group includes, mainly, the Semi-educated, non-educated and street-smart Ghetto-Slum "political operators", agents of "corrupt and lazy politicians" in exchange for political party caps, T-shirts, Lappa suits, bags of imported rice and a minimum of Liberian dollars. Many of the Ghetto Slum customers of the Political Parties can hardly read nor sign their names, hungry, unemployed and sell their votes for economic survival.

Group 3. Generations of 21st Century Liberia

Also the overwhelming majority was indigenous Liberians who fled their home towns and villages in rural for urban Liberia for personal development and economic support, while others left their homes as the result of the then American-Liberian "ward" system. Haven achieved successes in High Education and having been admitted as emerged/emerging, indigenous Political class,



The Author

north and east colonial states of Mali, Upper Volta, now Burkina Faso; the Gold Coast, now Republic of Ghana; and The Ivory Coast, now La Cote d'Ivoire; to our Green Coast, now the Republic of Liberia, for freedom, justice, respect and equality of treatment; for water for drinking and other uses; land for settlement and farming; and forest for hunting and timber. For, these nomadic tribes are hunters and farmers. Historically, agriculture - subsistence agriculture - with manual labor was the only, major economic activity and enterprise in Rural Liberia. Private ownership of land was not permitted; land was held in common by residents of the community in order to make land available to all households, based on traditional land tenure. Rural Liberia produced all, adequate food and fed the nation.

Now, over all

Our 21st Century Politicians are not leaders. They do not teach and/or encourage and support citizens to be industrious, resourceful, resilient and independent. They are extremely lazy, reject and dishonor manual labor and profoundly sinking deep in the cesspool of corruption, the universal vice found on all continents, in every country, culture and society irrespective of political, economic development and affluence, now monopolized in Liberia by the ruling political class.

They want and expect government to do and provide everything for them. There is prevailing the major crisis of trained/experienced, loyal, nationalist and patriotic leadership in the Republic of Liberia!!



and provide everything for it. These Liberians, the majority, abandoned their homes, the towns and villages in Rural Liberia in droves, mainly, for the tiny, peninsula City of Monrovia to be "queen" and "civilized", whatever that is, without the economic/political training for urban survival, crammed like sardines in the over-populated, un-sanitary Ghetto Slums with their born-here children who have become Monrovia street-walking peddlers of razor blades, panties, bras, T-shirts, Lebanese bread, etc., while their parents are the Monrovia-street merchants of imported used clothing of blue Jeans, see-through dresses, pant-suits, etc., with blond and red hair pieces, high heels, dark sunshades, things that we do not make, produce.

these Liberians abandoned the cause of their fathers and mothers, joined the traditional political ruling class in exploiting their own people for their (the emerged/emerging political class') economic and political benefits.

The Early Indigenous African Ancestors

Our ancestors fled North African desert through

Their children do not speak the tribal dialects nor have they visited the home counties of their parents. The massive rural-to-urban migration rendered the Republic of Liberia without adequate supply of food, particularly, our tropical products

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Weah shot CDC in the leg?

By Othello B. Garblah

President George M. Weah's public statement that a "Urey will never win election in Liberia" appears to be hurting the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change or CDC at the ongoing National Elections Commission or NEC hearing into the disputed Montserrado District #15 by-election despite evidence being produced to the contrary.

NEC quarantined results from at least six precincts containing 15 polling places from the just ended Montserrado District 15 Representative by-elections after Ms. Telia Urey of the All Liberian Party or ALP and the four collaborating opposition party filed a protest before the commission citing fraud and electoral irregularities. The opposition bloc were declared winners in the Senatorial election.

Ms. Urey alleged that electoral fraud and irregularities occurred in the Joanna Antoe Polling Precinct #30437 with 3 polling places, Samuel T Kun precinct #30136 and 30135 with a combined total of 6 polling places and the Kingdom Embassy polling precinct #30132 with 3 polling places.



She further complained that electoral fraud and irregularities also occurred at the Mayer Simpson precinct #30188 with 4 polling places and Donald N. Karans Precinct #30186 with 4 polling places.

Ms. Urey alleges these electoral fraud and irregularities all occurred in Logan Town, a place believed to be the stronghold of CDC Abu Kamara which could undermine her victory in the disputed by-election.

Moreover, NEC's provisional

results showed that Abu Kamara won these disputed quarantined polling places.

As if Ms. Urey's complaint before the electoral body was not enough, public sentiments at the hearing tend to be swaying in favor of Ms. Urey, the daughter of businessman turned politician Benoni Urey, all because of President Weah's rants during his party campaign launch back in June when he stated that "a Urey will never win an election" here. Many considered his statement as a blank check to

cheat Urey out of a deserve victory.

But what appears to be coming out of the entire hearing gives another picture despite these public sentiments. Of all the tally sheets from the 15 polling places which Ms. Urey alleged that electoral fraud occurred showed that all her poll watchers signed the results-meaning they agreed that the numbers of votes on each of those sheets were the true representation of the results of the day at these polling precincts. None of the tally sheets show that Ms. Urey's representatives refused to sign.

In addition to the claim of electoral fraud, Ms. Urey also claimed that the Final Voter Registration roll given to the political parties were quite different from the ones used by NEC officials at the voting center. This argument was debunked by other political parties.

However, the argument lawyers representing CDC candidate Mr. Abu Kamara are putting forward is that if the Senatorial candidate representing the 4 collaborating political parties in person of Mr. Abraham Darius

Dillon could win in the very contested district and the opposition bloc accepted the result as being fair it is unthinkable that they would reject the same process when it comes down to the Representative election in the very district.

"How can a result in the same election be accepted and another rejected citing electoral fraud and irregularities in the same place a candidate of yours won?" one observer queried.

Another issue of contention at the hearing is the claim of prohibition on additional listing. The additional listing is intended for poll workers, and those on special assignments that will not have the opportunity to vote in their registered districts due to their assignments.

During the hearing into the 2017 electoral complaint filed by Liberty Party Charles Brumskine, the Supreme Court was clear on the issue insisting that only those with special assignments can vote in places outside of their registered districts but must show valid ID cards.

Meanwhile, hearing continues today at the NEC.

Opposition demand victory

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Leaders of four collaborating political parties here are threatening to bemoan and fiercely resist what they term a "clear deliberate attempt" by the National Elections Commission and the Government of Liberia to circumvent the will of the people to choose a representative in Montserrado County Electoral District #15.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia, Monday, 12 August at the

headquarters of the opposition Liberty Party, Mr. Ulysses Barchue, National Vice Chairman for Interparty Affairs of the Alternative National Congress, says they are knowledgeable of the fact that credibility of elections is hunched on a number of actors.

"Key among those factors is a credibility of voter registry. From the facts and circumstances stated herein, it is irrefutable that the election in District #15 falls short of meeting the bare minimum requirement to be deemed

credible. That the electoral commission would even quarantine a few voting centers when our candidate was in the lead is telling," he asserts.

Vice Chairman Barchue says they in the collaborating opposition (the former ruling Unity Party, Liberty Party, Alternative National Congress and the All Liberian Party) want to inform NEC and the government will do everything within their powers to ensure the will of the people of District #15 prevails.

"We do not rule out the possibility of using radical approaches as guaranteed by Article 1 of our constitution. Let the word go forth to those seeking to circumvent the District #15 election result that we are not taking those processes lightly. We hope that NEC does the right thing by allowing the will of the people to prevail and give our candidate Ms. Telia Urey her deserved victory," he warns.

The NEC had reportedly quarantined results from two polling centers in the district, pending outcome of ongoing investigation of complaints filed by the campaign team of Candidate Telia Urey and another candidate.

NEC Chairman Cllr. Jerome George Korkoya insists the



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Commission would only announced final results of the poll after findings of the probe by its hearing officer.

Vice Chairman Barchue says they take keen note of the ongoing investigation at the electoral house and will follow it to its logical and legal conclusion, stressing that the outcome of said process, which should border on fairness, will largely determine their next course of action.

"Let's state clearly, that the National Elections Commission particularly Jerome Korkoya and their co-conspirators will be responsible for any retrogression of the gains this country has made over the years. We urge the NEC to expedite the process as is reasonably expected and give Ms. Telia Urey her victory," Barchue urges.

According to him, the collaborating political parties call for the immediate removal and subsequent investigation of the head of the data processing center at NEC, accusing him of being an agent

of instability in the country.

Barchue notes that from the foregoing constitutional provisions, it is clear that the source of stability in any democracy is the conduct of regular, free, fair and transparent elections, but adds, "Where the will of the people to exercise their fundamental constitutional right without circumvention ceases to exist, anarchy reigns and democracy becomes nugatory."

The National Elections Commission recently declared opposition Liberty Party (LP's) candidate Abraham Darius Dillon winner of the July 29 Montserrado County Senatorial by-election, while provisional results put opposition All Liberian Party (ALP) Representative candidate for electoral district #15 Ms Telia Urey ahead of governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC's) Abu Bana Kamara 42.68 percent to 41.48 percent. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

India, Liberia renew commitments



(L-R) Mr. Shri Upjit Singh Sachdeva, Ambassador Saillas Thangal and Minister Cooper W. Kruah, Sr. displaying the newly launched Commemorative Postage Stamps

The Government of India through its Ambassador accredited to Liberia from Ivory Coast has renewed his government's commitment for a stronger friendly ties with Liberia in different sectors of the country, with the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications of Liberia being no exception.

Speaking Monday, August 12, 2019 at program marking

the official launch and unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi Commemorative Postage Stamps at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in Monrovia, Ambassador Y.K. Saillas Thangal, commended Liberia's Post and Telecommunications Minister, Cllr. Cooper Kruah, Sr. for his commitment in striving towards further strengthening the ties between Liberia and

India.

Born October 2, 1869, and died January 30, 1948, Gandhi was an Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.

Amb. Thangal, while recounting the many contributions of the famous Indian statesman, said the life and message of Gandhi has significantly influenced and inspired many world leaders up to date.

According to him, the teachings of Gandhi remind people to be the change they want to see.

"He strongly believed that and practiced that all human beings have the capability to change his own world. Absolutely, he was a great teacher," added the Indian diplomat.

In a special statement, Minister Cooper Kruah disclosed that a computer

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LFA bans referee Josephus Torjilar for 2 years

The Liberia Football Association (LFA) has with immediate effect, banned referee Josephus Torjilar for two years.

It follows an investigation of alleged bribery conducted by the LFA's grievance and disciplinary committee and integrity and compliance officer Morris Nahndi Barsi Giah.

During the investigation on 30 July, referee Torjilar

admitted to have received L\$20,000 (US\$100) through a mobile money transfer after a second division match relegation play-off match between Srimex FC and Pags FC at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium (ATS) on 21 July, which Pags won 2-0.

The committee found referee Torjilar's admittance as a violation of Chapter 13, Section 2.3 of the rules governing the 2019 Orange-sponsored LFA national league.

It states that any referee or



match official accused of taking bribe shall be investigated by the disciplinary committee and if found guilty, such match official shall be banned for two years.

Referee Torjilar was also found guilty of having violated chapter 13, section 2.6, which states that "match officials are not allowed to accept gifts of any kind from members of clubs, (cash or kind) before, during and after a match.

It adds that match official

caught will be immediately suspended.

Referee Torjilar is one of LFA's football referees that have over the years been assigned to officiate crucial matches and is known for "physical game" with style of referring.

He served center referee in the 2018 National County Sports Meet Final between Bomi

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