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# The New Dawn

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**Hint...**  
"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."  
-Proverbs 15:27

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# Judges warned of political interference



**P11**



GURU NANAK DEV JI  
(1469 - 1539)

**P11**

# India celebrates Life & Teachings of Guru Nanak Ji

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# Continental News

## Zambia president pardons high-profile prisoners on his 63rd birthday

President Edgar Lungu has pardoned three high-profile prisoners on the occasion of his 63rd birthday which falls today.

A statement from the presidency confirmed the release of five prisoners from various correctional facilities. Amongst them are a former minister, a journalist and an ex-air force commander. "The president has pardoned Chief Molungwe, former Minister in the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) Government, Maxwell Mwale, Journalist Derrick Sinjela, Afumba Mombotwa and former Zambian Air Force Commander Christopher Singogo. "The president's action is in line with article 97 of the Constitution of Zambia Chapter (1) of the Laws of Zambia which provides for presidential pardon and substitution of severe punishments imposed on the convicted," the statement read in part.

The release of Sinjela, proprietor of Rainbow Newspaper, was expected after the president hinted about it last week. Speaking to journalists during a media conference at the presidency, President Lungu pledged to review Sinjela's sentence, the convict was

due to be released in December.

"...Sinjela should be freed? I don't know. He allegedly insulted the courts? You know, these matters are a bit tricky. I had his name on my list just the other day; I will think about him in future, and I hope he hasn't

substantially served his term.

"When is he supposed to come out? December, this year? Ah, ana choka kudala uyu! (He's already out!)" the president is quoted to have said. Often, presidents across Africa have offered pardon to certain categories of convicts

especially during independence day commemorations.

Aside, outright releases, some sentences are also reduced, in most cases; death sentences are commuted to life imprisonments. AFP



## Zimbabwe to distribute new banknotes

Zimbabwe's central bank is due to begin circulating new banknotes on Monday, which it says will help to ease a severe cash shortage as the country suffers a deepening economic crisis.

The bank has played down fears that the move will fuel inflation, insisting that the

return to normality.

The government says the new notes will ease cash shortages that have seen most people unable to withdraw their savings.

The major fear is that a huge cash injection in the middle of an economic crisis will stoke inflation. A loaf of bread that cost a dollar in



new two- and five- dollar notes will not increase overall money supply.

Their introduction marks the final phase in the return of the Zimbabwe dollar.

In June the central bank banned the use of the US dollar, introduced in 2009 to replace the inflation-hit local currency, citing the need to

January now costs 15 Zimbabwe dollars.

Since the reintroduction of a local currency, inflation has soared to triple digits.

The Zimbabwean government has stopped publishing an official inflation figure; it is thought to be about 300%. BBC

## Anger in Kenya over poisonous food discovery

An investigation by a local TV station in Kenya revealing how lax policies have allowed food with high levels of a toxin called aflatoxin to be sold has sparked uproar over safety standards in the country. The investigation by the privately owned NTV station tested 12

brands of wheat and maize flour. Three were found to have aflatoxin contamination a few points above the recommended standard of 10 parts per billion, while seven samples still had detectable levels of aflatoxin. Two samples had no aflatoxin.

Aflatoxin, which is

produced fungi in agricultural crops, is carcinogenic, meaning it can cause cancer. Last week the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) suspended five brands of maize found to contain aflatoxin and warned the public against using them.

Doctors interviewed by NTV linked the prevalence of liver and cervical cancer to high levels of aflatoxin found in maize in the Rift Valley region.

Agriculture Minister Mwangi Kiunjuri, who was also interviewed for the TV investigation, confirmed the prevalence of aflatoxin contamination in food in the country.

He said he worried that animals reared for human consumption, like cows, could feed on the contaminated food products leading to the toxins being passed on to consumers: Mr Kiunjuri blamed the prevalence of contaminated maize, Kenya's staple food, on regional trade.

In 2009, then Kebs Chief



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Executive Kioko Mangeli revealed that Kenyans had been eating contaminated imported maize since 2008, with the full knowledge of the government.

"I'm more than 100% sure that it affects people and that within the next 10 to 15 years we will also have serious cases

of cancer based on this maize," Mr Mangeli told a parliamentary committee at the time. The hashtag #WhiteAlert is trending on Twitter with many Kenyans calling for the arrest of government officials charged with enforcing food safety standards. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## The AG's advice does make sense

**LIBERIA'S AUDITOR GENERAL**, Mrs. Yusador S. Gaye is warning against printing of new Liberian banknotes for now, "because it will accordingly have an adverse consequence on the economy and the people."

**THE AG'S VIEW** is against recent request from the Executive to the Legislature to approve the printing of whopping 35 billion new Liberian currency notes to be placed in circulation immediately.

**AG GAYE HAS** reportedly written both House Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore Albert Chie, warning, "I am strongly of the opinion that giving your approval to print more currency is unfathomable, but will be very misplaced, granted we are yet to understand all what happened at the last currency printing, as evidently, the US\$25 million mop-up exercise does not engender much confidence in the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)."

**WE BELIEVE THE** Auditor General is being very bold and frank to the Legislature in making sure it does the right thing not only in the interest of the ruling Coalition government, but for posterity. Politics aside, how this administration handles currency matters in the country could have serious adverse effects on the economy particularly, in the long-run with inflation likely to hit three digits or beyond.

**MORE SO, THE** caution is expedient because the Central Bank is yet to address lapses in its operations, as observed by the Kroll's Scoping Report and the Presidential Investigation Team (PIT) respectively. Kroll had asked the CBL to reconcile its vault balances and maintain constancy in its financial department, while the PIT is concerned about security for the protection of reserves, among other operational standards.

**AND THEN THERE** are lingering questions about the US\$16 billion printed and brought into the country besides the US\$25 million taken from the reserves to mop up excess liquidity in the economy. In other words, Liberians are apprehensive that if these lapses remain business as usual and the government proceeds with the printing of new banknotes, the economy would further wallop in a vicious cycle.

**KROLL'S SCOPING REPORT** details that documentation provided by Crane Currency AB showed a total of LRD 15.506 billion was shipped to Liberia between period of July 2016 and March 2018 as follow:

? LRD 5,146,250,000 (USD 45,883,113) was documented as being shipped by Crane AB to Liberia in respect of the LRD 5.0 Bn Contract.

LRD 10,359,750,000 (USD 92,365,817) was documented as being shipped by Crane AB to Liberia in respect of the LRD 10.0 Bn Contract.

**QUESTION IS WHERE** is the LRD10, 359,750,000 documented as being shipped to Liberia in March 2018 under the George Weah Presidency in respect of the LRD10.0 Bn Contract signed with Crane AB? The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Samuel Tweah claimed no money went missing, insisting that all Liberian banknotes printed and brought to the country were deposited in the vaults of the Central Bank of Liberia, an assertion which former CBL Executive Governor Nathaniel R. Patray corroborated.

**BUT HOW COME** the economy is experiencing a serious shortage of banknotes so much so that depositors can't withdraw their money saved with various commercial banks in the country? The authorities should provide some explanations before printing and putting new banknotes in circulation.

**WE BELIEVE IT** is based on these glaring lack of transparency and accountability that Auditor General Gaye is cautioning against the printing of new Liberian currency for now, until the doubts and concerns are addressed or else, the country risks falling further down the economic ladder, which no patriotic Liberian wants to see.

**The New Dawn**  
TRULY INDEPENDENT

# COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

## America's War on Chinese Technology

*In the run up to the Iraq War, then-US Vice President Richard Cheney declared that even if the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into terrorist hands was tiny, say 1%, we should act as if it were certain by invading. The US is at it again, creating a panic over Chinese technologies by exaggerating tiny risks.*

**N**EW YORK - The worst foreign-policy decision by the United States of the last generation - and perhaps longer - was the "war of choice" that it launched in Iraq in 2003 for the stated purpose of eliminating weapons of mass destruction that did not, in fact, exist. Understanding the illogic behind that disastrous decision has never been more relevant, because it is being used to justify a similarly misguided US policy today.

The decision to invade Iraq followed the illogic of then-US Vice President Richard Cheney, who declared that even if the risk of WMDs falling into terrorist hands was tiny - say, 1% - we should act as if that scenario would certainly occur.

Such reasoning is guaranteed to lead to wrong decisions more often than not. Yet the US and some of its allies are now using the Cheney Doctrine to attack Chinese technology. The US government argues that because we can't know with certainty that Chinese technologies are safe, we should act as if they are certainly dangerous and bar them.

Proper decision-making applies probability estimates to alternative actions. A generation ago, US policymakers should have considered not only the (alleged) 1% risk of WMDs falling into terrorist hands, but also the 99% risk of a war based on flawed premises. By focusing only on the 1% risk, Cheney (and many others) distracted the public's attention from the much greater likelihood that the Iraq War lacked justification and that it would gravely destabilize the Middle East and global politics.

The problem with the Cheney Doctrine is not only that it dictates taking actions predicated on small risks without considering the potentially very high costs. Politicians are tempted to whip up fears for ulterior purposes.

That is what US leaders are doing again: creating a panic over Chinese technology companies by raising, and exaggerating, tiny risks. The most pertinent case (but not the only one) is the US government attack on the wireless broadband company Huawei. The US is closing its markets to the company and trying hard to shut down its business around the world. As with Iraq, the US could end up creating a geopolitical disaster for no reason.

I have followed Huawei's technological advances and work in developing countries, as I believe that 5G and other digital technologies offer a huge boost to ending poverty and other SDGs. I have similarly interacted with other telecoms companies and encouraged the industry to step up actions for the SDGs. When I wrote a short foreword (without compensation) for a Huawei report on the topic, and was criticized by foes of China, I asked top industry and government officials for evidence of wayward activities by Huawei. I heard repeatedly that Huawei behaves no differently than trusted industry leaders.

The US government nonetheless argues that Huawei's 5G equipment could undermine global security. A "backdoor" in Huawei's software or hardware, US officials claim, could enable the Chinese government to engage in surveillance around the world. After all, US officials note, China's laws require Chinese companies to cooperate with the government for purposes of national security.

Now, the facts are these. Huawei's 5G equipment is low cost and high quality, currently ahead of many competitors, and already rolling out. Its high performance results from years of substantial

spending on research and development, scale economies, and learning by doing in the Chinese digital marketplace. Given the technology's importance for their sustainable development, low-income economies around the world would be foolhardy to reject an early 5G rollout.

Yet, despite providing no evidence of backdoors, the US is telling the world to stay away from Huawei. The US claims are generic. As a US Federal Communications Commissioner put it, "The country that owns 5G will own innovations and set the standards for the rest of the world and that country is currently not likely to be the United States." Other countries, most notably the United Kingdom, have found no backdoors in Huawei's hardware and software. Even if backdoors were discovered later, they could almost surely be closed at that point.

The debate over Huawei rages in Germany, where the US government threatens to curtail intelligence cooperation unless the authorities exclude Huawei's 5G technology. Perhaps as a result of the US pressure, Germany's spy chief recently made a claim tantamount to the Cheney Doctrine: "Infrastructure is not a suitable area for a group that cannot be trusted fully." He offered no evidence of specific misdeeds. Chancellor Angela Merkel, by contrast, is fighting behind the scenes to leave the market open for Huawei.

Ironically, though predictably, the US complaints partly reflect America's own surveillance activities at home and abroad. Chinese equipment might make secret surveillance by the US government more difficult. But unwarranted surveillance by any government should be ended. Independent United Nations monitoring to curtail such activities should become part of the global telecoms system. In short, we should choose diplomacy and institutional safeguards, not a technology war.

The threat of US demands to blockade Huawei concerns more than the early rollout of the 5G network. The risks to the rules-based trading system are profound. Now that the US is no longer the world's undisputed technology leader, US President Donald Trump and his advisers don't want to compete according to a rules-based system. Their goal is to contain China's technological rise. Their simultaneous attempt to neutralize the World Trade Organization by disabling its dispute settlement system shows the same disdain for global rules.

If the Trump administration "succeeds" in dividing the world into separate technology camps, the risks of future conflicts will multiply. The US championed open trade after World War II not only to boost global efficiency and expand markets for American technology, but also to reverse the collapse of international trade in the 1930s. That collapse stemmed in part from protectionist tariffs imposed by the US under the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Act, which amplified the Great Depression, in turn contributing to the rise of Hitler and, ultimately, the outbreak of World War II.

In international affairs, no less than in other domains, stoking fears and acting on them, rather than on the evidence, is the path to ruin. Let's stick to rationality, evidence, and rules as the safest course of action. And let us create independent monitors to curtail the threat of any country using global networks for surveillance of or cyberwarfare on others. That way, the world can get on with the urgent task of harnessing breakthrough digital technologies for the global good.

## O-PED

By Aryeh Neier

# Power to the People?

**N**EW YORK - People all over the world are resorting to mass demonstrations to express grievances and press unmet demands. While, in some ways, popular protests are a triumph of democratic principles and civic activism, they also carry serious risks, including violence by and against protesters. Their pervasiveness today points to a failure of governments, democratic and authoritarian alike, to hear, let alone meet, the needs of their people.

The issues at stake are wide-ranging. In Catalonia, demonstrators are demanding the release of nine separatist leaders facing lengthy prison sentences for their roles in the regional government's failed attempt in 2017 to secede from Spain. In Chile, economic inequality is fueling increasingly violent demonstrations, triggered by a fare hike on the Santiago metro.

In Lebanon, what began as protests against corruption and poor economic stewardship are now targeting the removal of the country's decades-old sectarian kleptocracy. And in Hong Kong, protesters are resisting mainland China's increasing encroachment on civil liberties and the rule of law in the city, and have already forced their government to withdraw the extradition bill that started it all.

People may resort to the "body rhetoric" of street protests when they feel that they can't effect change through democratic channels, such as the ballot box. In Moscow, protests erupted this summer after opposition candidates were barred from running in the September elections for the city parliament. Lebanon's protest movement is driven by a similar lack of genuine democratic options. Hong Kong residents cannot exactly vote out China's leaders.

Protests can be a powerful means of communicating commitment to a cause, not only to leaders, but also to fellow citizens, who might be inspired to join the fight. And they can serve to attract the attention of the outside world: protest leaders from Hong Kong have explicitly sought international support.

But mass demonstrations often require significant sacrifice. Acts of "civil disobedience" - say, blocking traffic (as has occurred in Beirut and London) or paralyzing the airport (as in Hong Kong) - can be a powerful way to draw attention to a cause, but they also put their participants at risk, whether from tear gas or arrest.

Even where peaceful protests are technically legal, participants may break laws, whether by trespassing or failing to file the proper paperwork, or open themselves up to charges of vague crimes like "disturbing the peace." In the United States, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, the Vietnam War protests of the 1960s and 1970s, and today's climate demonstrations share a key feature: almost all participants were nonviolent, and yet faced repeated, sometimes large-scale arrests.

The risks are compounded by deliberately violent protesters, who may view their actions as justified, but ultimately undermine their own cause by alienating potential allies, justifying government crackdowns, and endangering their fellow protesters. Hong Kong - where the vast majority of protesters are nonviolent - is a case in point.

Whether a protest movement succeeds or fails depends largely on the media. "Police Suppress Violent Protests" is obviously a very different headline from "Police Violently Suppress Protests," and neither sends the same message as "Protesters and Police Clash."

Moreover, images of dramatic moments - like a high-profile arrest or a human chain - can leave a deeper impression on the wider public's imagination than debates or slogans ever could. Some of the more powerful protests against the Vietnam War included members of Vermont's Bread and Puppet Theater wearing costumes that evoked the suffering the conflict was causing.

Likewise, the four black college students who protested segregation in 1960 by sitting quietly at the whites-only Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina might not have helped spur a mass movement to integrate dining facilities across the American South had local media not shared the footage. By the same token, the media may not have reported sympathetically on their cause had they not provided a stark illustration of the indignity and arbitrariness of racial segregation.

Protesters' lack of options for confronting damaging or unjust government policies lends legitimacy to their actions. How, other than street demonstrations, could the people of Hong Kong have mobilized global media coverage of the proposed extradition bill? The same goes for the Hungarians protesting a "slave labor law," which drastically increases the amount of overtime companies can demand; the Filipinos condemning extrajudicial killings of suspected low-level drug dealers and users; and Brazilians opposing the environmentally catastrophic expansion of agribusiness in the Amazon rainforest. In all three countries, right-wing populist leaders have been undermining the democratic systems that brought them to power and should hold them accountable.

But protesters should beware: the influence of the media cuts both ways. Images of a few protesters in Hong Kong smashing windows or throwing gasoline bombs undermine the narrative that it is the Chinese state that is acting against the rule of law. Now, it is China's leaders who can use the global media - this time to discredit the protests.

With inequality, populism, and authoritarianism still on the rise, it seems likely that mass demonstrations will remain a fixture of global politics for the foreseeable future. Governments will, no doubt, seek to quash them. But, in the absence of greater institutional responsiveness to popular grievances and demands, people are unlikely to stay home.

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## OPINION

By Sabine Homann-Kee Tui

# Goats Against Climate Change

**B**ULAWAYO - Earlier this year, Cyclone Idai swept across Mozambique. Its powerful winds and heavy rains led to massive floods, hundreds of deaths, and the large-scale destruction of crops and property. An estimated 140,000 people were displaced, and six months later, nearly one million people, including 160,000 children under five, are still facing food shortages and a nutrition crisis.

Idai was not the first cyclone to upend the lives of farmers in southern Africa, and it won't be the last. As climate change continues, such storms will become more frequent and intense, as will droughts, with which farmers in Mozambique already struggle. But there is a simple way to boost climate resilience for farmers in vulnerable regions: investment in goat markets.

Goats are a relatively low-maintenance livestock. They do not require much up-front investment in housing or equipment. And they are hardy: goats are much more likely to survive a long dry period than, say, grains. They even eat failed crops.

Like other forms of property, a herd of goats can function as a kind of savings account for farmers, who can purchase more animals when they have cash to spare, and sell some off in times of trouble. This is particularly true in Mozambique, where demand for goat meat is booming, prices are rising, and large abattoirs are actively seeking to purchase goats from smallholder farmers.

Yet farmers in Mozambique struggle to take advantage of this opportunity, owing to factors like poor market conditions and rampant theft. These are the problems that my colleagues and I at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics - together with the Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique and the Center for Development Research at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna - are now endeavoring to solve.

We have launched an initiative to link farmers in Mozambique's drought-prone Marara district with agricultural extension services and local governments, abattoirs, and farming-goods suppliers. This "innovation platform" - which now includes 60 farmers in six villages - has enabled the development of collaborative solutions that are suited to local conditions. It works to improve goat markets by providing direction and incentives for agricultural extension services and investments.

Consider livestock theft. In Marara district, farmers were hesitant to invest in more animals, because unknown perpetrators were regularly stealing free-roaming goats. Thanks to the innovation platform, villagers, local government, and police were able to work together to devise a strategy to combat the thefts, centered on erecting roadblocks in strategic locations.

The platform has also facilitated the creation of a more structured goat market that better suits farmers' needs. Traditionally, goats in central Mozambique have been traded through a single market. But reaching that market often requires farmers to travel a considerable distance with their goats, which lose weight during the journey. Because a skinny goat is worth less to the abattoir, it fetches a lower price for the farmer. To avoid the journey, farmers might have to rely on unscrupulous middlemen.

Since the introduction of the innovation platform, abattoirs and farmers have begun working to establish new, smaller sales points, closer to both buyers and sellers. So far, our data suggest that farmers who are participating in the innovation platform have been better able to meet market demand and are earning more for their goats. In fact, some farmers are prepared to expand their production, and are working with abattoirs to establish a quality-based pricing system.

Establishing a structured, well-functioning goat market helps to create a positive feedback loop. If farmers are confident their goats will not be stolen, and can sell them at a decent price, they are better able to invest in improving their production system.

Here, too, the innovation platform is helping. For starters, we have trained farmers how to improve their soil by expanding legume crops, the residues of which can be used as goat fodder. Recognizing the benefits of these practices, farmers immediately began increasing crop density, applying manure, and rotating crops, thereby increasing yields and producing more feed for healthier goats. We have also trialed on-farm soil analyses that can help farmers detect soil health problems and devise their own solutions - for example, growing more legumes or adding manure and compost.

More broadly, the innovation platform has kick-started a process in which farmers support one another to build a stronger market. For example, more successful goat farmers in the Marara district are advising their poorer counterparts on how to get started.

With support from government agencies and development organizations, goat markets could continue to grow, increasing the incomes and resilience of farmers in Marara district and beyond. Such support could include investment in technical extension services for livestock farmers, particularly for women and poor farmers, mediation of price negotiations between buyers and sellers, and the establishment of reliable metrological services.

To enable such progress, it is vital to keep the innovation network alive. As climate change continues, the challenges smallholder farmers face will only grow. Their best chance of weathering them is by acting together.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP (1 position)

### Report to: Information Technology Manager

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#### RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Assist in hardware and software inventory management
- Troubleshoot equipment such as printers and scanners and other peripherals
- Assist in handling IT related documentations
- Provide users with ongoing assistance in their information technology problems
- Provides support for data and systems backup
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- Provide support for Microsoft Office Suite and Desktop applications to users.
- Assist with network connectivity issues.
- Assist with printing, printer drivers, and system configuration.
- Keep log of IT Support issues provided to users
- Support the day-to-day activities in the MCA Liberia office
- Support the other IT related tasks as needed.

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and written communications
- Strong computer skills with interest and ability to learn new software
- Motivated and energetic self-starter who takes initiative
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- Enthusiasm to learn and develop new skills within the role
- Full computer skills in use of email, MS Office Suite, and the Internet is required.
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Applicants must be enrolled in a university degree program or recent graduate of Information and communication technology/Computer Science. Internship experience is an added advantage.

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MCA Liberia office, Coconut Plantation, Mamba Point, Liberia.

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Four days per week, a total of 28 hours per week. Possible work may be required on weekends/evenings for special projects. A commitment of six (6) months is required

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**Closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**

# The Life & Teachings of Guru Nanak Ji

– by **Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety)**, Honorary Consul General of India in Liberia

**G**uru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism and the 1st Guru (Teacher) was born on this day, 550 years ago, in a small village now in Pakistan called Rai Bhoi Ki Talwandi. His father's name was Mehta Kalu and his mother's name was Mata Tripta. He had an elder sister, Bebe Nanki, who was 5 years older than him. His father worked as a 'Patwari' (Accountant) responsible for the administration of agriculture and crop revenue in the village of Talwandi. His parents were both Hindu Khatri. As a young child, Nanak astounded many with his intelligence and his inclinations towards divine and philosophical topics.

In this early modern period, as a ritual among Hindus, his father Mehta Kalu sent for his family priest (Pandit) Hardial and asked him to draw up the baby's 'Janampatri' or horoscope. Before proceeding to draw up the 'Janampatri', he wanted to have a close look at the child. Mata Tripta had some hesitation, but later his request was granted. On seeing him, Pandit Hardial bowed before him and touched his feet. He then congratulated Mehta Kalu and said you are very fortunate to have him as your son. He remarked, "This child will be a great person. He will be loved and respected, worshiped by Hindus and Muslims alike. His name and fame will spread over many lands". Both his parents felt elated upon hearing this.

His father was a worldly man and wanted his son to acquire wealth, fame, and power so that he should be a successful worldly man too.

Young Nanak was a very unusual child; he never cried, not even when he was hungry. He always had a radiant smile on his face. As he grew older, he did not grow up like other children of his age.

There was a pond of clear water near their house. Young Nanak was very fond of this place. Sometimes he would go near the pond all alone and sit there for hours, meditating with half shut eyes, focusing on God.

Rai Bular the village landlord, used to watch Guru Nanak engage in this spiritual mediation. Today, there is a Gurdwara in memory of Guru Nanak at this pond called 'Bal Lila'.

In early childhood, his personality developed and became quite evident. Whenever a beggar, a needy man, or a Sadhu (saintly person) called at the door, he would run into the house, take hold of whatever article of food or clothing he could get and give them into the hands of the needy / beggar.

When Guru Nanak was 7 years of age, his father decided to send him to school. He asked his family priest to select a favorable day for commencement of young Nanak's schooling. On the day selected by Pandit Hardial, Mehta Kalu took his son to Pandit 'Gopal', who ran a small school. He offered him 5 rupees and sweets and requested him to accept his son in the school.

Pandit Gopal accepted young Nanak with pleasure. He wrote the 'Devanagari' alphabets used for writing Hindi on a wooden tablet and asked his new student to repeat each letter after him. Though he told him to write each letter on the wooden tablet, Guru learned this in no time as he knew it already. The teacher gave him lessons in arithmetic and accounting, and in the same way, he quickly learned the subjects.

One day Guru Nanak took his seat a little apart from his school mates. Soon he began writing on his wooden tablet. The teacher was watching him, and finally he saw that Guru had finished writing and was looking at his wooden tablet with satisfaction and joy. The teacher went to Nanak and asked him to show his tablet. Guru rose and gave his wooden tablet to his teacher. The teacher was amazed beyond all measures.

Pandit Gopal went through the writing over and over; his admiration and amazement increasing after each subsequent reading, he touched the wooden tablet to his forehead and gave it back to Guru Nanak. He was not only astonished, but also convinced that his student was an Avtar, an incarnation of God. He humbly bowed before him and took him to his father. Mehta Kalu was surprised to see his son and his teacher coming towards him so early in the day. He worried that Nanak must have misbehaved or acted defiantly. On reaching there, the teacher said, "Mehta ji, your son is an Avtar of God. He is not an ordinary mortal. He will be a great Teacher of mankind".

Mehta Kalu did not believe what he was told as he was a man of the world; he wanted his son to be wise in the way of the world. Upon hearing this, Mehta Kalu insisted that the son continue to be taught by the Pandit despite what his teacher thought. However, Pandit exclaimed, "He knows everything and there is nothing to be known there". Rather, I have learned from him. He has opened my eyes and I have learned from him. Saying this, the Pandit took his leave and left Mehta Kalu in disbelief and amazement. Thus, Guru stopped going to Pandit Gopal's school.

He was free once again to do what he liked; sometimes running, jumping and playing with other children of his age, but more often he would sit at home. Mehta Kalu was advised by the family Priest to send Guru Nanak to the Sanskrit scholar, Brijnath, to continue his education. Here too Guru Nanak was quick to learn Sanskrit. In a similar manner, he taught the Sanskrit scholar Brijnath at the same time.

Having done this again he resumed his former ways of spending time with Sadhus / saintly persons and Fakirs around the forests of Talwandi. He met them and had learned discourses on Vedas, Shastras etc. His father was not pleased at the ways of his only son. He wanted his son to be a successful man of the world. He sought advice from Rai Bular. He suggested that Guru Nanak be sent to learn Persian, the official administrative language used for all state documents and accounts. He promised that if he learnt that language, he



**GURU NANAK DEV JI**  
( 1469 - 1539 )

would employ Nanak giving him the charge of his office as well as the role of a Patwari in succession to his father.

His father accepted his suggestion and sent Guru Nanak to Maulvi-Kutb-Ud-Din of Talwandi to learn Persian. There too, he astonished his teacher by the quickness with which he learnt all that the Maulvi taught him. After learning Persian as much he wanted, Guru Nanak taught his teacher about God and his ways and made Maulvi Kutb-Ud-Din his student. There are several Persian words and verses found in Guru Granth Sahib ji.

Having finished his Persian education, once again Guru Nanak was free to enjoy God and nature and the society of religious men.

When Guru Nanak was 11 years of age, it was necessary, according to the religious customs of the family, to invest him with sacred thread or 'Janju'. A day was fixed for the ceremony. His father made great preparations and invited guests. There was a great gathering on the appointed day. A carpet was spread on the raised platform. Pandit Hardial, the family priest, drew a circle on the platform and took his seat. He asked Mehta Kalu to bring his son, for whom the seat was provided facing the priest. Guru Nanak came and took his seat. Hardial began the ceremony by chanting mantras from Vedas to appease the stars. He then blessed young Nanak by reciting Vedic mantras. Then he blessed the sacred thread in the same way. When Hardial lifted Guru Nanak's arm, holding

the thread in his hand in order to put it around Guru Nanak's neck, he caught the priest's uplifted hand and asked, "what are you doing", what is this cotton thread? Why is it worn? What are the advantages of it?

The priest replied that the sacred thread is the base of Hindu religion. By wearing it, he would be admitted to an upper caste and it symbolizes his having attended the spiritual birth. By wearing this, Nanak would obtain honor and greatness in this world and happiness in the next world. This thread had been endowed with the power of 'Vedic Mantras' and it would give him spiritual power. Explaining all this, he proceeded to carry on with the thread ceremony.

But Guru Nanak was not satisfied and said, "If the thread is to be symbol of spiritual birth, it should be something befitting the nature of the spirit of the Soul. The Soul is deathless, but thread may break, get soiled, burnt or lost, then the wearer has to put on a new one. When a man dies, the thread remains with the body. It does not accompany his soul. The soul departs thread-less". The priest was astonished and said, "everyone wears this thread. What thread would satisfy you"? Guru Nanak replied, "a lasting sacred thread for the soul that can be made by practicing ideals of religion and morality in day-to-day life. There, your soul will be truly invested with a truly sacred thread.

Pandit Hardial agreed with Guru Nanak but argued that everyone should live by noble virtues, but at the same time, must respect the traditional customs created by their forefathers. He further stated, "a Hindu without a sacred thread is a man without religion. I am sure you don't want to be a man without religion, so come and put on the thread". Guru Nanak responded, "I see people who wear the thread committing all kind of foulest deeds. They steal, rob, kill, deceive and commit countless sins and crimes against fellow creatures". Pandit Hardial was left speechless. The guests and all those in attendance felt compelled by Nanak's words pointing at the paradox of the sacred thread. They all admired his courage to inquire about and challenge the rituals of Hinduism.

Mehta Kalu, like all fathers, was anxious to lead his son on the same path, which he himself followed in life to become successful. He did not like his son to sit idle, as his son had refused to qualify himself for earning a living. Since Nanak loved to spend time in nature, he told Nanak to herd buffaloes in the forest. Nanak readily agreed and started taking buffaloes, cows, and their calves to the forest to graze in the morning and brought them back home in the evening. For some time, things went on all right. One day, Guru Nanak took the cattle as usual, and sat under the tree and soon passed into deep meditation. As his cattle started grazing as they pleased, they strayed into a neighboring field and feasted on the green crops. The owner of the field came and drove out the cattle from his land. He approached Guru Nanak angrily, who was lost in meditation. He shook him and exclaimed, "See what your cattle has done to my fields! They have ruined my crops"! Guru Nanak looked up with his eyes warmly, and said, "Don't get angry; have patience. God will bless the fields. Your fields will give you more returns than ever before".

The owner was not satisfied with the kind words of Guru Nanak and went to Rai Bular to lodge a complaint. He was in great anger, shouting and complaining that Guru Nanak's cattle had spoiled all his crops. While he had left for Rai Bular, Guru Nanak sitting there, looked at the fields with fixed eyes, full of love and compassion on the ruined crops. In a split second, the fields were blessed by God and became lush green again and abundant with rich crops.

The owner went to Rai Bular and informed him of his loss and implored him to compensate him. Guru Nanak requested Rai Bular to see the destroyed field of crops before pronouncing his judgment. Rai Bular ordered one of his men to go with the owner of the field and look at the crops and evaluate the loss. The two arrived at the field, and to their astonishment, found all the fields green and the crops intact. The owner could not believe his eyes. He touched the crops with his hand, and bent his head and said, "I was not lying, my eyes did not deceive me. The crops were eaten up by Mehta Kalu's cattle. A miracle has happened". They both went back to Rai Bular and informed him that the crops were intact. Rai Bular had already heard about Guru Nanak's wisdom and the strange happenings he was involved with. He was convinced in his belief that Mehta Kalu's son was a man of God. Rai Bular said, "God loves him and I bow my head before this man of God".

On another occasion, Rai Bular witnessed another astonishing scene. He was on horseback returning from another village when, from a distance, saw that Guru



## The Life & Teachings

Nanak was lying asleep on the ground. He saw a large Cobra was holding its wide hood over the Guru's head. It was thus protecting Guru Nanak against the hot sun's rays. Rai Bular thought that the Cobra had bitten Guru Nanak and he was lying dead. He hurriedly approached that spot and the Cobra folded its hood and slithered away. He saw Guru Nanak was fast asleep and the sun's rays were falling on his face and realized that the cobra had shaded his face from the sun. Rai Bular was filled with wonder and joy. He jumped down from his horse. Guru Nanak got up, greeted Rai Bular with a smile. Rai Bular touched Guru Nanak's feet, embraced him, and kissed his forehead, and from that day onward, he believed him to be a Messenger of God.

Guru Nanak's parents had great anxiety over the ways of his life. All the efforts to persuade him to pursue a worldly life had gone in vain. His much-worried parents decided to get him married and bind him to the ties of the world. They thought his wife would change his ways and make him a responsible house holder. They consulted his sister Bebe Nanaki and her husband. They readily agreed, and accordingly Guru Nanak was engaged to Mata Sulakhni, the daughter of Baba Mul Chand of Batala.

Guru Nanak was married in 1487 CE to Mata Sulakhni and proceeded to become a good and successful home holder. He began to assist his father in looking after the cultivation and collect rent from the tenants. He also began to run a grocery shop. He thus engaged in earning a livelihood. Mehta Kalu decided to extend his son's business activities. He planned to make him a trader and gave him 20 rupees to begin trading in goods and merchandise. He advised him to take his childhood friend, Bala, with him. They left early next morning. On their way to buy goods, they took a shortcut through the forest. In the forest, he met a group of 'sadhus' (saintly persons). These men of religion wore no clothes except their undergarments. They were weak & lean. Guru approached their Head Saint. He bowed before the 'Sadhus' and sat near them to talk. He learned that they had not eaten for the last 5 days. Their vows forbade them from begging for food. They relied on God for food. They were content to eat whenever and whatever God sent to them in his mercy and provided for them. Guru Nanak was deeply impressed by their faith and trust in God. He said to himself that there can be no better and more profitable bargain than that of feeding such hungry devotees of God. He, along with Bala, went to market, bought food, cooked and served them. This historical place where the hungry men of God were fed by Guru Nanak is the site of Gurudwara called 'Sacha Sauda', which means good bargain. The concept of Langar (Community Kitchen) was this way started by Guru Nanak with just 20 Rupees which is now followed at Gurudwaras and Sikh congregations across the Globe.

Having invested his capital in a bargain which appeared to him to be the best and most profitable, Guru Nanak came home and when his father learnt about what Nanak had done, he got angry and slapped him. His elder sister Bebe Nanaki who was visiting them, came in between to save his brother from the beating of his father.

Rai Bular, the ruler of Talwandi was an ardent admirer and disciple of Guru Nanak. Hearing about the recent incident of the good bargain made him very sad. He discussed with Guru Nanak's brother-in-law, Diwan Jai Ram, to find a job for him in Sultanpur, so that he would no longer have a problem with his father. Mehta Kalu also agreed readily to send Guru Nanak to Sultanpur. Soon as Diwan Jai Ram reached Sultanpur, he succeeded in finding a job for Guru Nanak. A few days after his arrival at Sultanpur, Diwan Jai Ram took him to the Governor, Nawab Daulat Khan Lodhi. The Nawab agreed to employ him and appoint him as in-charge of his 'modikhana' (the granary store). He was made a 'modi' (store keeper) and was tasked with maintaining the accounts of all the transactions as dues were collected in the form of grain. The grain would then be issued out to the Nawab's household, army, police etc. All payments were made in grain and the remaining surplus was sold to the people.

Guru Ji performed all of his duties efficiently and to the satisfaction of everyone. According to many historical records, while weighing provisions, when he would count from 1 onwards, once he reached the number "thirteen", referred to in Punjabi as 'Tera', he would continue to repeat "tera" and dispense grain. The word 'tera' also carries the meaning "I am yours" which would put him in a meditative state when thinking about God. This meant that the poor would receive more grain than they would pay for.

For some time, Guru stayed with his sister and later moved to his own house, with his wife. In due course, two sons were born to them. Baba Siri Chand and Baba Lakhmi Das. While continuing to work in Sultanpur as the 'Modi', Guru Nanak did not neglect his divine duties. Guru was



liked by everyone and some people became jealous of Guru Ji. They reported to the Nawab that his 'Modi' was dishonest and careless. They said, "He is not dispensing your granary correctly. It will soon become empty and he will run away". Upon hearing this, the Nawab inquired into the matter. When the granary's inventory was audited against the accounts, they found them to be in surplus and therefore more profitable. The Nawab's regard for Guru Nanak increased with each accusation that was proven false.

Guru Ji served at the Nawab's 'Modikhana' for 12 years and then began to feel that his first mission was complete. He felt humanity at large was calling him. Early one morning, he went as usual to bathe at Bein river stream. An attendant sat near his clothes. Guru Ji plunged into the stream and did not come out for a long time. The attendant watched in great anxiety. He then looked into and along the river stream, but Guru Nanak was nowhere to be seen. At last he concluded that Nanak must have drowned. He went and informed Diwan Jai Ram and the Nawab. The news of Guru Nanak drowning spread rapidly and people flocked to the stream. Jai Ram and Bebe Nanaki were among them. Nawab Daulat Khan Modi also reached to the spot and divers were told to dive and search for the body however all efforts were in vain.

After three days, Guru Nanak appeared with orders from God, the Creator, about what he was to do. He then went to his home and gave away everything he owned to the poor. A big crowd assembled outside his home including Nawab Daulat Khan. They inquired from Guru Ji about what had happened to him but he remained silent.

When he finally responded, he said the words, "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim" and spoke the Mool Mantar, which was revealed to him during the three days he spent in the river, establishing the basic tenets of Sikhism as we know them today. This momentous day marked the beginning of the phase in his life that was devoted to his divine mission.

In 1500 CE, he embarked on this mission and travelled in all 4 directions and visited the various centers of Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Sufis, Yogis and Sidhas reflecting the religious diversity present in the subcontinent at the time. He met people of different religions, tribes, cultures and races. He travelled on foot with his Muslim companion Bhai Mardana. His travels are referred to as Udasis. He made four (4) Udasis. In his first Udasi, he travelled to central and eastern India. He visited two major cities of Haridwar and Varanasi. He travelled as far as the eastern part of India bordering China.

In his second Udasi from 1506-1513, he travelled to South India. In this second Udasi, Guru Nanak visited most parts of Sri Lanka. In the third Udasi from 1514-1518, Guru Nanak travelled through the difficult terrains of the Himalayas and covered places like Kashmir, Nepal, Tashkent, Tibet and Sikkim. In his fourth Udasi from 1519-1521, he travelled to Arab countries through Central Asia including Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In his fifth and final journey, which lasted for two years, Guru Nanak travelled and focused on spreading his message within the region of Punjab which transcends the boundaries between modern day India and Pakistan. He was accompanied by Bhai Mardana. It is believed by Sikhs that Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent 24 years of his life journeying and covering a staggering distance of 28000 kilometers by foot to engage in dialogues about the truth of God.

### Teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

#### 1. Submission to the will of God (Waheguru)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji said that everything happens by God's grace, so rest assured God knows better what is right or wrong for us. We should accept his decision with / without any qualm.

#### 2. There is one God

Guru Nanak Dev Ji remarked "I am neither Hindu nor Muslim, I am a follower of God". In Sikh religion, God is both with attributes and without being omnipresent, shapeless, timeless and invisible.

#### 3. Goodwill for all - Sarbat Daa Bhala

Guru Nanak Dev Ji passed the message of universal brotherhood. He said that religion is not merely consistence of words but actually looks at all men and women equally. In our prayer, we say this line towards the end of our daily Ardas, "Lord make everyone in the world prosper and be in peace".

#### 4. To Speak the Truth (Sach Sunaisi Sach Kee Bela)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji told the Muslim Emperor that you are not King Babar but King Jabar, meaning you are a ruthless King. We should always speak the truth without any fear. The victory of truth is not dependent on ending or suppressing falsehood but in standing firmly by truth.

#### 5. Service and meditation (Sewa and Simran)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji said that no one can save anybody else. It is only Guru who guides us to safety and to be saved one has to follow the right path of Sewa and Simran. The concept of Sewa underlies the community kitchen or langar that Guru Nanak Dev Ji established.

#### 6. The Three principles of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

(A.) Vand Chhako: (sharing with other, helping those with less who are in need.)

(B.) Kirat Karo: (earning / making a honest living without exploitation or fraud)

(C.) Naam Japo: (chanting the Holy name and thus remembering God at all times)

#### 7. Shun Five Evils

Guru Nanak Dev Ji asked his followers to shun five evils - 'Kaam', 'Krodh', 'Lobh', 'Moh' & 'Hankaar' (Lust, Anger, Greed, Attachment & Ego) as these lead to illusion.

#### 8. Importance of Guru (Teacher)

Guru Nanak Dev Ji placed a great emphasis on Guru in our life. Solution occurs not from pilgrimage or rites etc. but through heart, spirit and soul. Guru, according to him, is the voice of God, the true source of knowledge and salvation.

#### (9) No Discrimination

Advocating for egalitarian principles, Guru Nanak Dev Ji strongly condemned against all artificially created divisions and discrimination both in word and deed.

#### (10) Against Rituals / Superstitions

Guru Nanak Dev Ji preached against superstitions, false, ritual worship of demi-gods and goddesses. He stressed there is only one God who is shapeless, timeless, invisible and omnipresent.

Guru Nanak Dev Ji did not differentiate between men or women disciples and gave both of them an equal status. He said, "From woman man is born; within woman man is conceived, to woman he is engaged and married. Woman becomes his friend and through woman the future generations come. When his woman dies, he seeks another woman; to woman he is bound. So why call her bad? From her, kings are born, from woman, woman is born; without woman, there would be no one at all.

At the time of his departure from the world, he ordered his followers to follow second Guru, Shri Guru Angad Dev Ji. Through his teachings, he had become extremely popular among both, Hindus and Muslims. Both communities claimed Guru Nanak to be one of their own. When Guru Nanak Dev Ji approached his final days, a debate between Hindus and Muslims arose as to who should be given the honor to perform his last rites. While Hindus and his ardent followers Sikhs wanted him to be cremated, Muslims wanted him to be buried as per their custom. Since they could not find an amicable solution, they asked Guru Nanak himself what needs to be done to his mortal remains. Guru Nanak Dev Ji asked them to bring flowers. He asked Hindus and ardent Sikhs to place their flowers on opposite sides of his body. He said the honor of performing last rites will go to the party, whose flowers remain fresh for a night. When Guru Nanak Dev Ji breathed his last in 1539 CE at Kartarpur, now in Pakistan, the religious communities followed his instruction. However, the biggest surprise was that Guru Nanak Dev Ji's mortal remains had disappeared and all they could see in place of his body were fresh flowers.

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# Français

## De violents affrontements perturbent des mariages gais

De violents affrontements ont éclaté dimanche à Sinkor, dans la banlieue de Monrovia, entre des habitants du quartier et des homosexuels dont la réception a été perturbée. La réception aurait été organisée pour célébrer des mariages de 20 couples homosexuels.

Une foule en colère s'est réunie autour de la résidence Allen à Cheeseman Avenue sur la rue 16, Sinkor, où l'événement avait lieu. Elle a assiégé les lieux et perturbé la cérémonie des gay dimanche.

Au Libéria, les pratiques homosexuelles ne sont pas légales et la grande majorité de la population dominée par des croyants chrétiens et musulmans s'irrite contre la campagne de certaines personnes dans certains milieux pour la légalisation du mariage entre personnes



Scene of the violence in Sinkor

de même sexe.

Bien que l'acte ne soit ni banni ni légalisé, des personnes continuent à se livrer à la pratique homosexuelle à leurs propres risques.

Selon nos témoins, certains

gais étaient vêtus de « robes de mariée ». Dans leur fuite dans la rue, ils ont attiré l'attention des habitants du quartier. Les couples homosexuels qui ont tenté de résister auraient été expulsés de force de l'enceinte Allen.

Il se peut que les autorités étatiques fussent informées de la cérémonie, à en juger par la présence des éléments des forces de sécurité dans les locaux pour protéger les homosexuels.

Les affrontements n'ont heureusement fait aucune perte en vie humaine, mais il paraît que quelqu'un aurait perdu une dent. La foule en colère aurait démolie la porte métallique pour s'introduire

dans l'enceinte de l'immeuble.

Selon nos sources, ce n'est pas la première fois que des mariages gais se tiennent dans ces locaux. En novembre 2018, un mariage similaire aurait eu lieu dans le même bâtiment, qui aurait également été perturbé par des habitants du quartier après avoir reçu les informations, selon nos sources. On se souvient que pendant le régime de l'ancienne Présidente Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, la foule avait attaqué M. Archie Ponpon, défenseur des droits des homosexuels lors de l'un de ses plaidoyers à Monrovia.

Les agents des forces de l'ordre présents sur les lieux se sont refusés à tout commentaire, comme quoi la tension était encore élevée.

La police n'a fait état d'aucune arrestation dans le cadre de l'incident.

Les habitants de la Rue 16 demandent au gouvernement de veiller à ce que les personnes impliquées publiquement dans la pratique homosexuelle soient arrêtées et poursuivies en justice parce que l'acte est

## Le nouveau Gouverneur de la CBL, qui est-il, et qu'est-ce qu'on attend de lui?

Le Président George Weah a nommé M. Jolue Aloysius Tarlue à la tête de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), en tant que nouveau gouverneur exécutif, en remplacement de M. Nathaniel Patray.

La nomination surprise faite vendredi 8 novembre a suscité des réactions mitigées parmi les Libériens, tant dans le pays qu'à l'étranger, certains remettant en question sa qualification pour

diriger la banque en difficulté, tandis que d'autres pensent qu'il n'a pas besoin d'être un expert en finances pour diriger la Banque Centrale du Libéria.

Avant sa nomination, Tarlue était président de la Commission de réglementation de l'électricité du Libéria (LERC).

S'il est confirmé par le Sénat libérien, M. Tarlue sera confronté à une tâche non moins aisée qui consistera à

tenter de relancer une économie en perfusion et frappée de plein fouet par une inflation à deux chiffres.

En fait, Tarlue sera responsable de surveiller l'évolution de l'inflation, de veiller à ce que la situation actuelle ne mette pas à mal l'ensemble du système bancaire du pays et de veiller à ce que les banques commerciales locales ne se détériorent pas en raison de manque de liquidité.

Il sera également confronté au débat concernant l'impression d'une nouvelle monnaie qui, selon certains, pourrait avoir un impact positif dans l'immédiat ou à court terme, mais avec des conséquences fâcheuses à long terme.

Une fois confirmé par le Sénat libérien en tant que responsable de la Banque centrale du Libéria, Tarlue assumera une responsabilité très importante, car la CBL est au cœur du système financier du Libéria.

C'est le lieu de rappeler que le poste de gouverneur de la Banque Centrale du Libéria, après la démission de l'ancien gouverneur, n'a pas fait l'objet de demande

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d'offre. Il est donc difficile de déterminer avec précision ce que le gouvernement attend du nouveau gouverneur ou les qualifications requises pour le candidat retenu.

Cependant, dans un communiqué, le gouvernement a déclaré que M. Tarlue devrait diriger une équipe d'autres gouverneurs dans le cadre de la restructuration de la Banque centrale du Libéria afin de relancer l'économie qui est aujourd'hui littéralement asphyxiée.

Tarlue n'a aucune formation en économie, un point clé que la plupart de ses critiques ont souligné après l'annonce de sa nomination vendredi par le président Weah et la publication de son Curriculum Vitae sur le site Web de The Executive Mansion.

Mais il possède une vaste liste d'institutions financières et de banques avec lesquelles il a travaillé aux États-Unis, dont J.P. Morgan Chase, BNY Mellon N.A., Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch et HSBC Bank N.A. parmi de nombreux autres établissements financiers.

Selon son curriculum vitae, M. Tarlue est titulaire d'un MPA (spécialisé en politiques publiques) de l'Université de Kean, dans le New Jersey (États-Unis) et d'un BA en sciences politiques de l'Université King de Bristol, au Tennessee (États-Unis).

Compte tenu de son expertise en matière de contrôle de qualité qui, selon le rapport de Kroll, a fait défaut, il pourrait jouer un rôle clé dans le processus de restructuration de la Banque Centrale.



Mr. Tarlue: New CBL boss



# Français

## Le vice-président de la chambre basse se lance à la conquête des sénatoriales

Le député Prince K. Moye, vice-président de la chambre des représentants, fait désormais partie des personnes qui visent le siège sénatorial du comté de Bong qui sera mis en jeu lors des élections sénatoriales spéciales de 2020 qui, selon lui, sont un référendum dans son comté. Le numéro deux de la chambre des représentants estime que la prochaine élection sénatoriale dans son comté sera un référendum qui soit divisera ou unira les habitants de cette localité selon le choix qu'auront fait les électeurs. Selon lui les électeurs auront le choix entre un chef qui soit éloquent et un chef qui pose des actes concrets en matière de développement. Il s'est dit convaincu que

des tensions politiques comme à l'accoutumée au Libéria.

Il a ainsi exhorté les électeurs à examiner minutieusement « les deux noms du comté ». Les observateurs politiques estiment que, pour ce qui concerne les prochaines sénatoriales, deux noms bien connus retiennent l'attention des populations dans ce comté. Il s'agit du vice-président de la chambre basse Prince K. Moye et du sénateur sortant Henry Yallah.

Le député Moye reconnaît que la sénatoriale dans le comté sera rude et n'est gagnée d'avance pour aucun des aspirants.

Au cours d'un entretien avec un groupe de journalistes à Tumutu, dans le district de



suite aux élections, les skimmers se verront forcés de quitter la scène et seront remplacés par des dirigeants qui ont construit leur carrière politique au fil de leur parcours.

Le représentant Moye, qui est député du district n° 2 du comté de Bong, a indiqué que seuls ceux qui souhaitent voir des personnes au passé politique « mutilé » (les politiciens qui sautent de parti en parti et parcourent le comté pour défendre leurs intérêts égoïstes) voteront des personnes de ce genre. Les prochaines élections sénatoriales constitueront d'après lui un référendum qui, soit donnera un nouveau visage au pays ou suscitera

Salala, comté de LowerBong, à l'issue d'une réunion avec des dirigeants de la communauté musulmane de l'ensemble du district, le vice-président a demandé aux musulmans de prier pour lui pour qu'il puisse continuer ses consultations dans le comté, tout en leur promettant de les informer des résultats des discussions qu'il aura eues avec tous les fils et filles du comté.

Le Libéria se prépare pour les élections sénatoriales de mi-mandat l'année prochaine et beaucoup de députés et de sénateurs ont déjà fait part de leur intention de se porter candidats.

## COMMENTAIRE

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

## L'Amérique en guerre contre les technologies chinoises

NEW YORK - La pire décision de politique étrangère prise par les États-Unis au cours de la dernière génération - et peut-être pour longtemps encore - aura été la « guerre de choix » lancée contre l'Irak en 2003, prétendument destinée à éliminer des armes de destruction massive qui en fin de compte n'existaient pas. La nécessité de comprendre la logique défaillante derrière cette décision désastreuse n'a jamais été aussi importante qu'aujourd'hui, dans la mesure où cette logique est à nouveau appliquée pour justifier actuellement une politique américaine tout aussi malavisée.

La décision d'envahir l'Irak a été fondée sur le raisonnement du vice-président américain de l'époque, Richard Cheney, selon lequel même si le risque de voir des ADM tomber entre les mains de terroristes était infime - disons un risque de 1 % - nous devons agir comme si un tel scénario allait se produire à coup sûr.

Un tel raisonnement est voué à engendrer de mauvaises décisions. Or, les États-Unis et certains de leurs alliés appliquent aujourd'hui à nouveau la doctrine Cheney pour s'en prendre aux technologies chinoises. Le gouvernement américain considère que puisqu'il est impossible de savoir avec certitude si les technologies chinoises sont sûres, nous devons agir comme si elles étaient incontestablement dangereuses, et par conséquent les bannir.

Un processus décisionnel digne de ce nom applique des estimations de probabilité à différentes actions alternatives. Il y a une génération, les dirigeants américains auraient considéré non seulement le (prétendu) risque de 1 % de voir des ADM finir entre les mains de terroristes, mais également le risque de 99 % de déclencher une guerre fondée sur des hypothèses défaillantes. En se concentrant uniquement sur le risque de 1 %, Cheney (et beaucoup d'autres) ont détourné l'attention du public de la probabilité bien supérieure de voir la guerre en Irak manquer de justification, ainsi que de la voir gravement déstabiliser le Moyen-Orient et la politique mondiale.

Le problème de la doctrine Cheney, c'est non seulement qu'elle dicte la prise de mesures fondées sur des risques faibles, sans considérer les coûts potentiellement très élevés, mais également qu'elle incite les décideurs politiques à alimenter les peurs à des fins ultérieures.

C'est ce que font à nouveau aujourd'hui les dirigeants américains, qui créent la panique autour des technologies chinoises en pointant et en exagérant des risques minimes. Illustration la plus révélatrice (parmi tant d'autres), le gouvernement américain s'attaque à la société de haut débit sans fil Huawei. L'Amérique ferme ses marchés à l'entreprise, et ne ménage pas ses efforts pour anéantir les activités de Huawei à travers le monde. Ainsi, comme en Irak, les États-Unis pourraient bien engendrer un désastre géopolitique sans véritable justification.

Je me suis intéressé aux avancées technologiques et activités de Huawei dans les pays en voie de développement. Je pense que la 5G et autres technologies numériques constituent la promesse d'une progression majeure sur la voie de l'éradication de la pauvreté et de l'accomplissement d'autres ODD. J'ai également échangé avec d'autres sociétés de télécommunication, et encouragé l'industrie à intensifier ses efforts en direction des ODD. Après avoir rédigé (sans aucune rémunération) la courte préface d'un rapport de Huawei sur le sujet, et avoir essuyé les critiques des rivaux de la Chine, j'ai demandé à plusieurs dirigeants du secteur et décideurs gouvernementaux de m'éclairer sur les activités prétendument malveillantes de Huawei. À maintes reprises, mes interlocuteurs m'ont répondu que Huawei ne se comportait pas différemment des autres leaders d'industrie reconnus.

Or, le gouvernement américain affirme que les équipements 5G de Huawei pourraient menacer la sécurité mondiale. Une porte dérobée (ou « backdoor ») dissimulée dans les matériels et logiciels de Huawei pourrait, selon les dirigeants américains, permettre au gouvernement chinois de surveiller le monde entier. En effet, soulignent ces officiels américains, le droit appliqué en Chine impose aux entreprises chinoises de coopérer avec le gouvernement aux fins de la sécurité nationale.

La réalité des faits est la suivante. Les équipements 5G de Huawei allient faibles coûts et qualité élevée, actuellement bien en avance sur de nombreux concurrents, et sont d'ores et déjà en cours de déploiement. Les performances supérieures de ces équipements résultent de plusieurs années de dépenses substantielles dans la recherche et développement, les économies d'échelle, et l'apprentissage par la pratique sur les places de marché numériques chinoises. Compte tenu de l'importance des technologies pour leur propre développement durable, les économies à faible revenu du monde entier auraient tort de refuser un tel déploiement précoce de la 5G.

Or, malgré l'absence de preuves quant aux fameuses backdoors, l'Amérique somme le monde de garder ses distances avec Huawei. Les allégations américaines restent vagues. Tel que l'a formulé le commissaire fédéral américain aux communications, « L'État qui possèdera la 5G possèdera également l'innovation, et fixera la norme pour le reste du monde. Or, en l'état actuel des choses, ce pays ne sera probablement pas les États-Unis ». De leur côté, d'autres pays en premier lieu desquels le Royaume-Uni n'ont détecté aucune backdoor dans les matériels et logiciels de Huawei. Et même si des portes dérobées étaient découvertes plus tard, il serait certainement possible de les refermer.

Le débat autour de Huawei fait rage en Allemagne, auprès de laquelle le gouvernement américain menace de réduire la coopération en matière de renseignement si les autorités allemandes ne renoncent pas à la technologie 5G de Huawei. Peut-être sous la pression américaine, le chef du renseignement allemand a récemment formulé une déclaration en phase avec la doctrine Cheney : « Les infrastructures ne constituent pas un domaine adapté à un groupe auquel nous ne pouvons faire totalement confiance », sans pour autant apporter les preuves d'actes répréhensibles spécifiques. La chancelière Angela Merkel, en revanche, lutte en coulisses pour maintenir le marché ouvert à Huawei.

Constat à la fois ironique et prévisible, les plaintes américaines reflètent en partie les propres activités de surveillance conduites par les États-Unis au niveau national ainsi qu'à l'étranger. Les équipements chinois pourraient ainsi compliquer les activités secrètes de surveillance menées par le gouvernement américain. Or, toute surveillance illicite de la part d'un gouvernement quel qu'il soit doit cesser. Un contrôle indépendant mené par les Nations Unies pour lutter contre ce type d'activités doit faire partie intégrante du système mondial des télécommunications. En somme, nous devons opter pour des garde-fous diplomatiques et institutionnels, pas pour une guerre technologique.

Dans le domaine des affaires internationales, comme dans beaucoup d'autres, le fait d'attiser les peurs et de les exploiter, plutôt que d'agir en fonction d'éléments de preuve, constitue la voie du désastre. Tenons-nous en à la rationalité, aux faits et aux règles, car tel est le mode d'action le plus sûr. Créons par ailleurs des mécanismes de contrôle indépendants chargés d'atténuer la menace d'un pays qui userait des réseaux mondiaux à des fins de surveillance ou de cyberguerre contre d'autres États. Ainsi le monde pourra-t-il s'atteler à la tâche urgente d'une pleine exploitation des technologies numériques innovantes, pour le bien du monde entier.

Articles traduits

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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## Former Energy Minister cautions charity group

Former Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Dr. Eugene Shannon has challenged officials of a leading Liberian Charity, Crowd 50 to make integrity, selflessness and love for country and organization the cornerstone of their administration.

Dr. Shannon said leaders of Crowd 50 must always be willing to listen, serve with distinction and above all put service to the people above personal interests.

The former lands and Mines Minister spoke on Sunday in Paynesville, when he served as keynote speaker and installing officer for the newly elected officials of Crowd 50.

Dr. Shannon said with the caliber of people in the organization and those leading them, he is confident they would perform their duties with diligence, integrity and accountability.

Those installed are Varmunyah Sheriff, President; PewuSubah, Vice President;

Melvin Crawford, Secretary General and Zeze Reed, Treasurer.

In his inaugural speech, the President of Crowd 50, Varmunyah Sheriff said his administration will uphold the principles of unity and oneness, selflessness and service to the its membership

and the larger Liberian community.

Mr. Sheriff disclosed that his administration will embark on an ambitious plan to provide scholarships to deserving schools as well as engage in other charity work that will improve the lives of ordinary Liberians.



## Liberia, China reaffirms bilateral relationship

A visiting delegation of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China has, together with the Liberian Government, reconfirmed unwavering commitment to fruitful diplomatic relations underpinned by the One-China Policy.

The four-man delegation, headed by Mr. Wu Weihua, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met with the Acting Chair of the Cabinet and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Mr. Nathaniel F. McGill, and with an array of Government officials Monday at the Cecil Dennis Auditorium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Welcoming the delegation, Mr. McGill recounted a number of development interventions that China has

made in Liberia's recovery and development efforts. -Press release

He said China's continued assistance to Liberia over the years, coupled with several new projects in the pipeline, manifests the strength and reliability of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Minister McGill lauded the Chinese government for always coming to the call of Liberia in critical times, including the days of the deadly Ebola outbreak at which time China was one of the first few countries that stood by Liberia.

He told the delegation that President Weah was glad that discussions held with his counterpart, President Xi Jinping, have been bearing fruits to the mutual benefit of

the peoples of Liberia and China.

The Acting Chair of the cabinet further reiterated Liberia's commitment to One-China Policy, which according to him, is sacrosanct and unbending, constituting the bulwark of Liberia's relations with the socialist republic.

He expounded on Liberia's vast investment opportunities and called on the delegation to encourage Chinese businesspeople and investors to take advantage of the investment potentials and the bustling relations subsisting between the two countries.

The head of the delegation, His Excellency Wu Weihua, said he and his delegation were elated by the warm reception of the Government and people of Liberia.

He particularly praised President Weah for maintaining a stable democratic space and peace in the absence of the international stabilization force, UNMIL. He expressed delight over the implementation of the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and said China was ready to help Liberia achieve important deliverables of the Agenda.

Mr. Wu said he and the National People Congress delegation were in the country to strengthen relations with the National Legislature and to get a firsthand appreciation of

He urged his colleagues to remain their brothers' keepers and must always lend their support to the administration as it endeavors to raise the profile of the organization to new heights.

He thanked his colleagues for the high level of cooperation and urged them to continue their contribution to projects that have been earmarked by the organization.

In remarks, ALP Political leader, Benoni Urey thanked Mr. Sheriff for raising the organization from the doldrums after a period of inactivity. Mr. Urey said Liberia is going through hard times and

its incumbent upon us as Liberians to take concrete steps to correct the false starts and slip-ups that have brought us this far.

Mr. Urey said he feels for the ordinary people who cannot afford or are unsure of what lies ahead in these trying times. "And only us Liberians can do it" in order to save our country from slipping deeper and bring relief to our people.

Crowd 50, is a charity organization established in 1988 by prominent Liberians from various professional backgrounds, who were born in the 1950's to render humanitarian service to Liberia.

## Lawmaker on government's back

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Ex-ruling Unity Party (UP) Montserrado County Electoral District #3 Rep. Ceebee C. D. Barshell is requesting the President George Manneh Weah's government to redefine the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development and give the real meaning of the government agenda.

Mr. Barshell says it is expedient for the government to give the real definition of its development agenda so that citizens can understand how the government intends to benefit the people of the country.

The UP lawmaker made the call recently in his district during the dedication of a bridge constructed in Neezoe Community in Paynesville.

He cautions the government not to use the Pro-Poor Agenda to exploit the citizenry as the country experiences serious economic problem created by the very government.

Rep. Barshell believes that the government's Pro-Poor Agenda should also be used to improve the lives of the Liberian people who voted the

government to power.

He claims that the government's agenda is intended to impose more taxes on ordinary Liberians who want to clear their goods from the premises of the National Port Authority (NPA).

Meanwhile, Rep. Barshell praises residents of Neezoe Community for their level of cooperation extended him which made it possible for the completion and dedication of the bridge.

He promises to work along with the people of the district in providing essential development that would change their standard of living and lift them out of poverty.

The lawmaker who puts the cost of the bridge project at about US\$2,000, discloses that the project extended to part of Montserrado County Electoral District #2 for use by everyone.

He adds that prior to his election as representative of the district, he contributed to educational, health, and basic social services for the growth and development of the people of the area. He says he continues the support even after being elected.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



progress being made in Liberia.

Acknowledging the enormity of challenges facing Liberia, the Chinese congressman averred that his country remains committed to helping the Weah-led administration deliver on its promises to the people.

He said the relevant competent departments of both Chinese and Liberian governments will have to work together to explore and undertaken development

programs particularly in the areas of agriculture, health and education.

Other members of the Chinese congressional delegation included RenJianhua, Head of Discipline Inspection and Supervision Group; Mr. Liu Zhenwui, Vice Chairperson of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; Mr. Liu Qian, Vice Chairperson of Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee.

# Judges warned of political interference

By Winston W. Parley

Judges here have been warned to be mindful of political or any other personal interferences that will influence their judicial decisions.

Though, Judge Sammy did not give a specific example of incidences where political or personal interventions have influence a judge's decision. But in most cases the implementation of rulings by judges are difficult to execute particularly land dispute cases.

However, giving a charge on Monday November 11, 2019 during the opening of the Circuit Courts "A," "B," "C," and "D" at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia, Judge Nancy Finda Sammy cautioned local judges not to yield to pressure, coercion or allow the courts to be used as a platform by politicians to promote themselves.

She said for democracy to flourish in the country, there has to be a strong judiciary, saying to have a strong judiciary, judicial actors must act in conformity with the constitutional and statutory laws of the country.

Judge Sammy further requested that judges take judicial notice of the fact that some politicians might try to use the courts as platforms to

promote themselves by interfering in judicial decisions.

"Please do not allow any politician or any other person to interfere in judicial decisions you will make," she says.

Meanwhile, the judge also

litigants who are involved in giving money to their lawyers allegedly intended for judges, cannot directly interact with the judges to ascertain whether the assertions made by the lawyers are true; most (judges) often tend to believe the false representations

surveys to determine how judges and the Judiciary are corrupt.

Judge Sammy said results from her survey revealed that the public or party litigants claimed "lawyers usually request money from their clients, intimating to those clients that they need money

to give to judges as a prerequisite for judges to assign a case, hear it, and make ruling in their favor."

She said this conduct by some lawyers is casting negative aspersion on the courts, judges and the entire judiciary in its entirety.



had some strong words for lawyers who she says allegedly takes bribe from judges on behalf of clients. She told the unnamed lawyers to stop soliciting bribes from clients for judges to influence their decisions in said client's favor.

"My people, because party

made to them by their lawyers," Judge Sammy notes.

According to Judge Sammy, there are constant negative public perceptions and allegations of corruption levied against judges and the judiciary which have driven her to independently conduct

## LRRRC frowns on Sierra Leonean refugees

The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) says its attention has been drawn to the call by some former Sierra Leonean refugees requesting the Commission and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) to resettle them in a Third Country of Asylum.

In a press release issued over the weekend, LRRRC states that there are no Sierra Leonean refugees in the borders of Liberia.

According to the release, in 2008 the cessation clause for Sierra Leonean refugees was invoked by the international community, following the return of peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

The release says the just-ended refugee status of Sierra Leonean refugees residing in Liberia, a small group of 375 Sierra Leoneans was exempted from cessation with no promise of resettlement to a third country.

The release reveals that the Government of Liberia provided them continued refugee status.

In 2016, the release notes that the UNHCR Headquarters issued a circular informing its offices that solutions be found for all refugees in the sub-region from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The release says it was indicated in 2016 that all refugees in the sub-region were no longer to receive international protection and assistance from UNHCR given the prevailing improved political situation in these countries.

LRRRC recalls that the circular also informed countries hosting these refugees to work with the concerned population for local integration and voluntary repatriation solutions.

In 2016 - 2017, the release continues that the Government of Liberia Eligibility Committee comprising the Ministries of

Justice, Internal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Finance and Development Planning, LRRRC and the UNHCR reviewed all claims made by Sierra Leonean refugees in 2008/2009.

120 claims were reviewed by the Government of Liberia Eligibility Committee and were determined not to be in continued need of international protection following successive democratic elections and the institution of the rule of law in Sierra Leone since 2008.

The release maintains that LRRRC in collaboration with UNHCR provided livelihood grants to those who submitted business plans as local integration option.

85 family heads were provided livelihoods assistance from the UNHCR which constituted 295 individuals and signed appropriate documentation. It was understood that this was to support to aid self-reliance.

According to the LRRRC release, the former Sierra Leonean refugees are demanding a reinstatement of their refugee status and resettlement to a third country.

"These two demands cannot be fulfilled by the Government and UNHCR who have made it clear that resettlement is not a right and is not available to these demonstrating Sierra Leoneans. They are no longer refugees," the LRRRC says.

Meanwhile the Commission urges the demonstrating Sierra Leoneans to desist from this public display of disaffection and take steps to integrate into this beautiful country that has provided them with protection to date and is willing to integrate them, if they so wish.

"As they remain citizens of Sierra Leone they may also return home if they so wish. LRRRC further advises the group to respect the laws of Liberia, especially as it relates to permission to carry out demonstrations," it says.

Press release

## India celebrates Life & Teachings of Guru Nanak Ji

By Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jeety),

Honorary Consul General of India in Liberia

Guru Nanak Dev Ji, is the founder of Sikhism in India and 1st Guru (Teacher) of the religion.

Born 550 years ago today, 12 November in a small village now in Pakistan called RaiBhoi Ki Talwandi, young Nanak was a very unusual child; he never cried, not even when he was hungry. He always had a

radiant smile on his face, and did not grow up like other children of his age.

His father's name was Mehta Kalu and his mother's name was Mata Tripta with an elder sister, BebeNanki, five years older than him. His father worked as a 'Patwari' (Accountant) responsible for the administration of agriculture and crop revenue

in the village of Talwandi. His parents were both Hindu Khatris. But as a young child, Nanak astounded many with his intelligence and his inclinations towards divine and philosophical topics.

As a ritual among Hindus, his father Mehta Kalu sent for his family priest (Pandit) Hardial and asked him to draw up the child's 'Janampatri' or horoscope, but before proceeding to draw up the 'Janampatri', the father wanted to have a close look at the child. Mata Tripta had some hesitation; however, his request was granted.

On seeing young Nanak Dev Ji, the priest bowed before him and touched his feet after which he congratulated Mr. Mehta Kalu and told him he was so a very fortunate Dad to have such a son.

"This child will be a great person. He will be loved and respected, worshiped by Hindus and Muslims alike. His name and fame will spread over many lands", said Priest Hardial. Both parents felt elated upon hearing this. Read full story on pages 6 & 7.



Visit: [www.thenewdawnliberia.com](http://www.thenewdawnliberia.com)

## Wenger rejects link to Bayern Munich manager role



**A**rsene Wenger revealed he will not take over as Bayern Munich head coach despite confirming he was approached by the Bundesliga giants.

Bayern sacked Niko Kovac after a 5-1 loss to Eintracht Frankfurt earlier this month and former Arsenal manager Wenger was linked with a move to the Allianz Arena.

However, the 70-year-old - who has been out of management since leaving Arsenal in May last year - ruled himself out of taking

over at Bundesliga champions Bayern.

"I'm out of this. First of all, I never was a candidate. I have been approached and I'm not in the running for the job," Wenger told beIN Sports. "I'm not a candidate for the job."

Asked if that meant he was done with management, Wenger said: "No, not necessarily."

Hansi Flick has led Bayern to wins over Olympiacos in the Champions League and Borussia Dortmund in the Klassiker as interim coach.

Bayern are third in the

Bundesliga, four points behind leaders Borussia Monchengladbach, after their 4-0 rout of rivals Dortmund.

While Wenger won't be heading to the German giants, the Gunners legend has previously hinted at his desire to get back into management.

"Coaching was my whole life and now everybody who has coached will tell you the same," he said.

"You miss the intensity. Some things you miss big and some things you don't miss. I enjoyed as well things that I don't miss too much but on the other hand, winning a football game, preparing a team for a game, the satisfaction and shared emotions, it is something that you miss.

"So of course, yes. I was responsible at 33 years of age and I coached until 69 without interruption at the top level. That is 36 years without stopping, you know.

"On the other hand, even if I miss it, getting out of that pressure for a year was not too bad for me. People who know me well say I'm more relaxed - it's true!"

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## Liverpool extend lead at the top

**P**ep Guardiola approached the referee with a parting shot: "Thank you so much."

The Manchester City manager's comment in earshot of the onfield camera was dripping with disdain.

Regardless of later assurances to the media - "it was not sarcastic" - there was no doubting his irritation toward Michael



Oliver after the 3-1 loss to Liverpool on Sunday.

Refereeing has been in Guardiola's sights, especially after the introduction of VAR. And particularly after this third loss in 12 matches of the title defense left City nine points behind Premier League leader Liverpool in fourth place.

It could all be a smokescreen for a tilt at a third successive title fading,

with 26 games still to play and Liverpool well placed to end a three-decade drought by sitting eight points ahead of Leicester and Chelsea.

What got Guardiola so worked up? City not being awarded a penalty just before Liverpool raced up the other end and scored.

"Ask to Mike Riley and the big bosses about that," Guardiola said, citing the league's head of refereeing.

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