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Double blow for CDC



The late Rep. Sloh



The late Rep. Youngblood

Rep. Sloh, now Munah Pelham-Youngblood



Blatant lie

-Commerce Minister Tarpeh replies Jemima Wolokollie

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Continental News

'Killing field' had 180 bodies in Burkina Faso

At least 180 bodies have been found in mass graves in northern Burkina Faso where soldiers are fighting jihadists, a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report says. "Available evidence suggests government forces were involved in mass extrajudicial executions," HRW says.

Over seven months, the bodies had been dumped near the town of Djibo in groups of up to 20, before being buried by local residents.

Burkina Faso's defence minister suggested militants might be to blame. "It is difficult for the population to distinguish between armed terrorist groups and the defence and security forces," Chérif Moumina Sy told the campaign group in response to the findings.

But the minister said the government would investigate the allegations.

'Killing field'

Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in West Africa, has been fighting Islamist insurgents with ties to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group since 2016.

Corinne Dufka, Sahel director at HRW, said Djibo had been turned into a "killing field". The campaign group said the government should seek assistance from the UN and others to conduct proper exhumations, return the remains to families and hold those responsible to account.

The men had been found shot dead under bridges, in fields and along major roads within a 5km (three-mile) radius of Djibo between

November 2019 and June 2020, HRW said. HRW researchers interviewed 23 people in the town - including farmers, traders, herders, civil servants, community leaders and aid workers - who believed the security forces had detained the men as suspected members or supporters of Islamist militant groups. "So many of the dead were blindfolded, had their hands tied up... and were shot in the head," one community

leader told HRW. "The bodies I saw appeared in the morning... dumped at night on the outskirts of Djibo, a town under the control of the army and in the middle of a curfew imposed and patrolled by the army." Residents said the bodies they found and later buried had not turned up on days when they had been aware of clashes or battles taking place between the security forces and militants.

"At night, so many times I'd hear the sound of vehicles and then, bam! bam! bam! And the next morning we'd see or hear of bodies found in this place or that," a farmer told HRW.

According to HRW, an ethnic dynamic underscores the violence in the north where jihadist groups largely recruit from the nomadic Peul

or Fulani communities.

Their attacks have primarily targeted farming groups including the Mossi, Foulse, and Gourmantche.

Most of those found dead near Djibo were Peul, who are perceived to support the armed Islamists, the HRW report says. The security crisis in the Sahel began when an alliance of separatists and Islamist militants took over northern Mali in 2012. France then launched a military intervention against them.

Although a peace deal was signed in 2015, it was never fully implemented.

New armed groups have since emerged and expanded to central Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, including groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group (IS). BBC



HRW urged the government to uncover who had turned Djibo into a "killing field"

Kenyan schools told to refund 2020 fees

Kenya's education minister has said schools should either refund parents the school fees paid for this academic year or agree to put it towards next year.

George Magoha was responding to concerns raised after his announcement on Tuesday that primary and secondary

schools would not reopen until 2021 as coronavirus cases in the country were rising.

The ministry said all students would repeat a year as schools had closed in mid-March, three months after the school calendar had begun.

Final year exams, usually taken in October and November, were also cancelled.

Parents had expressed concern over school fees paid for this year.

Others said they were paying for online classes yet their children would have to repeat them next year.

But the country's parents' association said the online classes were a good way to keep the students busy. BBC

Ethiopia 'taking advantage of heavy rains'

Ethiopia will go on and fill its mega dam on the Nile, taking advantage of the heavy rain season, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has said.

The filling will continue despite ongoing talks between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt to resolve the long-running dispute on the issue.

Ethiopia has been insisting that the dam will continue to be filled as scheduled from this month, despite concerns raised by Egypt and Sudan that this will lead to a drastic reduction of water downstream.

The three countries have been taking part in long-running talks to try reach an



"If Ethiopia doesn't fill the dam, it means Ethiopia has agreed to demolish the dam," the AFP news agency quoted the prime minister as saying.

"On other points we can reach an agreement slowly over time, but for the filling of the dam we can reach and sign an agreement this year," he said.

agreement that includes how the dam would be operated.

The Nile provides about 90% of Egypt's water needs and fears that reduction of the water could affect the livelihoods of its people.

Ethiopia is counting on the dam to produce electricity to power its manufacturing and industrial dreams. BBC



Education Minister George Magoha said schools would reopen in 2021

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EDITORIAL

Rep. Snowe wants to cause by-election

BOMI COUNTY DISTRICT#2 Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe, Jr., like many of his colleagues in the House of Representatives, seems to be gearing up to vie for the senate in December, a move that could impose additional financial strains on government to conduct by-elections in many parts of the country.

ALREADY, GOVERNMENT IS still struggling to fund the pending midterm senatorial election in all 15 counties, ahead of Presidential and Representatives elections in 2023.

BUT SNOWE HAS been petitioned by former Bomi County senator LahaiGbabye Lansana to contest in the December 08 midterm senatorial election despite being a current sitting lawmaker for the county.

IF HE STEPPED into the race, automatically a vacant seat would be created in Bomi County district#2 should he win hence, a need for by-election to refill such seat in an economy that is already suffocating from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMAGINE IF FIVE incumbent representatives or more contested in the in midterm senatorial election; how many vacant seats that would need to be refilled before the 2023 elections and the cost associated.

THIS WOULD BE happening in the face of our crippling health sector that needs all of the support to adequately serve the country's population. Equally so, the education sector is beset by challenges, ranging from lack of trained teachers, laboratories and libraries, among others.

IF GOVERNMENT WOULD be constrained to spend millions of dollars to conduct by-elections while other areas that are as well important face neglect then we are making no progress as a people.

SNOWE AND OTHER sitting lawmakers to join him soon should reconsider their decision and remain where they are to serve their people rather than abandoning their districts to seek greener pasture at the expense of the economy.

THIS PAPER DOES not in any way seek to disenfranchise any Liberian citizen from exercising his or her rights under the Constitution, but when duly elected lawmakers already representing their people would abandon them for greener pasture, then it is no longer public service. We call such behavior sheer greed and selfishness.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS SHOULD conduct themselves in ways that would earn them trust from the people rather than wanting all for themselves and not being appreciative for where God has lifted them.

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COMMENTARY

BY Michael Ferrari Parag
Khanna & Spencer Wells

How to Live with the Pandemic

The arrival of summer in the Northern Hemisphere has brought a flurry of speculation that warmer and wetter weather will hold down the COVID-19 infection rate. But even if the hoped-for relationship between transmission and warm weather is valid, it may not be causal or straightforward, especially given seasonal behavior.

NEW YORK/SINGAPORE/LOMBOK, INDONESIA - The COVID-19 crisis has caused scientists, governments, and public-health experts to scramble to understand the relationship between the transmission of zoonotic diseases (those that jump from animals to humans) and environmental variability, patterns of human mobility, and commerce. In the process, it has become painfully clear how much we have yet to learn about the world around us.

But while no one can credibly predict what comes next, we can certainly be better prepared for the next phase of global life with COVID-19. In a sense, viewing the disease and its impact through multiple lenses - epidemiological, economic, political, and social - obstructs our vision. Without a systematic, holistic approach, leaders will continue to miss important pieces of the puzzle.

Such an approach should start by rejecting the misleading divide between man and nature. The term "Anthropocene" that is now applied to our age has given us a false sense of control over the environment. COVID-19 has forced us to recognize that the Anthropocene signifies a relentless feedback loop in which our behavior unleashes chain reactions that accelerate both climate change and the spread of pandemics. With no infrastructural or geopolitical boundaries between us and the natural world, neither nationalism nor protectionism can stop this process.

Related to this, we no longer have the luxury of ignoring tail risks - the low-probability but high-impact events that show up on the margin of any probability distribution. In complex systems, these faint signals are more plugged in to the whole and can have multiplicative rather than linear effects.

We witnessed this in 2008, when the subprime mortgage meltdown in the United States rapidly mutated into a global financial crisis. And we are seeing the same process at work with COVID-19, which has brought global mobility to a near-standstill and cratered much of the world economy.

Neither of these were "black swan" events, for the risk was widely known. Although we failed to leverage that foresight, the precautionary principle dictates that we implement measures to mitigate such downside risks should they emerge.

What does this mean for the crucial period ahead? The arrival of summer in the Northern Hemisphere has brought a flurry of speculation that warmer and wetter weather - above the virus's optimal range of 5-11°C - will hold down the infection rate. But even if the hoped-for relationship between transmission and warm weather is valid, it may not be causal or straightforward.

Moreover, any assessment of the coming months must consider typical seasonal behavior. Warm weather does nudge more people outdoors, but it also means more air-conditioning while indoors, mimicking conditions favorable to the virus. The data we must collect in the coming months will provide insight into how best to balance disease-limiting natural conditions with disease-enabling artificial conditions.

Everyone should keep three issues on their radar in the months ahead. First, the phased reopenings across North America, Europe, and Asia have been accompanied by social-distancing guidelines. Given the population density of major cities in these regions, warm temperatures will not eradicate the virus on their own; public-health instructions must be followed. Thus far, that has not been the case in much of the US.

Second, a feature of virulent strains such as SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is their ability to evolve rapidly. Despite favorable climatic conditions, new, more lethal strains may emerge.

Lastly, whatever happens in the next 2-3 months, winter is right around the corner. Absent an effective vaccine against the predominant strains of SARS-CoV-2, which unfortunately is at least 12-18 months away, a second and deadlier wave of infections seems certain.

Modeling the far-reaching and complicated interactions between biology, climate, and society helps us to anticipate the path the virus might take. But because so many potential scenarios lie ahead, all such models must be interpreted with caution. That is why political leaders who would use them appropriately must trust scientific authorities, rather than muzzling them or cherry-picking their findings to suit a narrow partisan agenda. No country can afford a leader who, like US President Donald Trump and his Brazilian counterpart, Jair Bolsonaro, follows his "gut."

O-PED

By Ian Buruma

Conservatives Versus Trump

US President Donald Trump's most trenchant critics are not to be found on the political left. The most effective assaults are coming from the political right, where "Never Trumpers" are openly supporting Joe Biden, the Democratic challenger in November's election.

NEW YORK - For a while now, the most interesting critiques of US President Donald Trump and Trumpism have come from the right. By right, I don't mean alt-right, radical right, evangelical right, or racist right, but true conservatives who have voted or worked for Republican presidents in the past.

These Republican "Never Trumpers" include the journalist David Frum and Peter Wehner (like Frum, a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush), and the members of the Lincoln Project, whose trenchant videos have gotten under the president's skin. Conservative columnists, such as Ross Douthat or Bret Stephens of the New York Times, or the Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin, should be included as well - and they have also been consistently more thought-provoking on Trumpism than their more progressive colleagues.

Above all, I think the anti-Trump conservatives don't moralize as much as people on the left tend to do, and there is less snobbery. Trump is pilloried constantly in the higher liberal end of American journalism for his vulgar tastes, coarse manners, and primitive grasp of the English language. But these aspects of the man, though distressing, are not the most dangerous things about him.

Conservatives, real conservatives, are usually tenacious defenders of institutions. They wish to conserve, after all. That is why they were often quicker than others to see that Trump is not a conservative at all, but a cynical destroyer of norms, conventions, and foundations. If he had any conviction at all, which is doubtful, Trump would be a revolutionary.

People on the radical left have been less effective as Trump critics, because they fail to see his unique dangers. To them, he is, at worst, the nasty, snarling face of a system they reject anyway. Trump is merely the symptom of something deeply rotten in US liberal democracy, which was always rigged in favor of the rich, the white, and the male. To some of them, Joe Biden, Trump's presumptive Democratic challenger in November's election, may be marginally more acceptable, but not in any way a solution.

There may indeed be something rotten about US-style capitalism and America's long history of racism and sexism - problems that are, alas, endemic in many societies, quite a few of them neither capitalist nor democratic. And activists should be applauded for trying to put these iniquities right. The risk is that the important questions of race and identity can easily distract attention from the particular dangers that Trump poses to the republic.

Mainstream liberals and Democrats see these dangers clearly, but they are often less effective as propagandists than people on the right. This may have something to do with the nature of liberalism itself. Liberals are by nature anti-ideological and more inclined to compromise, or at least to place their trust in reason and enlightened self-interest. When dealing with Trumpism, a well-reasoned argument is not as successful as a well-aimed body blow, especially below the belt.

Most of the Never Trump conservatives are not like the mainstream, compromising liberals. Some are highly ideological. This is true, for example, of the so-called neo-conservatives, such as William Kristol, former vice president Dan Quayle's chief-of-staff and editor of the now-defunct The Weekly Standard. His protest against Trump's populism bears a whiff of hypocrisy, given that it was Kristol who first championed the proto-Trumpian Sarah Palin as John McCain's running mate in 2008.

One reason neo-cons like Kristol hate Trump is the current president's reluctance to use military force to spread US-style democracy around the world. Kristol, like David Frum and others, was a vocal supporter of the Iraq War. And, as a defender of US-style democracy, he sees Trump as a serious threat. This combination of conservative conviction and ideological evangelism makes him a formidable street fighter against Trumpism.

The question is whether the temporary alliance between conservative Never Trumpers and liberals will outlast Trump. The leftward trend in the Democratic Party, fueled by generational, racial, and sexual aspirations, suggests that many people who will vote for Biden to get rid of Trump will not be satisfied with a "return to normal." Restoring the pre-Trump status quo is not their goal. Biden appears to realize this. He has called himself a transitional president, and not just because of his age.

Conservatives would probably resist a transition to the America envisaged by US Senator Bernie Sanders and his leftist supporters. Yet the pressure on Biden, if he should deliver us from Trump, to move in the direction of European social democracy - with nationalized health care, progressive taxation, and income redistribution - will be strong.

This could break the anti-Trump alliance apart, which might not be a bad thing. After all, even as the Democrats move to the left, the true conservatives might claw back the Republican Party from destructive zealots. Of course, this would happen only if Trump and the Republicans lost by a landslide (which could also be the only way to dislodge him from the White House).

There might be a different outcome, however, which would be even better. What is needed in the US, especially once the depression hits, is another New Deal. Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated his New Deal as a pragmatist, not as a left-wing idealist.

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OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

India's China Strategy Is Changing

Since independence, India has steadfastly sought strategic autonomy from other great powers. But China's repeated incursions along the disputed Himalayan border have left it with a stark choice: kowtow to China or align itself with a broader international coalition aiming to curb its neighbor's geopolitical ambitions.

NEW DELHI - After last month's clash in the Ladakh region's Galwan Valley killed 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese troops, the two countries are settling in for a prolonged standoff on their disputed Himalayan frontier, even amid reports of a disengagement at the site of their recent clash. More important, the recent skirmish may have highlighted a broader shift in Asian geopolitics.

At first glance, this suggestion may seem exaggerated. After all, China and India had been making a decent fist of living with each other. Although they haven't reached a durable settlement of their disputed 3,500-kilometer (2,200-mile) border, not a shot had been fired across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 45 years. Meanwhile, bilateral trade has climbed to \$92.5 billion in 2019 from just \$200 million in 1990.

Of course, bilateral tensions also reflect long-term disagreements that go beyond territorial disputes, such as China's "all-weather" alliance with Pakistan, and India's hospitality toward the Dalai Lama, to whom it granted refuge when he fled Tibet in 1959. But neither country has been swept up by these issues. When China declared that the border dispute could be left to "future generations" to resolve, India was happy to go along. India also endorsed the "One China" policy, and shunned United States-led efforts to "contain" its northern neighbor.

But the latter policy, in particular, has played into Chinese hands. The People's Liberation Army has taken advantage of the seemingly benign situation to undertake repeated military incursions.

Each one was minor. China would take a few square kilometers of territory along the LAC, declare peace, and then fortify its new deployment. As a result, each mini-crisis brought a "new normal" on the LAC. And it was always China's position that improved.

By the time "future generations" settle the border dispute, China's leaders seem to hope, the reality on the ground - as well as the broader balance of economic and military strength - will heavily favor China. Any agreement will reflect that. In the meantime, border incidents keep India off balance and show the world that it is not capable of challenging China, let alone underwriting regional security.

India has reinforced its military assets on the LAC to stave off deeper incursions, and hopes to press China to restore the status quo ante through diplomatic or military means. For example, it could capture land elsewhere on the LAC to use as leverage. But this is easier said than done.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has claimed that China is not in control of his country's territory. This looks suspiciously like a surrender to the new reality in the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso Lake, where the Chinese have established positions that did not exist before May. It could embolden China to pursue additional small gains across the LAC.

India has pursued some economic retaliation, banning 59 Chinese apps on data-security grounds. It is likely soon to bar Chinese companies from other lucrative opportunities in its vast market. But given India's dependence on Chinese imports - including pharmaceuticals, automotive parts, and microchips - excessive restrictions could amount to cutting off its nose to spite its face.

India has only two real strategic options: kowtow to China or align itself with a broader international coalition aiming to curb China's geopolitical ambitions. Despite Modi's apparent capitulation, there is reason to believe that India may choose the latter approach.

For starters, India has lately increased cooperation with the US military. In 2016, it concluded a logistics support agreement, and in 2018, it reached a communication security agreement and an accord on geospatial cooperation.

Moreover, India has embraced, at least rhetorically, the US concept of a "free and open Indo-Pacific," and is gradually abandoning its reluctance to participate in the US-led "Quad," an informal four-country grouping (which also includes Australia and Japan) focused on countering China's regional ambitions. The foundations have been laid for a more substantive strategic shift.

India has obvious incentives for such a shift. Beyond its belligerence on the LAC, China has increased its support for Pakistan, spending more than \$60 billion on a highway to the Chinese-run port of Gwadar. A "peace strategy" toward these two adversaries holds no attraction for an Indian government that has stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy, in an open challenge to Pakistan.

Moreover, India sees China's hand in its difficulties with other neighbors, especially Sri Lanka and Nepal, whose communist government has begun questioning its own border with India. China has further rankled India by opposing its aspirations to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, blocking it from joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and making territorial claims in the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party is not averse to a policy shakeup. In May, two BJP MPs thumbed their noses at China by "attending" the virtual swearing-in ceremony of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. India has also criticized China's Belt and Road Initiative, refusing to attend BRI forums in 2017 and 2019. And it has withdrawn from the Asia-wide Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership over concerns about Chinese dominance.

But there remain significant potential barriers to a strategic re-alignment. Such an approach would mark a major departure from India's traditional obsession with protecting its "strategic autonomy" - a legacy of two centuries of colonial rule, reflected in India's role in establishing the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War.

Furthermore, India has no interest in putting all its strategic eggs in one basket. It remains heavily dependent on Russian military equipment and supplies (though it has recently diversified its purchases), and Donald Trump's US isn't exactly a reliable partner. But is this a worse option than capitulating to China?

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ARTICLE

By KesterKennKlomegah

Putin talks COVID-19, Libya and Investment with Sassou-Nguesso

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Russia's readiness to provide COVID-19 aid to the Republic of the Congo during his phone call with the Republic's President Denis Sassou-Nguesso July 6.

"Vladimir Putin noted Russia's readiness to provide aid to the Republic of the Congo to counter the coronavirus infection spread," the Kremlin announced.

During the first week of July, Russia itself was battling more than half a million coronavirus cases, the fourth global spot after the United States, Brazil and India. Republic of the Congo recorded 1557 coronavirus cases since the epidemic began, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, it reported 44 deaths and 501 recoveries.

Russia is very vociferous in tackling the political conflict in Libya. It has been mapping out possibilities of South Africa (as the chair of the African Union), Egypt being a close neighboring state that could be involved in finding solution to Libyan crisis. Now Congo is the chair of the African Union's High Level Committee on Libya.

"Considering the Congo's presidency in the African Union's High Level Committee on Libya, the sides exchanged opinions on the situation in the country. The sides underscored the necessity of peaceful resolution of the conflict through political dialogue involving all Libyan sides."

The president of the Republic of the Congo congratulated Vladimir Putin on the outcome of the nationwide vote on the amendments to the Russian Constitution.



"The sides discussed the pressing issues of bilateral cooperation in the context of implementation of agreements, achieved during the highest-level talks in Moscow in May 2019," the Kremlin said, adding that the two leaders agreed to continue their contacts.

Last year May 23, the business talks between Putin and Sassou-Nguesso took place in the Kremlin. According to the Kremlin report, the package of documents signed following the talks included intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and mass communications.

The documents also concern the settlement of the Republic of the Congo's debt to the Russian Federation under previously issued loans, cooperation between the Russian Interior Ministry and the Congolese Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization, cooperation in agriculture, and sending Russian military experts to the Republic of the Congo.

In addition, documents on the relations between LUKOIL and the State Oil Company of the Republic of the Congo as well as between TMK (Pipe Metallurgical Company) and the National Petroleum Company of the Congo were signed.

The Pipe Metallurgical Company (TMK) is Russia's leading pipe manufacturer. The project is to build a major oil pipeline, running more than 1,300 km from the port city of Pointe-Noire in the Republic of the Congo to the border with Cameroon.

Congo, with an estimated 5.3 million population, is located in the central-western part of sub-Saharan Africa, along the Equator. It has become the fourth largest oil producer in the Gulf of Guinea, providing the country with a degree of prosperity despite economic instability in some areas and unequal distribution of oil revenue nationwide.

The country has a large untapped mineral wealth, large untapped metal, gold, iron and phosphate deposits. In 2018, the Republic of the Congo joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

SPECIAL

Declaration and Recommendations by Concerned CSOs on the Impact of COVID 19 on Girls Education

We, Concerned Civil Society of Organizations Liberia interested in the Safety, Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women:

Taking note of measures announced by the government of Liberia to curtail the spread of the Corona Virus pandemic.

Recognizing that school has long been a haven for girls and that lock down measures leading to the closure of schools presents an overwhelmingly worse situation for girls of school going age.

Realizing that there is still more needs to be done in terms of quality and access to adequate education and COVID-19 deteriorates a situation that is already deplorable and leads to more girls getting pregnant and denied access to schools while being blamed and shamed in their various community and schools.

Understanding that after this period of pandemic, projected statistics will likely show an increase in number of school dropouts by adolescent girls due to forced marriages, teenage pregnancies, and economic difficulties.

Comprehending that popular beliefs has long persisted promoting the exclusion and expulsion of pregnant girls from schools because they served as negative influences on their peers which political language perpetuated stigma and prejudice against pregnant girls who were portrayed as less deserving to an equal right to education.

Determined that education is a right and not something for school authorities to arbitrarily take away as a punishment and the exclusion of pregnant girls from mainstream schools and banning them from sitting crucial exams is discriminatory and will have devastating consequences.

Ensuring that pregnancy does not become the event that determines the rest of vulnerable girls' lives and it is equally important that girls enjoy equal access to education as boys despite their condition.

Appreciating the fact that the government of Liberia has in the past taken concrete actions to ensure that pregnant girls remain in school despite social pressures by the school and the community to keep pregnant teenage girls out of schools.

Recalling that the government of Liberia is a member of the Economic Community of West African States and have signed several human rights protocols affirming the Sexual Right of girls amongst which are the Maputo Protocol, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, Demanding that the Government of Liberia take urgent and decisive actions to correct past perception leading to unclear language that further shames and stigmatizes pregnant girls.

We hereby call on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Education to institute the following actions:

1. A complete rollout of the Comprehensive Sexual Education Manual in ALL public and private schools making menstrual hygiene products available in schools.
2. Ensure that the National Girls Educational Policy is included in all teacher training colleges and certificate level programs
3. Conduct a massive campaign on SRHR education to engage in policy dialogue with school authority and actively advocate for the integration of SRHR information and services including a wide range of voluntary family planning commodities within schools
4. Send a circular to all schools to ensure pregnancy does not serve as a barrier to enrollment.
5. Ensure that schools adopt an inclusive approach to attendance taking as well as considering the particular needs of girls i.e no girl must be forced to choose a parallel system for attendance however, if that will suit her particular circumstances and she is willing or suggests it, she must be accommodated.
6. Ensure no school has discriminatory laws that ban girls from taking leadership roles within academic institutions because she a girl.
7. Support girls' retention in schools by providing 'stimulus such as schools feeding program and/or economic livelihood training to encourage parents to resend their girls back to school and compensate for the long hours' girls stay in schools to avoid excessive hunger.
8. Ensure guidelines are developed to support and train teachers to recognize and prevent violence against girls and the risk of child marriage and should continue safe referral practices and protection services at the all levels.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

"I didn't resign from Unity Party"

--Senator Tokpa Clarifies

By Lewis S. Teh

Amid speculation about his resignation from the former ruling Unity Party (UP), Bong County Senator Dr.

"I never left the Unity Party. Even though I have not paid my dues in recent times..., I never left the party and I'm still a member of the Unity Party," Dr. Tokpa said Wednesday, 8 July

the Unity Party following its support given him during his campaign for the Senate seat.

Even though Dr. Tokpa says he remains a UP partisan, he notes that he ran as an independent to get the senatorial seat, saying he projects himself as an independent senator in the Liberian Senate.

Dr. Tokpa reveals that during his campaign he received massive support from various political parties, recalling that his promise to them was that when elected, those political parties would get his support for any legislation or issue that would be in their interest.

Regarding confusion in his county's legislative caucus, Dr. Tokpa says he really does not know why he is being accused of creating problems within the Bong Legislative Caucus.

Reminds his critics that during his campaign for the Senate, he didn't have any problem with Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Senator Dr. Henrique Tokpa

Henrique Tokpa has clarified here that at no point in time did he tender his letter of resignation from the UP.

when he appeared on OK FM.

He makes the clarification in the wake of claims by his critics that he has turned his back on

Health Minister seeks more money

-for COVID-19 response

By Ethel A. Tweh

Liberia's Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah requests additional resources for response strategy in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, though she fails to state specific amount.

But Dr. Jallah informs the Liberian Senate that community engagement and empowerment is essential in the ongoing fight, but laments the global pandemic is not like Ebola when there was sufficient international goodwill pouring in the country.

She stresses need to increase testing centers across the country, empowering communities, church leaders and other religious leaders in fighting the virus, urging senators to support their various constituents to adhere to public health measures.

Appearing before the Senate Plenary on Wednesday, July 8, Dr. Jallah disclosed that up to present, Liberia has recorded 926 confirmed cases, with nine (9) cases reported on July 8,

2020.

She details that amongst the total number of cases being reported in Liberia, 102 are health care workers, while the country has recorded 41 deaths.

She gives the case history that in March Liberia started with three (3) cases, which grew to 149 by April and in May dropped to 144, but hit 508 by June.

Dr. Jallah notes that there

was a decrease in cases from April to May because of the first State of Emergency declared by President George Manneh Weah, including 3:00pm lockdown, which Liberians observed including health protocols and all necessary procedures.

According to her, among the confirmed cases, males are two-third more affected than females, saying that there are increase infection rate among people under 15

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7



Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah

Declaration and Recommendations

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9. Ensure that response measures are based on strong gender analysis and consider harmful gender-based social and cultural norms which influence girls' and boys' vulnerability to infection, exposure, and treatment thus including gender-sensitive approaches in the education response to COVID-19. This includes ensuring that girls and women are at the center of the response and creating systems that monitor girls' enrollment to schools.

10. Enhance girls and women involvement in the response. Consult girls and young women during the full cycle of the response, from needs assessments, design of education and other interventions, to monitoring the effectiveness of the response. This includes any unintended impacts on girls and young women due to school closures. Girls should be involved in decisions about their education.

11. While schools are closed, governments should support teachers, school staff and communities to ensure inclusive methods of distance learning is adopted. Community sensitization on girls' education should continue to protect education advances for girls and support teachers.

12. Re-enforced all laws by putting in strict measures in schools (both private and public) to protect girls from sexual abuse while in school.

13. Ensure awareness and popularization of the Domestic Violence Act including and ensuring that schools' understand their responsibilities under the Act.

Done this 6th day of July 2020 by the undersigned organizations:

1. Network of Peace and Security Women in ECOWAS Countries (NOPSWECO)
2. Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL)
3. Organization for Women and Children (ORWOCH)
4. Community Healthcare Initiative (CHI)
5. Kids Educational Engagement Project (KEEP)
6. Paramount Young Women Initiative (PAYOWI)
7. Liberia Girls Guide Association
8. Women and Children Initiatives (WCI)
9. Formidable Initiatives for Women and Girls (FIWG)
10. Actions for Community Transformation (ACT)
11. Girls for Change
12. Rural Education Sponsorship Program; Enhancing Communities Together (RESPECT)
13. Sister Hand Liberia
14. Women and Children Development Association of Liberia
15. Community Sustainable Development Organization (COSDO)
16. Women Human Rights Defenders Network - INCHR
17. Women Entrepreneurship and Environmental Links
18. Helping Our People Excel, Inc (HOPE)
19. Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS, Inc)
20. Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)
21. Rising Youth Mentorship Initiative
22. West Point Women for Health and Development Organization (WPWHDO)

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Maryland County Coronavirus cases surge to 12

-as 10 laboratory technicians confirmed positive

By Patrick N. Mensah,
Maryland County

Nearly two days after three laboratory technicians at the Referral Hospital in Harper City, Maryland County tested

Currently, Maryland County has 12 confirmed cases, two suspected cases and 50 contacts.

Addressing a news conference Tuesday, July 7, 2020, County Health Officer, Dr.

COVID-19 on July 2.

According to him, though the county health team is doing extremely well in providing awareness to citizens, it has been noticed that some citizens are not abiding by health measures being prescribed by the Ministry of Health in Monrovia, something which he said, may have been the cause for the increment of cases in the county.

Dr. George added that the 10 affected lab technicians include two females and eight males, all residents of Harper City.

He said it was all observed doing a training session, when some laboratory technicians came from Monrovia on 28th June to train their colleagues on how to test COVID-19 specimen.

He said after the training, the lab technicians were asked to voluntarily take one another's specimen as a demonstration of the acknowledge acquired from the training and when the specimens were taken and sent to Monrovia, results of the first three technicians came positive on July 2, 2020, followed by the remaining seven, who were quarantined on Sunday, July 5th.

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COVID-19 positive, an additional seven (7) lab technicians have contracted the virus, bringing the number of fresh cases in the county to 10.

Methodius George said the additional seven cases all laboratory technicians are as a result of interaction with previous three lab technicians, who tested positive of the

2 rice dealers arrested for hiking price

By Emmanuel Mondaye

Two unscrupulous foreign businessmen have been reportedly arrested by state security officers for hiking price of rice in Paynesville and Fiamah districts, respectively.

According to eyewitnesses Zobah Willie and Wilimina Karmo the arrested businessmen have been identified as Dialo Sao and Mohammed Jalloh based on tip-off from the public that they were hoarding and increasing price to local rice dealers and customers.

They disclosed that without knowing, agents of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) managed to purchase a 25kg bag of rice from the businessmen for LRD4, 900.00 in violation of government's approved price of US\$13.00 or an equivalent of LRD2, 850.00.

Eyewitnesses reveal that both businessmen Jalloh and Sao denied hiking price of the commodity, but during a search of their businesses (shops), at least 29 bags of rice were discovered while

another 20 bags were also unearthed in Sao's shop.

Businessman Sao operates a store along Pipeline road in Paynesville and Fiamah Market in Sinkor Monrovia, respectively.

They quoted the suspects as saying that the rice in their respective possession belongs to their customers who were supposed to collect them prior to the incident.

Meanwhile, both Sao and Jalloh along with the Fruit of the Crime or FOC were said to be transferred to the Ministry of Commerce for investigation.

Under the law of Liberia, any business entity caught in hiking prices is subjected to fine or sent to court for prosecution.

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"I didn't resign

Cont'd from page 6

supporting a particular candidate against him.

He continues that it should not also be a problem, now that he too has decided to support the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Prince Moya for a senatorial slot in the county.

Elaborating on his decision to support Deputy Speaker Moya, Dr. Tokpa says it is based on the lawmaker's advocacy and the role he has played in developing the county.

"I will support Speaker Moya, and I will not sit back and fold my hands. Remember he supported me heavily during my campaign quite recently, and now is the time to pay back," Dr. Tokpa says.

Dr. Topka expresses confidence that Deputy Speaker Moya is the best person he can work with to

bring massive and total development in Bong County.

His comments on Wednesday followed recent claims and counter-claims between him and Bong County Senator Henry Yallah in which the two officials traded claims for alleged support given to one another supposedly for academic advancement at Cuttington University or for the other's quest to win a seat in the Liberian Senate.

The two Bong Legislative Caucus members have begun these debates ahead of the December 2020 senatorial election in which Yallah is seeking re-election in what will be a battle against Deputy House Speaker Prince Moya and other contenders.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Health Minister seeks

Cont'd from page 6

and also 15-34, unlike earlier when those affected were in ages 60 and above.

She notes that 80 percent of the COVID-19 patients are asymptomatic, so they will move around not knowing that they are infected with the virus, spreading it in the public.

The Health Minister says Liberia has a lot of young people and that's why there are more asymptomatic patients.

Dr. Jallah continues that Liberia was in the preparedness stage from January to March, where temperatures were taken at various borders from anyone entering the country, while actual testing started in March.

"Our focus is on the hotspots, in Thinkers Village we had 450 people tested in June and out of those people

tested, 13 were confirmed, which gives us a positivity rate of 2.9. By June 12 we went to Dupot Road where we tested 585 persons; we got 64 positive, giving us a positivity rate of 11percent, while 61 of them were asymptomatic", she explains.

Also appearing before the Senate Plenary, the Acting Executive Director of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia, Dr. MosokaFallah calls on the public to do voluntary testing and adhere to treatment isolation protocols. He says COVID-19 patients in Liberia have not reached the stage to use ventilators.

Ordinary citizens here are not responsive to free testing, primarily so because the authorities seem to be using testing as punishment for violators of health protocols. - Editing by Jonathan Browne

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Français

Danané, ville du « far west » de la Côte d'Ivoire où le commerce ne s'arrête jamais

Dans l'ouest ivoirien, une cohabitation sous tension (5/5). Dans cette cité voisine de la Guinée et du Liberia, les ethnies sont liées par les affaires en dépit des conflits passés.

Dans sa boutique, Adama fait le beau. Il passe en revue sa marchandise, des motos

rutilantes vendues à des prix « imbattables », dit-il. Si ses tarifs défient toute concurrence, c'est en raison de l'origine des bécans. Une fois par mois, ce commerçant établi à Danané, dans l'ouest de la Côte d'Ivoire, se rend en Guinée pour les acheter en pièces détachées. Sur le chemin du retour, il traverse

une rivière à bord d'une pirogue puis contourne les douanes. Résultat : ses motos sont 20 % moins chères que les « ivoiriennes » et on vient de loin pour s'en procurer. Adama dit avoir tout appris au côté de son père, qui, dans les années 1980 et 1990, faisait passer frauduleusement du café ivoirien au Liberia : « Je viens d'une famille de trafiquants », plaisante le jeune homme.

« Tout l'argent qui entre et sort de Danané a une très forte odeur de trafic », lâche Canvali Camara, ancien chef de cabinet du maire. Proche des frontières avec la Guinée et le Liberia, la petite ville de l'ouest ivoirien est entourée d'épaisses forêts et de montagnes. Ses 120 000 habitants vivent au rythme du ballet incessant des gros camions ivoiriens, guinéens et libériens qui traversent quotidiennement la ville. Ici, le commerce ne s'arrête jamais, « ni pendant les guerres, ni pendant Ebola [l'épidémie qui a sévi entre

► CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Un groupe d'élèves appelle à l'ouverture des écoles

Un groupe d'élèves réunis au sein d'une association intitulée « Concerned Students Alliance » a adressé une pétition au gouvernement du Liberia par le biais du ministère de l'Éducation, lui demandant de rouvrir les écoles sur toute l'étendue du territoire national et pour tous les niveaux, et pas seulement pour les élèves de la 12^e année.

Lors d'une conférence de presse le mardi 7 juillet à Gbarnga, dans le comté de Bong, le groupe a souligné la nécessité pour le gouvernement d'ouvrir les écoles à tous les élèves, affirmant qu'il est insensé que des écoles soient ouvertes uniquement aux élèves de 12^e année.

« Nous pensons que ce n'est pas la bonne façon de traiter nos collègues, alors nous voulons que le gouvernement agisse maintenant », a déclaré Ansumana Abraham Bility, président du groupe.

Selon lui, le gouvernement devrait mettre en place pour tous les autres élèves, les mêmes mesures mises en place pour les élèves de 12^e année et permettre que l'école reprenne pour tous. « Pour améliorer le fonctionnement

du système, il faut mener un dialogue national entre parents, élèves et enseignants pour formuler une manière pratique de mettre en œuvre ces mesures », a-t-il expliqué.

Le groupe demande au gouvernement de financer la production et la distribution de masques faciaux réutilisables dans tous les établissements scolaires à travers le pays et

cesser de dépenser des ressources dans des initiatives comme l'apprentissage par la radio, entre autres.

Pour Bility, la fermeture des écoles est non seulement une violation de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, mais aussi une tentative de saper la réforme de la loi sur l'éducation de 2011.



De nouveaux billets de banque d'une valeur de 4 milliards de dollars libériens ont été imprimés

La Banque centrale du Liberia (CBL) a annoncé mardi 7 juillet l'arrivée de 4 milliards supplémentaires de dollars libériens, qui, selon elle, devraient atténuer les problèmes de liquidité auxquels est confrontée l'économie libérienne.

« Les 4 milliards de dollars supplémentaires ont été sécurisés dans les coffres forts au siège de la CBL le 7 juillet 2020 », a indiqué la CBL dans un communiqué.

La CBL, en collaboration avec Kroll, travaillera au cours des prochains jours pour entreprendre un processus de validation technique complet des nouveaux billets afin de s'assurer qu'ils sont conformes aux spécifications contractuelles.

Le système bancaire avait connu de graves problèmes de liquidité. Le marché est inondé de billets mutilés. Les banques

déclaré : « L'arrivée des nouveaux billets de banque en dollars libériens est une bonne nouvelle. Cela aidera les Libériens ordinaires à payer les frais de scolarité, les factures d'hôpital et à payer d'autres factures importantes. »

Il convient de rappeler que Kroll a découvert des anomalies systémiques dans les processus d'approvisionnement et la tenue du registre de la Banque Centrale du Liberia lors de l'enquête sur les problèmes liés à l'impression des 16 milliards de dollars libériens en septembre 2018. Il a donc été convenu d'engager Kroll, sur la base de son expérience, pour résoudre les failles et empêcher la réapparition des problèmes.

La CBL, après avoir obtenu l'approbation du pouvoir législatif pour procéder à l'impression de nouveaux



commerciales ont du mal à répondre aux demandes des clients.

Kroll Associates, Inc. (Kroll), une société de gestion des risques et d'investigation mondiale, a été engagée dans le cadre d'un programme d'assistance technique par l'Agence américaine pour le développement international (USAID). Elle a pour mission de veiller à ce que le processus de passation des marchés entourant l'impression des billets supplémentaires soit ouvert et transparent et que le transfert de ces billets vers les coffres de la CBL soit sécurisé.

Le Fonds monétaire international (FMI) a également été consulté avant d'imprimer les billets de banque pour garantir la conformité avec son programme au Liberia.

Le gouverneur exécutif de la CBL, J. Aloysius Tarlue, Jr., a

billets de banque, a utilisé des procédures améliorées conformes aux meilleures pratiques internationales dans le processus de passation des marchés afin de sélectionner une entreprise compétente de renommée internationale.

Le 12 mars 2020, la CBL a lancé un appel d'offre, le 8 avril 2020 étant fixé comme date limite pour déposer des dossiers de candidature. La CBL a reçu les dossiers de plusieurs fournisseurs potentiels avant la date limite. À la suite d'un processus d'évaluation rigoureux des propositions par rapport à des critères d'évaluation détaillés, un comité d'approvisionnement de la CBL a recommandé Crane comme fournisseur privilégié pour imprimer les billets de banque.

Français

Danané, ville du « far west » de la Côte d'Ivoire

2013 et 2016 en Guinée et au Liberia] », fanfaronne M. Camara.

Avec ses mains calleuses qui trahissent un passé de planteur, il fait le compte des produits qui se jouent des frontières. Sucre, lait en poudre, huile, alcool, faux médicaments, faux cheveux, cigarettes, drogues, textiles, mais aussi devises (franc CFA, franc guinéen et dollar libérien) sont chaque jour importés, exportés, échangés et taxés à Danané. « Tous les opérateurs économiques importants de la ville ont un jour ou l'autre baigné dans le trafic transfrontalier », affirme M. Camara. Lui est arrivé en 1969 à l'âge de 10 ans, comme des milliers d'autres « nordistes », pour travailler dans les plantations de café qu'avaient laissées les colons français. « Ici, toutes les ethnies sont liées par le commerce transfrontalier, dit-il. Mais c'est aussi des frontières qu'est souvent venue la discorde entre nous. »

Mercenaires libériens

Dans les années 1980, au Liberia, Charles Taylor lance une rébellion contre le président Samuel Doe. Avec le soutien du chef de l'Etat ivoirien, Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Danané devient la base arrière du mouvement rebelle libérien. En plus du territoire qui lui est offert, Taylor enrôle de nombreux jeunes Ivoiriens yacouba, l'ethnie « autochtone » de Danané et de ses environs, pour combattre dans les rangs de son armée. Les nouvelles recrues ivoiriennes retrouvent leurs « cousins » de l'ethnie libérienne gio, avec lesquels ils partagent la même langue : le yacouba.

Démarre alors une période de recrutement sur base ethnique de jeunes désœuvrés des deux côtés de la frontière. Et au plus fort de la guerre civile libérienne (1989-1996), Danané voit arriver des dizaines de milliers de personnes fuyant le conflit. Entre le départ des jeunes et l'arrivée des réfugiés, la ville est de plus en plus vulnérable.

Au début des années 2000, tandis que la guerre prend fin au Liberia, une rébellion éclate en Côte d'Ivoire. Par des jeux d'alliances politiques et tribales, Danané tombe dans l'escarcelle de la rébellion du nord. Des mercenaires libériens sont à leur tour recrutés par les groupes

armés ivoiriens. C'est le temps des exactions dans le « far west » de la Côte d'Ivoire, sur fond de tribalisme et de luttes pour le contrôle des secteurs de rente et du trafic transfrontalier. Tour à tour, les communautés qui peuplent la région s'allient et s'affrontent, sans jamais perdre de vue l'essentiel : les affaires.

Si la ville s'est depuis développée, notamment grâce à l'immense route bitumée qui la traverse et donne sur les frontières voisines, elle garde les stigmates des conflits qu'elle a connus et des antagonismes entre ses populations.

Une concorde « fragile »

« Je ne suis l'homme d'aucune communauté », se défend Lacina Ouattara, le maire de Danané. Cet ancien pharmacien, entré en politique sans étiquette (il a entre-temps rejoint le RHDP, parti au pouvoir), reconnaît que sa gouvernance repose sur « deux fondamentaux » : le commerce et le vivre-ensemble. Les communautés doivent dialoguer « plus franchement pour ne pas laisser la place aux rancœurs et aux rumeurs », explique-t-il.

L'édile fait allusion à une affaire qui, en février, a ébranlé Danané et fait resurgir les vieux démons de la fracture communautaire. Des habitants de la ville, murmurait-on, auraient vu leurs organes génitaux disparaître en raison d'un sort. Sans jamais avancer aucune preuve de ces allégations empreintes de croyances populaires, les communautés se sont alors mutuellement accusées d'être responsables des faits. Des affrontements ont fait plusieurs blessés graves. Seule l'implication de toutes les forces vives de la ville - imams, prêtres, responsables de quartiers, chefs coutumiers et leaders communautaires rassemblés autour du maire et du préfet - a permis à Danané de retrouver son calme.

En dehors de la rumeur qui « nous fait honte », glisse le maire, l'épisode est pour lui révélateur de « la fragile concorde entre les communautés ». L'affaire vaut-elle signal d'alarme à quelques mois d'une élection présidentielle, en octobre, qui s'annonce tendue ? « Je n'ai aucune crainte, affirme Lacina Ouattara. Toutes les communautés vont continuer de faire ce qu'elles font de mieux : des affaires ensemble. »

COMMENTAIRE

Par Michael Ferrari Parag
Khanna & Spencer Wells

Comment vivre avec la pandémie

NEW YORK/SINGAPORE/LOMBOK, INDONÉSIE - La crise de la COVID-19 a poussé les scientifiques, les gouvernements et les experts de santé publique à se hâter de comprendre la relation entre la transmission des zoonoses (celles qui sautent des animaux aux humains) et la variabilité environnementale, les modèles de mobilité humaine et le commerce. Ce faisant, il se fait douloureusement sentir que nous avons encore beaucoup à apprendre sur le monde qui nous entoure.

Mais même si nul ne peut prédire de manière crédible ce qui va se passer, nous pouvons certainement être mieux préparés à la prochaine phase de la vie mondiale avec la COVID-19. En un sens, le fait de voir la maladie et son impact depuis de multiples points de vue - épidémiologique, économique, politique et social - nous empêche d'y voir clair. Sans une approche systématique et holistique, les pouvoirs publics seront toujours dépourvus de certaines pièces importantes de ce puzzle.

Une telle approche devrait commencer par rejeter la distinction trompeuse entre l'homme et la nature. Le terme « Anthropocène » qui s'applique à notre époque, a suscité chez nous un faux sentiment de maîtrise sur l'environnement. La COVID-19 nous a obligés à reconnaître que l'Anthropocène est synonyme d'une boucle de rétroaction implacable dans laquelle notre comportement déclenche des réactions en chaîne, qui accélèrent à la fois le changement climatique et la propagation des pandémies. Sans frontières infrastructurelles ou géopolitiques entre nous et le monde naturel, le nationalisme pas plus que le protectionnisme ne pourront venir à bout de ce processus.

À cet égard, nous ne pouvons plus nous permettre d'ignorer les risques extrêmes - les événements à faible probabilité mais à fort impact, qui apparaissent à la marge de toute distribution de probabilité. Dans les systèmes complexes, ces signaux faibles sont plus fortement connectés au tout et peuvent avoir des effets multiplicatifs plutôt que linéaires.

Nous en avons été témoins en 2008, lorsque la crise des subprimes aux États-Unis s'est rapidement transformée en crise financière mondiale. En ce sens, nous voyons le même processus à l'œuvre avec la COVID-19, qui a mis la mobilité mondiale au point mort et qui a impacté une grande partie de l'économie mondiale.

Aucun de ces événements n'était un « cygne noir », car le risque était largement connu. Bien que nous n'ayons pas réussi à tirer parti de cette prévision, le principe de précaution nous impose de mettre en œuvre des mesures pour atténuer ces risques de ralentissement éventuels.

Qu'est-ce que cela signifie pour la période cruciale qui nous attend ? L'arrivée de l'été dans l'hémisphère Nord a provoqué une vague de spéculations selon lesquelles des conditions météorologiques plus chaudes et plus humides - supérieures à la fourchette optimale de 5 à 11°C du virus - vont limiter l'augmentation du taux d'infection. Mais même si la relation espérée

entre transmission et temps chaud est valide, elle peut ne pas être causale ni directe.

En outre, toute évaluation des mois à venir doit tenir compte du comportement saisonnier typique. Le temps chaud fait augmenter le nombre de personnes vivant à l'extérieur, mais cela signifie également davantage de climatisation à l'intérieur, ce qui imite les conditions favorables de vie du virus. Les données que nous devons recueillir au cours des prochains mois nous permettront de mieux équilibrer les conditions naturelles limitant les maladies avec les conditions artificielles favorisant les maladies.

Dans les mois à venir, chacun d'entre nous doit garder trois problèmes à l'esprit. Tout d'abord, les réouvertures par étapes en Amérique du Nord, en Europe et en Asie s'accompagnent de directives de distanciation sociale. Compte tenu de la densité de population des grandes villes de ces régions, les températures chaudes n'éradiquent pas le virus par elles-mêmes : il est impératif de se conformer aux instructions de santé publique. Jusqu'à présent, cela n'a pas été le cas dans une grande partie des États-Unis.

Deuxièmement, une caractéristique des souches virulentes telles que le SARS-CoV-2 (le virus qui cause la COVID-19) est leur capacité à évoluer rapidement. Malgré des conditions climatiques favorables, de nouvelles souches plus mortelles peuvent apparaître.

Enfin, quoi qu'il arrive dans les deux ou trois prochains mois, l'hiver ne va pas tarder à pointer le bout de son nez. En l'absence d'un vaccin efficace contre les souches prédominantes du SARS-CoV-2, que nous devrons encore attendre au moins pendant 12 à 18 mois, une seconde vague d'infections plus meurtrière semble certaine.

La modélisation des interactions complexes et de grande portée entre la biologie, le climat et la société nous aide à prévoir la trajectoire à venir du virus. Mais comme tant de scénarios potentiels sont possibles, tous ces modèles restent à interpréter avec prudence. C'est pourquoi les dirigeants politiques qui voudront en faire bon usage doivent se fier aux autorités scientifiques, plutôt que de les museler ou de sélectionner leurs conclusions en fonction d'un programme partisan à courte vue. Aucun pays ne peut se permettre d'accorder sa confiance à un dirigeant qui, comme le président américain Donald Trump ou son homologue brésilien Jair Bolsonaro, se fie à son « instinct ».

Nous ne disposons pas encore à l'heure actuelle de suffisamment d'informations relatives à la COVID-19 pour guérir cette maladie ni pour adopter des mesures préventives contre elle. Mais notre accumulation de connaissances sur les systèmes écologiques, la virologie, la génétique, la dynamique des fluides, l'épidémiologie, l'anthropologie, la médecine clinique, la microbiologie et des dizaines d'autres spécialités scientifiques offrent une richesse de connaissances qui peuvent empêcher la pandémie actuelle de bouleverser la vie moderne - à condition que nous sachions en tirer parti.

PERSPECTIVES

PERSPECTIVES

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

GOVERNMENT/GOVERNANCE AND THE CLAIM OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULATION

With Bai M. Gbala, Sr.
June 19, 2020

The following analyses of Government/Governance and the claim of National Economic Stimulus together place in perspective our questioning conclusion regarding the critical issues raised.

Elsewhere, on "Government & Governance" we held that Raymond Leslie Buell's Epic Book (Liberia: A Century of Survival, 1847-1947) published on the 100th birth anniversary of the Republic of Liberia in 1947 is, perhaps, one of the best assessments of the social, cultural, economic and political performance of the then Liberian Ruling Class, the African-Americans known as "Americo-Liberians" who, alone, constituted the State Government and Governance.

Author/Historian Buell's book was, and is, the comprehensive analytical answer to his rhetorical question, "What is wrong with Liberia?" posed in Chapter 2 of the book. The book is a detailed description of Liberia's Political Rule - oppression, suppression with systematic denials of civil/political liberties and political participation in government based on indigenous, ethnic, age and gender considerations, undemocratic political policies of the past, more than 100 years.

Enforcement of these conditions which, now, include emerged/emerging indigenous, ethnic Political Class, have accelerated, exponentially, with cumulative increase over the years at double, triple or quadruple levels of our social, cultural, economic and political problems of abject poverty, hunger, lack of education, healthcare, unemployment, human suffering, deaths due to curable disease and the recent nightmare of the tragic civil war.

The African tribal nation-state (the former "Green Coast") which produced its food and fed itself, cannot now, feed itself as the Republic of Liberia since 1847, but depends upon and held hostage by Rice and cooking oil (our national staples) Cartels, foreign-owned entities in collusion with Liberian government officials and the tiny minority that benefits from the Cartels, although the Republic of Liberia has more land than people.

The critical issues in reality, now, go beyond the Rice and related food problem. It has been repeatedly proven, now, that an overwhelming majority of the nation's eligible voting-age population is crammed in the over-populated ghetto-slum enclaves of this tiny Peninsula City of Monrovia. The people abandoned, are abandoning the land, Rural Liberia, in droves because there is little or no opportunity for educational training, human growth, development and economic upkeep; Rural Liberia has been, continues to be forgotten and isolated. Constituent County officials are not trained, capable leaders nor patriotic teachers, but surrogates of national "politicians" who, themselves, are not capable leaders nor patriotic.

Summing it all Up

"Our Nation's Economy just crumbled . . . again", due, apparently, to our nation's political rulers/leaders have become crooks - rascals, liars, confidence artists, thieves, bandits, and murderers - who believe that the nation owes them a life of

splendor, and that the taxes collected by the Liberia Revenue (Stealing) Authority should and must be the source of support for their lives of splendor, here in Monrovia.

But the fact of the matter had been, and is, that there are stealing, stealing, and stealing everywhere in government operations from top to bottom - Presidents, Speakers, Protoms, the Judiciary and all ministries and agencies of government with the Super Ministry of Finance & Development Planning as the most senior paymaster and thief-in-chief "who must take something from the people paid", although this Ministry plans and develops nothing, but pays huge sums to none-existent entities, including itself and the County Legislative Caucuses.

Come to think about it, the streets, roads and "paths" in Monrovia that were designed and built some 45-50 years ago, but cannot, now, facilitate safely and efficiently, the almost quadrupled pedestrian and vehicular traffic 24/7 of today. It is, also apparent, that the motor vehicles imported to Liberia are concentrated in the Monrovia area with

CBL Governor's Press Statement

THE CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA PROVIDES CLARITY ON THE FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS SECTION OF ITS 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

February 12, 2019

The attention of the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has been drawn to public reaction to the data in the Fiscal Developments Section (Section 3.7 on Pages 37-41) of the CBL's 2018 Annual Report (January 1-December 31, 2018) published on January 23, 2019.

The CBL notes that the numbers reported in the fiscal section of the Report are not reflective of the fiscal positions of current and previous fiscal periods.

Consequently, the CBL has therefore removed the fiscal section in its Report. It must be noted that all fiscal data are reported in fiscal outturns and fiscal reports published on the website of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

Signed:

Nathaniel Patray, III
Executive Governor

insufficient, inefficient, deathtrap-streets to ply, let alone the rural areas which are much more dangerous-deathtraps than Monrovia.

On top of it all, there is, now, loud outcry due to enormous economic hardship nationally, but one finds that new, top-of-the-line, expensive motor vehicles jammed-packed, bumper-to-bumper, on the deathtrap streets of Monrovia; one finds, also, that new two storied box-type (architectural eye-sore) store buildings with living quarters on the second floor in the ghettos-slum areas with minimum road/street access; and other modern mansions and multi-storied buildings are mushrooming all-over Mamba Point area, Brewerville, Paynesville, Congo Town and the Roberts Airport Highway. But where is this money coming from, one may ask?

Our guess is that the money comes from graft/greed, public/private dishonesty and, "above all else" corruption, the vice and international phenomena that the Liberian Ruling politicians have now monopolized as Liberia Corruption, Incorporated.

So much so that our (Liberia's) former President and



CBL Governor Nathaniel Patray, III

Africa's first female President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, described corruption as "Liberia's no.1 public enemy", but admitted inability to innovate corrective economic action. Now, in the light of the colossal economic failure of "Liberia's "first democratically-elected female President" who was or is "Harvard University-trained economist", but with significant negative records of female-corruption shenanigans, is it not likely to be said that females are more corruption-prone than males? You be the judge.

And finally, in our macroeconomic analysis written while in President Taylor's Monrovia Central Prison in June 2001, entitled "Now We Printed the New Liberian Banknotes" (due to looting of banks and business houses by ACDL's NPFL/INPFL killers), we held, in conclusion, that "our Economy just crumbled", with a copy sent to the Central Bank of Liberia. It was a Mr. Nathaniel Patray, III, CBL Economist, who responded with dismissal of our analysis as "irrelevant academic exercise".

Now, about the nation's Economy of today, we asked the Honorable Nathaniel Patray, III, Executive Governor of the Central Bank, caught between explaining the disastrous variations of Liberia's foreign exchange rate; his absence globe-travelling while the CBL was being raided by Police on suspicion of the disappearance of the 40-foot container with contents of reported billions of illegally-printed printed Liberian-dollar banknotes; the still-cloudy, unresolved use of US \$25 million for "mopping up excess in circulation"; and his admission of inaccuracies in the CBL Economic analysis, according to his Press Statement hereunder attached. We paused for Honorable Patray's macroeconomic analysis in answer.

TO BE CONT'D

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Double blow for CDC

By Bridgett Milton

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) Montserrado District #9 Representative Munah Pelham Youngblood has died in Accra, Ghana, tragically ending a long battle she has had with illness for years.

Madam Pelham - Youngblood's death news hit Liberia Wednesday, 8 July in just a little over a week after

different times there were series of reports on social media that Representative Youngblood had died. Thus leaving many in doubts as her death news hit the country.

Party officials, including CDC chairman Mulbah Morlu have confirmed the devastating demise of Madam Youngblood through social media posts.

In seeking medical solutions for her undisclosed illness, the late Representative Pelham -

to elect 15 senators.

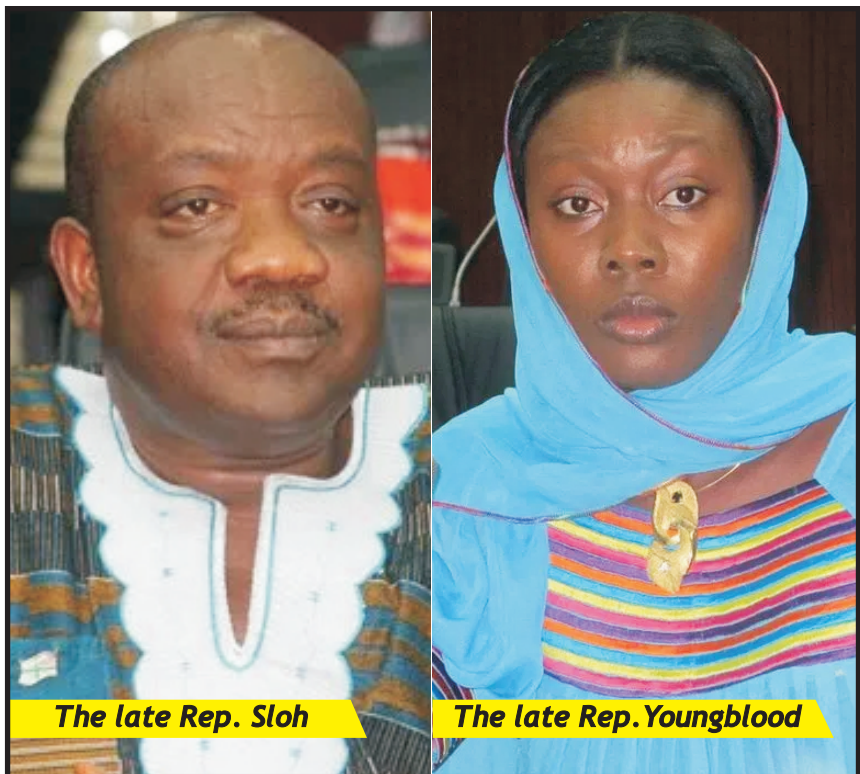
Youngblood first took the legislative seat for Montserrado District #9 in January 2012 following the 2011 elections on the ticket of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), a constituent party of the ruling CDC, and then she got re-elected in 2017 for a second term tragically compromised by poor health.

The late Representative Pelham - Youngblood was an actress prior to winning the elected office in 2012, and as lawmaker she co-chaired the Women Legislative Caucus and worked with other committees including Foreign Affairs; Banking and Currency; Youths and Sports; Public Utilities; Gender and Child Development; and Joint Legislative Modernization, among others.

She was seen as one of the strong members of the ruling CDC and was also vocal on issues, mainly when the party was still in opposition.

Despite her illness Representative Youngblood continued to express her views in the Legislature whenever she returned to the Capitol, and she was also active on social media.

She was entangled in series of controversies doing her brief return early this year, challenging Montserrado Senator Darius Dillon and a controversial clip in which she hinted that President Weah could be a life time president --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**



one of her colleagues from the House of Representatives, J. Nagbe Sloh of Sinoe County District #2 died at the state-run John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital in Sinkor, suburb of Monrovia.

Both lawmakers were members of the ruling CDC.

While she struggled to get medication abroad, at

Youngblood traveled to the United States of America, India and later went to neighboring Ghana where she died.

The two most recent deaths of lawmakers have created vacuums that must be filled through by-elections, just at a time the country prepares to go to the polls which have been delayed for December this year

Blatant lie

By Ben P. Wesee

Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh terms as blatant lie, accusation by dismissed Deputy Commerce Minister Jemima Wolokollie that he disbursed US\$3 million loan for the Small Business Pro-poor Development Fund (SBPDF) of which she says she was not in the know.

"Let me categorically state here that all of these allegations and others like them, are grossly baseless, false and unfounded. The accusations are nothing but the product of a depraved mind of a functional illiterate," Minister Tarpeh said Wednesday, 8 July during a press conference in Monrovia.

Minister Tarpeh insists that it is a blatant lie, Mrs. Wolokollie's claims that she was not in the know of the SBPDF account and the financial activities of the project because it was conducted from his office.

According to him, the loan program is administered, managed and operated by the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry only provides strategic oversight and guidance as a sector ministry.

He recalls that in December 2018, President George Manneh Weah formally launched the Small Business Pro-poor Development Fund, saying the Government of Liberia contributed an initial US\$1 million while the LBDI committed US\$2 million toward the project, bringing the total to US\$3 million dollars.

Minister Tarpeh discloses that in anticipation of the launch of the loan program, the ministry opened a demand deposit account with LBDI in 2019 which according to him, former Deputy Minister Wolokollie was allegedly signatory to.

"In September 2019, the government paid its US\$1 million commitment and was deposited into the account.

LBDI paid US\$1 million of its commitment into an account over which it has exclusive control; no one outside of LBDI has access to this account," Minister Tarpeh explains.

He continues that LBDI's contribution is not in the SBPDF account opened by the Ministry of Commerce, but it's available to the loan program.

As of 3 July this year, Minister Tarpeh says the account had a credit balance of US\$957,582.34, further disclosing that there have been two check payment transactions over the account since its opening.

Minister Tarpeh reveals that former Deputy Minister Wolokollie authorized the first payment of US\$33,216.00 for training that she reportedly conducted.

Additionally, he says former Deputy Minister Wolokollie signed the check, requested and authorized a payment of US\$8,380.80 to

Maryland County

Cont'd from page 7

He said although the source of the COVID-19 in the county is yet to be identified, but cautioned citizens that the virus is within their communities, and that no want is free until he/she is tested negative.

"As you all know, our first case has recovered and we have gone about 35-36 days but we are still thinking where the source of this virus came from", he noted.

He added that despite the unfortunate situation

measures are being strengthened to prevent patients and healthcare workers from further getting infected.

"We are encouraging all our patients to wear masks and observe social distancing whenever they are coming to hospital."

The CHO however called on citizens in the county to always visit the hospital because COVID-19 is not the only sickness. --**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

2 rice dealers

Cont'd from page 10

Meanwhile, scores of local rice dealers at the Paynesville Redlight market say they are worried over the sharp increase in the price of rice, which is affecting poverty-stricken citizens.

Speaking to reporters on 8 July, a local rice dealer Madam Korlu Kaine said the price hike has enticed some unscrupulous dealers to join the practice.

She disclosed that presently in some areas of Monrovia and its environs, a cup of rice is being sold for LRD100 due to scarcity of the commodity on the market.

She explained that most of their suppliers are complaining about the shortage of rice in their warehouses.

But the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has dismissed news of rice shortage in the country as baseless and propaganda.

However, Madam Kaine maintained that she and some of her colleagues visited other dealers of the commodity for supply of rice but were turned down due to shortage.

Another dealer, Shafia Nuah, owner of Shafia Rice Depot 72nd Road frowned at those of their colleagues, who

are hoarding the commodity only because they want to exploit the public who are struggling with government State of Emergency.

He warned that if concrete steps were not taken by the relevant authority, the rice situation would escalate in coming days.

In a recent press release, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said based on current inventory, there are 40,000 (forty thousand) Metric Tons of rice in the country, accounting for 1.6 million bags of the 25Kg rice.

According to the Ministry, the available quantity has the capacity to supply the local rice market for approximately three months, and that besides, a consignment of 30,000 Metric Tons, equivalent to 1.2 million bags of rice is expected in Liberia this July that will sustain the local market for two months.

But the head of the Paynesville rice dealers association Sheik Jalloh differed with the assurance coming from the Ministry, saying there is shortage in the country. --**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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cover the cost of advertisements and associated activities that she needed to support the SBPDF.

Responding to Wolokollie's claim that there is no record on the loan that was given out, Minister Tarpeh explains that the Commerce Ministry and LBDI entered into a memorandum of understanding that states that all loan applications are addressed and delivered to LBDI.

"Credit decisions are made solely by the bank following appropriate scrutiny, using its own professional standards. The Ministry of Commerce and

Industry plays no role in the process," Prof. Tarpeh narrates.

He details that the bank makes semi-annual reports to the ministry covering the activities of the program for each reporting period.

In order to prepare potential beneficiaries for the program, Minister Tarpeh indicates that the ministry conducted a vetting process together with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Presidential Delivery Unit, saying Madam Wolokollie was part of the process. --**Edited by Winston W. Parley**

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French Version Inside

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Salah not giving up Golden Boot chase



The Egypt international might be three goals behind the Leicester City frontman in the goalscoring standings, but he cannot be ruled out of the race.

'Operation Record Breaker' is still in business.

Liverpool's historic campaign continues. The Premier League champions remain on course for that magic 100-point season after

seeing off a spirited Brighton side on Wednesday night.

And Mohamed Salah remains in the hunt for a third successive Golden Boot award too.

The Egypt international scored twice as the Reds ran out 3-1 winners at the Amex Stadium. With 19 league goals, he sits three behind Jamie Vardy in the standings. You can bet your life he will be going all out to eclipse the Leicester man

in Liverpool's final four fixtures.

He was too good for Brighton here, profiting from the hosts' slackness and Naby Keita's sharpness to give his side the lead with a clinical finish inside six minutes.

It was Liverpool's first away goal - in any competition - since February, and two minutes later they had another, Salah setting up captain Jordan Henderson for a fine swept finish from 20 yards.

That took Salah to 99 goal involvements in the Premier League for Liverpool, and he would reach the century before the night was finished, timing his arrival perfectly to meet substitute Andy Robertson's corner at the near post for 3-1. "We worked on that," he admitted afterwards. It was only his fourth headed goal for the club.

That is 73 league goals, to go with his 27 assists, in 104 league appearances since arriving at Anfield. Some player.



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City make Prem history with five players in double figures

Riyad Mahrez became the fifth member of Pep Guardiola's team to take his tally into double figures with his goal against Newcastle.

Manchester City became the first team in Premier League history to have five different players score at least 10 goals in a single season on Wednesday.

Riyad Mahrez moved to double figures for 2019-20 when he slotted home Kevin De Bruyne's cut-back to make

it 2-0 against Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium.

De Bruyne himself has 11, as does Gabriel Jesus, who opened the scoring against Steve Bruce's side. City's top two scorers in the league this term are Raheem Sterling with 13 and Sergio Aguero on 16.

City are the first team in England's top flight to have at least five players reach the 10-goal mark since Everton in 1984-85.

Those goals from Jesus and Mahrez took Pep Guardiola's



side to 83 in the league this season, nine more than newly-crowned champions Liverpool.

Despite breaking new ground in goalscoring, City found themselves 23 points behind Liverpool with five matches remaining after going down 1-0 at Southampton on Sunday - their ninth defeat of the season.

Manchester City are the first English top-flight side to have five team-mates score 10+ goals in a season since Everton in 1984-85.

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