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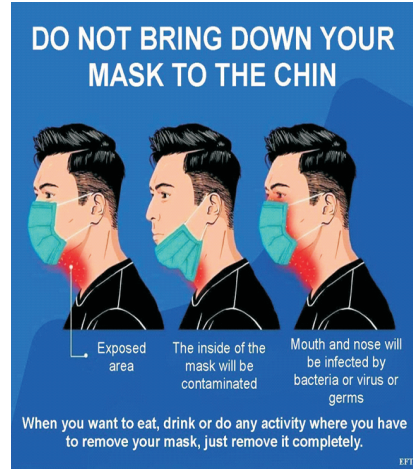
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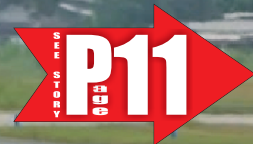
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Continental News

Ship leaking oil in Mauritius may 'break in two'

Large cracks have reportedly appeared in the hull of a cargo ship leaking oil in Mauritius, prompting the prime minister to warn it may "break in two".

The MV Wakashio, believed to have been carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel oil, ran aground on a coral reef off the Indian Ocean island on 25 July.

Despite bad weather, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said 500 tonnes had been safely pumped out on Monday. But he warned the country was preparing for the "worst-case scenario".

Mauritius is home to world-renowned coral reefs, and tourism is a crucial part of its economy. Fuel has been transferred to shore by helicopter and to another ship owned by the same Japanese firm, Nagashiki Shipping. France has sent a military aircraft with pollution control equipment from its nearby island of Réunion, while Japan has sent a six-member team to assist the French efforts.

The Mauritius coast guard and several police units are also at the site in the south-east of the island. Since the weekend, volunteers have been collecting straw from

fields and filling sacks to make barriers against the oil.

Others have made their own tubes with tights and hair to add to the effort, and some have been cleaning up the island's beaches. Their actions went against an order from the government asking people to leave the clean-up to local authorities.

"People have realised that they need to take things into their hands. We are here to protect our fauna and flora," environmental activist Ashok

Subron told AFP news agency on Sunday. Mitsui OSK Lines, the operator of the ship, said on Sunday it had tried to place its own containment booms around the vessel but had not been successful owing to rough seas. It is thought that the bulk carrier, registered in Panama, had some 4,000 tonnes of fuel aboard when it ran aground. All crew were evacuated.

More than 1,000 tonnes of oil is thought to have leaked into the waters surrounding

the island nation. Environmentalists are concerned about the impact on the country's ecosystem.

The MV Wakashio ran aground at Pointe d'Esny, a known sanctuary for rare wildlife. The area also contains wetlands designated as a site of international importance by the Ramsar convention on wetlands.

Happy Khamule from Greenpeace Africa warned that "thousands" of animal species were "at risk of drowning in a sea of pollution, with dire consequences for Mauritius' economy, food security and health".

Mauritius has "world-important populations of reptiles with unique genetic make-up", which could be

among the species threatened, said Vikash Tataya, conservation director with the Mauritian Wildlife Organisation.

At a news conference, Akihiko Ono, executive vice-president of Mitsui OSK Lines "profusely" apologised for the spill and for "the great trouble we have caused".

He vowed that the company would do "everything in their power to resolve the issue". Police in Mauritius say they have been granted a search warrant, allowing them to board the vessel take away items of interest such as the ship's log book in order to help with an investigation. The ship's captain will assist officers with their search. On Friday, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of emergency and appealed for help. BBC



More than 1,000 tonnes of oil has leaked into waters near Mauritius

Mali swears in new constitutional court judges

Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita attended a swearing-in ceremony for new constitutional court judges, appointed last week in a bid to end the political crisis in the country.

The nine new judges were sworn in on Monday in a ceremony in the capital, Bamako.

The president's office has

tweeted photos of the ceremony: The country is caught up in a political crisis, with protesters calling for the resignation of the president for failing to stop violence by Islamist militants and corruption.

The crisis saw five heads of state from the Ecowas regional bloc visit the country last month and propose the formation of a unity

government.

The heads of state also called for the appointment of new constitutional judges.

The opposition has rejected the proposal for the formation of a unity government and insisted that the president should resign.

Anti-government protests that had taken a break for Eid-al-Adha festivities are to begin again on Tuesday. BBC



Anti-government protests are expected to resume on Tuesday

Backlash against Malawi's new Covid-19 restrictions

New Covid-19 measures announced in Malawi over the weekend have met with a backlash, with at least one civil society organisation threatening to take the government to court.

In the new restrictions, public gatherings of more than 10 people have been banned, except for funerals which can have up to 50 people in attendance.

Wearing of face masks is mandatory in all public spaces

included a 21-day lockdown - were blocked by a court pending determination. No verdict has been made on the matter.

Church leaders have voiced concern over the new government restrictions on public gatherings. The influential Catholic Church said it was never consulted.

A local civil society organisation, Centre for Democracy and Economic Development Initiatives



and offenders could be fined up to \$13 (£10). Places of worship have been closed. Bars can operate for six hours a day, between 14:00 to 20:00 local time, but only sell takeaways.

The new measures were prompted by a recent increase in coronavirus cases in the country, the ministry of health said.

Similar measures announced by the previous administration of President Peter Mutharika - which also

(CDEDI), has said it will take the government to court for ignoring the court order.

Health Minister Khumbize Chiponda has since issued a statement promising to engage religious leaders "in further consultation".

More than 4,600 Malawians have tested positive for Covid-19, according to Johns Hopkins University, and at least 146 have died. BBC

EDITORIAL

Weah must address the 3 pandemics

LIBERIA, UNDER THE Weah administration is seriously walloping in three dangerous pandemics, including the global coronavirus, as cited recently by the chairman of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties Alexander B. Cummings in a nationwide address. Governance by the current administration has left much to be desired with increasing citizens' outcry that goes unnoticed.

FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF the Constitution, state-sponsored violence, impunity, ineptitude and endemic corruption at the highest hierarchy of the government are the orders of the day, while transparency, accountability and rule of law have been thrown out of the window.

AND SO WHEN THE CPP leader last week cataloged these negative vices under the ruling establishment, most Liberians were not surprised because these are the appalling conditions they are being subjected to by the Weah administration for nearly three years.

MR. CUMMINGS NAMED the three pandemics as Poverty, Rape and the COVID-19 global health crisis. They are making the future of Liberia bleak and hopeless.

"OUR SHIP IS sinking. Too many of our people are suffering. We are increasingly seeing a culture of moral bankruptcy being promoted with a determination to destroy the last piece of the moral fabric of our society. This is wicked. It is immoral, and it threatens our long-term peace and security.

RATHER THAN DELIVER basic services, foster a unified and productive nation, and care for our people, those given the mantle of national leadership are busying themselves with dividing Liberians. They are too busy enriching themselves that they have either forgotten, do not know how, or just do not care, about the most important duties for which they were elected", he said.

QUOTING THE 2020 World Bank Report, he disclosed that 526,000 or half million Liberians under the Weah administration are expected to live on less than US\$190 or 380 Liberian dollars per day, which is likely to grow poverty rate in the country by 65 percent from 54 percent in 2016.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT begins to systematically cut allotments for integrity or anti-graft institutions in the national budget and staff them with incompetent loyalists, Liberians should brace themselves for gross mismanagement, pillaging and amassing of wealth by public officials.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS by the opposition leader of the approved budget for FY2017/18 to current draft appropriations for FY2020/21 shows that allotment for the Public Procurement Concession Commission (PPCC) has been reduced from US\$1.4 million to US\$752,754, while the budget for the Liberia Extractive Industries and Transparency International (LEITI) suffers a cut from US\$553,356 to US\$220,849; budget for the General Auditing Commission has been slashed from US\$5.3 million in the fiscal period to US\$4.5 million; the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission from US\$2.3 million to US\$1.3 million, and the Governance Commission from US\$1.9 million to US\$1.1 million, respectively.

LIBERIANS SHOULD NOT expect any productively efficient performance from these institutions because the government clearly is not interested in making them professionally functional. Their paralysis as a result of budgetary cuts leaves President Weah and his cronies to bash in broad day looting of our national coffers.

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COMMENTARY

By Eric Posner

Avoiding the Trump Trap

As US President Donald Trump's popularity continues to drop ahead of November's election, he has sought new ways to stoke the public fear and panic that led him to victory in 2016. For his presumptive opponent, Joe Biden, the best strategy may be to make Trump's demagoguery a theme of his campaign.

CHICAGO - With Joe Biden's lead in the polls, many Democrats and Republican Never-Trumpers are increasingly optimistic that US President Donald Trump will lose in November. But it would be a mistake to count Trump out. He has formidable advantages that will become more salient as the election nears. These advantages have nothing to do with his accomplishments or failures, and everything to do with his mastery of political theater.

For liberals, a dominant view is that, thanks to Trump's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis it unleashed, Republican and Trump-leaning independent voters are coming to their senses. But this is a sunny reading of events. Trump won the election in 2016 by converting his professional and temperamental unfitness for the presidency into a political virtue. Defiance of the establishment gave Trump credibility among Republican voters, who believed that mainstream politicians ignored their interests.

Trump solidified his support by stoking fears that immigrants were overrunning the country and threatening the dominance of white Americans. He offered himself as a savior. That was enough.

As illegal immigration has receded from the public imagination, Trump has sought new ways to capitalize on voters' fears. He believes he has found it in the specter of urban criminality.

Trump clearly expects to benefit from the chaotic confrontations between police and protesters in America's big cities. No matter that most Americans sympathize with Black Lives Matter: if voters believe that crime and disorder will rise (as it has in places like Chicago) and that riots will erupt, their fears will take precedence over ideals of social justice.

Fearful people seek protection from powerful authority figures. No authority figure is more powerful than the sitting president of the United States, who oversees massive security resources. This is why so many observers worry that Trump's motive in sending federal paramilitary forces into US cities was not to deter violence, but to provoke it.

As with illegal immigration, Trump has tried to tie peoples' fear for their safety with broader anxiety about cultural change. Just as Trump depicted illegal immigrants as criminals and threats to traditional American values, he portrays protesters as rioters and threats to American culture and history. They are not just lobbing Molotov cocktails; they are tearing down America's heroes.

The liberal media believes or hopes that Americans see through Trump's strategy, and blame the violence on him, not on the protesters. Maybe. But Trump is following in the footsteps of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush, all of whom provoked or exploited fears of urban crime and social decay on their way to the presidency.

Imagine it is October. Americans have forgotten about Trump's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is subsiding as vaccines come to

market or mask wearing and social distancing take hold and finally work. They are not terribly interested in Biden's promises to improve health care, address racial injustices, build infrastructure, or repair America's relationships with allies. They are worried about soaring crime rates, never-ending protests, and what they see as attacks from the left on traditional values and institutions. They trust Trump to tackle crime, and believe his warning that "Sleepy Joe" will disregard their fears.

In this scenario, Biden can choose among three responses. He could take the high road and point out that crime remains low by historical standards and is a local, not a federal, matter. He could argue that it is caused by childhood adversity that only well-designed federal social programs and police reforms can address. And he might also note that far more people in the US have died as a result of Trump's bungled COVID-19 response than die from homicide in a typical year.

But, against a demagogue like Trump, the high road is a certain path to defeat. Fearful voters will not be satisfied by better statistical analysis or policy reforms that address the threat only indirectly.

The low road would involve a left or center-left style of demagoguery. Here, the goal is not to counter people's fear of crime but to redirect their fear to something else. Biden could try to stir up fear of the police, or of a police state helmed by Trump and manned by thuggish federal paramilitaries. Or he could follow the lead of classic populists from Huey Long to Hugo Chávez, and attack the rich and the corporate bogeyman as the source of all problems.

Biden can do neither. His decency works against him: an appeal to voters' primal fears will lack credibility. Nor would these tactics work. Few Americans want to defund the police - as Biden has already recognized. And Biden is too much a creature of the establishment to plausibly attack the rich.

Fortunately, Biden has a better strategy: to make Trump's demagoguery a theme of his campaign.

The last major American demagogue was Senator Joseph McCarthy, who held sway over US politics from 1950 to 1954. McCarthy gained power by harping on the political establishment's alleged failure to oppose the Soviet threat and Communist influence. McCarthy, like Trump, built on a real if thin empirical record. Communist efforts to subvert the US government had been stopped by World War II's end. Drawing on public anxiety about Soviet expansionism, McCarthy inflated the threat with false accusations and manipulation of the press.

Yet McCarthy fell as quickly as he rose (he was censured by the Senate in 1954 and died in drunken obscurity in 1957). Perhaps Americans tired of his antics: none of his accusations led to a criminal conviction for espionage, undermining his credibility. Or perhaps he overreached by attacking the US Army, which enjoyed more trust among Americans than did his earlier targets, which included the State Department and Hollywood.

O-PED

By Dani Rodrik

Democratizing Innovation

Policymakers and the public at large understand the importance of innovation to economic growth and well being. What is less well appreciated is the degree to which the innovation agenda has been captured by narrow groups of investors and firms whose values and interests don't necessarily reflect society's needs.

CAMBRIDGE - Innovation is the engine that drives contemporary economies. Living standards are determined by productivity growth, which in turn depends on the introduction and dissemination of new technologies that allow an ever-wider variety of goods and services to be produced with fewer and fewer of our planet's resources.

Policymakers and the public at large understand the importance of innovation. What is less well appreciated is the degree to which the innovation agenda has been captured by narrow groups of investors and firms whose values and interests don't necessarily reflect society's needs.

In today's advanced economies, private firms undertake the bulk of research and development. The business sector's share of total R&D spending ranges from 60% in Singapore to 78% in South Korea, with the United States closer to the higher end, at 72%. But it is the public sector that provides the essential social, legal, and educational infrastructure that sustains private R&D.

Innovation in the private sector depends crucially on government funding of basic science and research labs. It relies on scientific talent trained in universities supported by public funds. The state provides innovators with monopoly rights through the patent system, and ensures the private appropriation of returns to R&D through labor and contract law. Not least, private R&D is heavily subsidized by the state through tax credits and other policies.

As a society, we should care not just about how much innovation takes place, but also about the types of new technologies that are developed. We ought to ensure we are investing in technologies that are safe, environmentally sound, empower rather than simply replace human labor, and are consistent with democratic values and human rights.

The direction of technological change is not fixed or determined from outside the social and economic system. Instead, it is shaped by incentives, values, and the distribution of power.

Despite the state's heavy involvement in supporting innovation, governments typically pay remarkably little attention to the direction technological change takes in private hands. But private firms' priorities often lead them to under-invest in technologies that have significant long-run returns, such as those that reduce climate change, or to pay inadequate attention to the human-rights or privacy implications of digital innovations. Pharmaceutical companies, for example, seek returns in high-priced medicines for rare diseases affecting advanced economies, instead of vaccines for tropical diseases affecting millions in poor countries.

Moreover, firms tend to over-invest in automation in order to increase the return to capital and managers, at the expense of employees. As the economists Daron Acemoglu and Pascual Restrepo have noted, this may result in "so-so technologies" which produce few overall productivity benefits, while leaving workers worse off.

The common fixation with automation can lead the smartest investors astray. In 2016, Elon Musk announced that Tesla's Model 3 would be built in a new, fully automated car factory, which would operate at speeds exceeding what is feasible for humans. Two years later, the plans had floundered, and severe bottlenecks at the new factory made clear actual production would fall far short of the company's targets. Musk was forced to set up a new assembly line - full of human workers - on the factory grounds. "Humans are underrated," he conceded on Twitter.

Innovators' priorities are naturally shaped by their own cultural and social milieu. In a recent paper, Harvard Business School professor Josh Lerner and Ramana Nanda have quantified how distant their values and priorities may be from those of ordinary people.

In the US, venture capital (VC) plays a disproportionate role in financing innovation by startups. The VC industry is highly concentrated, with the top 5% of investors accounting for 50% of the capital raised.

Three regions - the San Francisco Bay Area, Greater New York, and Greater Boston - account for about two-thirds of the industry and over 90% of top firms' corporate board membership. The top VC firms' influence goes even further, because they often act as gatekeepers for other investors.

The social and educational background of those who make the investment decisions is equally homogeneous. Lerner and Nanda report that three-quarters of partners with at least one board seat in top VC firms attended an Ivy League university, Caltech, MIT, or Stanford. Nearly a third are graduates of just two business schools (Harvard and Stanford). It would be surprising if the funding decisions taken were not influenced by the social composition of the group.

Lerner and Nanda suggest that the geographic concentration of VC firms may have contributed to the "hollowing out" of innovative activities in other parts of the country. "Venture firms based in other cities," they argue, "might have chosen very different firms to invest in given their perspectives on their local economies."

Biased priorities prevail in public innovation programs as well. The largest single program supporting high-tech innovation in the US is the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which as the name indicates, is oriented toward military applications. While many DARPA projects have yielded civilian benefits as well (not least the Internet and GPS), agency priorities are clearly shaped by defense considerations.

DARPA's clean-energy technologies counterpart, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), has barely a tenth the budget. Perhaps the biggest omission is that no government currently has programs devoted specifically to funding the development of labor-friendly technologies.

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OPINION

By Ricardo Hausmann

Why Zoom Can't Save the World

Business travel, which used to represent \$1.5 trillion a year - about 1.7% of world GDP - has slowed to a trickle. But the economic impact will extend far beyond lost jobs at airlines and in the hospitality industry, because it will also lead to a substantial decline in the transfer of knowledge.

CAMBRIDGE - Before COVID-19, spending on business travel totaled \$1.5 trillion a year (about 1.7% of world GDP). Now it is down to a trickle, as countries have closed their borders and social distancing has taken hold. Planes have been grounded, hotels are closed, and executives are not earning frequent flier miles. Many travel and hospitality jobs are feeling the consequences. But if this were all there was to it, the impact, however large, would probably be much smaller than the decline in general international tourism and easily reversible, once the pandemic is over.

Alas, recent research by Harvard's Frank Neffke, Michele Coscia of IT University in Copenhagen, and me, just published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Human Behavior*, finds that the impact of closing down business travel may be much larger and more durable. To understand why, we first must ask ourselves why business travel was so big to begin with. And why had it been growing at three times the rate of global GDP, despite the availability of Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp, or just e-mail - all tools that predate both COVID-19 and Zoom?

Was it all about perks, or was that \$1.5 trillion mostly money well spent? If so, why, and what are the implications if those activities are now restricted?

Clearly, when we started this research, we could not have imagined such a complete shutdown of business travel. But our analysis does shed light on the possible consequences.

At the time, we were studying technological diffusion. Technology, we argue, is really three types of knowledge: embodied knowledge in tools; codified knowledge in codes, recipes, formulas, algorithms, and how-to-do manuals; and tacit knowledge in brains. Of the three, tools and codes are easy to move around, but knowhow moves very slowly from brain to brain through a long process of imitation, repetition, and feedback, as when learning to speak a new language or to play a musical instrument.

As Malcolm Gladwell argues in his book *Outliers*, it takes 10,000 hours of practice to become good at something. Faced with the difficulty of moving knowhow from brain to brain, people long ago figured out that it was much easier to just move the brains. Many scholars, including us, had studied the movement of knowhow between firms, regions, and countries through labor mobility, migration and diasporas.

But what about business travel? In previous work, we had shown that it is poorly correlated with trade or even new flows of foreign direct investment. It seems to be much more closely correlated with the number of establishments in one country that are owned by firms in another country.

According to Dun & Bradstreet, there are 1.5 million such establishments in the world. To run a firm, you need not only information, but also the capacity to figure things out. You need knowhow. One of the advantages of multinational corporations and global consulting, accounting, and law firms is that they can move that capacity to different points in their network.

With anonymized and aggregated data on business travel provided by the MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth, we were able to figure out if business travel was important in technological diffusion by making knowhow available to recipient countries. That is exactly what we found. Business travel from countries that are good in a particular industry translates into higher productivity, employment, and exports in those industries in the recipient country in the subsequent three years. Moreover, the variation in business travel associated with differences in bilateral visa regimes enables us to interpret this relationship not just as a correlation, but as a causal link.

The countries that benefit the most from inflows of knowhow through business travel are Austria, Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Hong Kong, and Singapore. There are no developing countries among the top 25 recipients. The best performers in the developing world are Panama, Uruguay, Serbia, Malaysia, South Africa, and Chile. The countries that share their knowledge more profusely are Germany, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Korea, France, and Japan. India, Brazil, and China rank 12th, 15th, and 17th, respectively.

According to our estimates, a complete permanent shutdown of international business travel would shrink global GDP by over 17% of GDP, an order of magnitude larger than the 1.7% of GDP that was being spent in 2018, before the pandemic. The worst-affected countries would be those that currently benefit the most from inflows of knowhow.

The pre-Covid-19 world as we knew it increasingly relied on the ability to source knowhow globally. Economies that were able to connect to these knowhow flows benefited from higher productivity, output, and exports. Much of the developing world was quite peripheral to these flows, but whatever they got was still very important for their diversification and development.

Many people, including me, are finding that they can be as productive working from home and connecting through Zoom as they were in the office or traveling for business. But this may be a short-term illusion that varies significantly by activity. The International Monetary Fund has been able to disburse financial assistance to many countries quickly, by doing deskwork, talking through Webex, and then just wiring funds. But development banks have had much more trouble putting together infrastructure projects, where physical presence is unavoidable. Local firms have had trouble building structures, repairing equipment, or figuring out how to improve operations without access to global in-person knowhow.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Russia strategizes African market

By KesterKennKlomegah*

Russia plans to offer trade subsidies and investment guarantees as an emergency support for Russian companies to penetrate into African market, part of the strategy for strengthening economic ties between Russia and Africa, according a special meeting report released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The report indicated that the Ministry's Business Council had discussed a wide range of issues on promoting Russia and Russian businesses' interests in Africa. Noting further that Africa has huge natural resources still untapped, all kinds of emerging business opportunities and constantly growing consumer market due to the increasing population. It has currently become a new business field for global players.

There was a lot of interesting and demanding work ahead, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the Ministry's Business Council meeting held July 16 in Moscow. He added "perhaps, there is a need to pay attention to the experience of China, which provides its enterprises with state guarantees and subsidies, thus ensuring the ability of companies to work on a systematic and long-term basis."

According to Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Ministry would continue to provide all-round support for initiatives aimed at strengthen relations between Russia and Africa. "Our African friends have spoken up for closer interaction with Russia and would welcome our companies on their markets. But much depends on the reciprocity of Russian businesses and their readiness to show initiative and ingenuity, as well as to offer quality goods and services," he said at the meeting.

He urged Russian entrepreneurs, both small and medium-sized, to race against other foreign players to get access to the African markets and its trading resources, be fearless of competition and rivalry but play with adequate caution to save Russia's image in Africa.

"We find it important to estimate options for attracting small and medium-sized businesses to African markets. This segment of our cooperation is still insignificant," he stated.

"We will rely on the existing and strengthening foundation of Russian-African cooperation. This year we have significantly intensified political dialogue, cooperation between parliaments and civil societies," Lavrov explained.

"This positive groundwork allows us to convert this into increasing trade, economic and investment exchanges, to expand banking cooperation, the implementation of mutually beneficial projects," he underlined.

Lavrov further underscored the fact that trade and economic relations have reached a new level, and "the first ever Russia-Africa summit, which is to be held in October in Sochi, would give a special impetus to these processes."

The first Russia-Africa summit scheduled to take place in Sochi on October 24 and will be co-chaired by President of Russia Vladimir Putin and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who currently chairs the African Union.

In June, Moscow hosted a shareholder meeting of the African Export-Import Bank, as well as the Russia-Africa Economic Conference. Early July, the Russia-Africa Parliamentary Conference was held



as part of the International Development of Parliamentarianism Forum, which took place in Moscow.

During the special session on Russia-Africa held July 3, the former Special Presidential Representative to Africa, Professor Alexey Vasilev, pointed out that the level and scope of Russian economic cooperation with Africa has doubled in recent years, "but unfortunately Russian-African cooperation is not in the top five of the foreign players in Africa."

Speaking particularly about trade, Vasilev noted that not all African countries have signed agreements with Russia, for example, on the abolition of double taxation. He urged African countries to make trade choices that are in their best economic interests and further suggested that Russia should also consider the issue of removal of tariff and non-tariff restrictions on economic relations.

In order to increase trade, Russia has to improve its manufacturing base and Africa has to standardize its export products to compete in external markets. Russia has only few manufactured goods that could successfully compete with Western-made products in Africa.

The former Presidential Envoy believes that it is also necessary to create, for example, free trade areas. "But before creating them, we need information. And here, I am ready to reproach the Russian side, providing little or inadequate information to Africans about their capabilities, and on the other hand, reproach the African side, because when our business comes to Africa, they should know where they go, why and what they will get as a result," Vasilev told the gathering of parliamentarians.

Interestingly, there are few Russian traders in Africa and African exporters are not trading in Russia's market, in both cases, due to multiple reasons including inadequate knowledge of trade procedures, rules and regulations as well as the existing market conditions, he pointed out.

"The task before us, especially before the both parliaments, is to harmonize the norms of trade, contract and civil law. The parliamentarians of the two sides have the task to work together on a legislative framework that would be in the interests of both sides. This should be a matter of priority," Vasilev concluded.

Meanwhile, there is possibility that a memorandum

on cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the African Union will be signed in the near future. This memorandum will bring Russian-African trade and economic cooperation to a higher level and will accelerate the growth of bilateral trade. The Eurasian consumer market, especially the growing middle-class, could be good for African exporters.

Russia is interested in new markets and external alliances more than ever before, while Africa also looks for ways toward economic growth in recent years. In this context, African countries need to think about the smart approaches, mechanisms, and tools to use for effective trade cooperation, according to a new analytical handbook on Russia-Africa published by Modern Diplomacy ahead of Russia-Africa Summit in October.

With the current sanctions of the United States and Europe against Russia, there is this massive opportunity for African producers to develop more effectively their trade relationships with Russia. Try to find answers to a few questions, for example, what are the key initiatives and competencies that can create a deeper strategic trade partnership between Russia and Africa?

In practice of diplomacy, parties usually talk about mutual benefits. While Africans will benefit largely from Russia's trade with the continent, taking into account the changing consumer landscape, it is deeply important for Africans, for example, to negotiate for trade preferences, tariff and tax relief) for their products to Russia and its neighboring republics.

But this factor is often missed. Nevertheless, African leaders and business directors have to take steps to explore two-way corporate business, begin looking at wide range of ways on promoting Africa and its business interests in the Russian Federation, contained in the published geopolitical handbook on Russia-Africa.

Whether Moscow will move from mere intentions to concrete actions, with commitment and consistency, remains largely to be seen in the subsequent years, according to policy experts and observers who monitor developments between Russia and Africa. According to official reports, Russia has a positive dynamics of trade with Africa, its trade exceeded US\$20 billion in 2018. *KesterKennKlomegah writes frequently about Russia-Africa and the BRICS.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Charcoal producers get training

The National Charcoal Union of Liberia (NACUL) has trained 30 charcoal producers in Bomi County in market analysis and development as well as latest technologies.

Held August 10-11, 2020 in

Charcoal Producers Association, Klay District Charcoal Producers Association and Senjeh District Charcoal Producers Association.

A female trainer, Ms. Christine E. Harmon, facilitated the workshop, drilling participants through marketing

them.

Ms. Harmon, in a simple interactive discussion, lectured the trainees on the four major market and analysis development approaches, including (a) assessing existing situations, (b) carrying out survey in order to select products, (c) preparing an enterprise development plan and (d) supporting the start-up phase.

The training was also practical, with participants broken into groups to select potential products among listed but local resources of their forest, after identifying matched and existing situations and possible solutions in a local understanding.

On the overall, the charcoal burners were trained for a progressive marketing to be the hallmark of their business approaches as well as sustainable production and forest management. All geared toward benefiting from the forest and sustainably managing it.

At the end of the training, participants commended NACUL for the training and appealed for more training

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Participants with NACUL staff at the training in Klay, Bomi County

Klay, Bomi County, the EU/FLEGT program-sponsored training brought together leaders and members of the three charcoal burner groups in Bomi County. They include: Suehn/Mecca District

and analysis development plans.

Though participants were mainly charcoal burners, the training was meant to expose them to the general market idea that could explore other business opportunities for

Weah accepts CARI OIC's resignation

President George Manneh Weah has accepted the resignation of Madam Paulette Findley as Officer - in - Charge at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI).

President Weah has named Dr. Victor Harry Sumo as Officer-in-Charge, pending the appointment of a new head.

Charge since June 29, 2019.

She says she felt very strongly the time had come for her to move on, having completed the task assigned to her to set up a framework for a more sustainable development at the institute.

She reaffirms her confidence in President George Manneh Weah and the



Madam Findley, who has been in the position since June 29, 2019, tendered her resignation Monday, 10 August 2020.

According to the Executive Mansion, Madam Findley expressed most sincere gratitude to the president for the rare opportunity given her to serve her beloved country in the capacity as Officer-In-

government to steer the country to higher heights.

CARI is an autonomous agency of government established to conduct Research for the development, promotion and dissemination of improved agricultural technologies for enhanced and increased food production in Liberia.--Press release

CLA petitions Legislature to review all Covid-19 loans

By Bridgett Milton

The Coalition for Legislative Advocacy (CLA) has petitioned the Legislature to review all loan agreements reached and grants received by the Government of Liberia for the purpose of fighting the coronavirus disease.

Reading the petition on behalf of the group, spokesperson Christopher K. Seeton says they are calling on the Legislature to set up a committee of experts to conduct an independent review of all loans and grants received by the Government of Liberia, including the legality of acquisition and usage in the fight against the coronavirus.

According to him, they believe this will increase public confidence and erase speculation of unlawfulness, secrecy, corruption and misappropriation of public monies.

Seeton says further that the Legislature as a direct



representative of the people must work to ensure transparency and accountability in the fight against the coronavirus.

The petition states that the government has invoked both the Public Health Law and a state of emergency including public movements and

gatherings, limiting business hours, closing schools and religious centers, among others, as measures to help curtail the spread of the disease.

The group reminds that Legislature that Article 34 (d) (iii) of the Constitution of Liberia provides that no loan

shall be raised by the government on behalf of the Republic or guarantees given for any public institution of authority otherwise than by or under the authority of a legislative enactment.

According to the group, the Liberian public including law makers such as Representative Samuel Ender of Montserrado County; Senator Saah Joseph and Senator Darius Dillon of Montserrado County, have raised a series of concerns over

the acquisition, usage and execution of these loan agreements.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the House of Representatives, the chairperson on Claims and Petition Representative Rustonlyn Suacoco Dennis promises the petitioners that she will take the petition to the full plenary and they will get back to the group as soon as possible.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Signs of violent campaign

-ECC expresses deep concerns

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) warns that the pattern of violence and political intimidation in Liberia are early warning indicators of the potential for a violent

October 8, 2020 for the Special Senatorial Election and Referendum.

According to the press statement, politically-driven violence runs counter to a fundamental principle of democracy: the exchange and

parties, their leaders, candidates, and supporters to demonstrate tolerance and refrain from acts of violence before, during and after the pending elections.

The ECC has also observed pre-campaigning activities related to the referendum with the proposed propositions erected on public facilities.

It says this is a breach of the regulation governing the campaign period which starts on October 8, 2020.

The ECC calls on the National Elections Commission (NEC) to work with the relevant state institutions to enforce the election laws and regulations in order to engender public trust in the electoral process.

At the same time, the ECC commends the Board of Commissioners at the NEC for reducing the overall budget for the conduct of the 2020 Special Senatorial Election from 17.8 Million to 13.5 Million.

While the ECC welcomes this development against the background that funding from international development partners is unlikely, it also urges the NEC to inform the public on activities that were shortened which led to the

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campaign ahead of the 2020 senatorial election.

The ECC says in a press release that it is deeply concerned about the trend of violence that is taking place in the country prior to the official campaign period of

competition of ideas.

The ECC notes that violence and political intolerance have no place in the current political dispensation here and run the risk of undermining the country's fragile peace and democracy.

It calls on all political

Winner's Chapel official accused of kidnap

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The mother of a 15-year-old lad, Madam Romina Wilson has accused an official of Winner's Chapel Church situated in Oldest Congo Town outside of Monrovia Barak Sackor, of kidnap after the latter under covered of darkness, took her son, Prosper Sailley, from their Duazon residence along the Robertsfeld Highway unknown to the child's parents.

Alerting Madam Romina Wilson about her child's situation on Monday, August 10, the head of the Women and Children Protection Section of the Liberia National Police (LNP) depot #5 situated in Shufflin Town, Margibi County only identified as Bellepo said, while at his office on May 20, a group of men led by Barak Sackor took the minor to the

depot around midnight, alleging that Prosper threw stones over his (Sackor's) house.

Bellepo disclosed that in order to ascertain what actually transpired, he requested the

Winners Chapel Church official Sackor to explain why he brought the minor to the police.

According to him, after carefully listening to complainant Sackor's explanations, he then asked

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Imam Sheriff seeks de-escalation of conflict

By Lewis S. Teh

Chief Imam Salah M. Sheriff of the Salafiya Mosque on Front Street, Monrovia is urging Liberians to unite to curtail escalation of conflict, in the wake of violent incidences occurring in the country.

"My Fellow Citizens, let us desists from those things that will continue to pull us down as a country, and unite to curtail escalation of conflicts from our country", he pleads, noting that Liberia belongs to every citizens, not specific groups or tribes.

In a news release Tuesday, August 11, 2020, Imam Sheriff says Liberia continues to dwell in doom and weakness as a result of violence, something, he warns could lead to serious conflict, if intervention were not made.

He notes that Liberia had been known as home of

prefer to die for honor and dignity", he adds.

He calls every Liberian, religious groupings, including Muslims and Christians, among others to reconcile before it's too late, He says it's time Liberians forget about doing things that will promote separation, because everyone has a right to freedom of religion.

Chief Imam Sheriff urges Liberians to open their hearts to sincere reconciliation, saying, "I'm asking everyone for support in order to spoil this conspiracy among us. this is a call to our Lawmakers, now is the chance to curtail our suffering and the high death rate in this country, because the recent death rate at the Capitol is anger of God and the hate that in us."

When quizzed why Muslims



generosity, love, and parent of creativeness and wonderful people, but persistent conflict is ruining the country, asking, "What this conflict of inequality is all about?"

According to him, if Liberia would get on the right trajectory to witness speedy growth and development, there is a need for citizens to be themselves, stressing, "We need to curtail this conspiracy theorist in order to save our nation and the regained dignity.

"We have to change our mindset, attitudes and feelings as in conflict are basically concerned with the issues of trust, bitterness and disdain toward each other". But I'm using this medium to openly apologize to all native Liberians on behalf of our ancestors, the great ones who

in Liberia are demanding holidays, he said Muslims her are making the demand because it's their rights, saying our children will be chased from this society, you can't tell - leaders go and come, because we have that sentiments and believe that Muslims are not part of this country."

"You are aware of the illegal removal of former associate Justice Kabina Janneh, and former deputy police inspector general for operations Abraham Kromah. We have not had any officials in government like these two."

He said if Liberia will and must achieve peace in spite of these controversies, there is a need to exercise love for country, concluding, "If you have love, you have peace of mind."

Français

MeNwabudikerefait surface parmi les juristes en dépit de sa radiation du barreau national

Le libérien d'origine nigériane en disgrâce avec le barreau national, Me NdubusiNwabudike, continue de se présenter parmi les avocats et refuse de démissionner de son poste de président de la Commission anti-corruption du Libéria (LACC).

Il est apparu parmi les juristes lors de la cérémonie

de la rentrée judiciaire le lundi 10 août, suscitant ainsi des réactions mitigées parmi les hommes en robe.

Avec le soutien du régime du président George MannehWeah, M. Nwabudike préside toujours la LACC, une entité anti-corruption clé, malgré le fait que sa réputation et son intégrité aient été mises à l'épreuve par son incapacité lamentable de prouver qu'il est

devenu Libérien selon la procédure légale et normale. Pire, les documents dont il dispose et qu'il a présentés au sénat ont des dates de naissance multiples et différentes, ce qui met à mal sa crédibilité.

Le Temple de la Justice s'est empli de murmures assourdissants lundi avec l'arrivée de l'avocat expulsé du barreau pour assister gaillardement à l'ouverture officielle de la session judiciaire pour le mois d'août.

Me Nwabudike est entré dans la salle où se tenait le programme alors que la plupart des participants étaient à assis, attirant ainsi l'attention du public.

Soudain, tous les regards se fixèrent sur l'homme qui dirige la commission qui est censée moraliser la vie publique des fonctionnaires et poursuivre les responsables corrompus, alors que lui-même, son intégrité et sa crédibilité laissent à désirer.

A la fin du programme, l'homme fort soutenu

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Nigeria : un chanteur condamné à mort par un tribunal islamique

Au Nigeria, un tribunal islamique de Kano, dans le nord du pays a condamné à mort un musicien, un jeune artiste accusé de blasphème contre le prophète. Il faut dire que les États du nord du Nigeria appliquent, depuis le début des années 2000, une version stricte de la charia, la loi islamique. C'est la seconde

fois qu'une peine de mort est prononcée pour blasphème.

YahayaAminu Sharif, jeune artiste de 22 ans, est accusé d'avoir insulté le prophète Mohamed dans une chanson, qui a été diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux en mars. La chanson avait soulevé une levée de boucliers à Kano, mégapole du Nord. Des

habitants en colère avaient incendié le domicile familial du jeune artiste avant de manifester devant le poste de police islamique, estimant que les autorités locales ne faisaient pas leur travail pour préserver la sharia.

Incompréhension

YahayaAminu Sharif a été interpellé et traduit ce lundi 11 août devant le tribunal islamique de Kano. Lors de son audition, qui s'est déroulé à huis clos, l'artiste a plaidé coupable. La sentence est tombée dans la foulée, comme un couperet : condamnation à mort ; le musicien devrait être pendu. Il peut encore faire appel de cette décision.

À peine prononcé, ce jugement a rassuré les manifestants à Kano, qui estiment que cette condamnation a valeur d'exemple. À l'inverse, sur les réseaux sociaux, plusieurs internautes expriment leur incompréhension concernant l'application stricte de la sharia au moment où les autorités réintègrent près de 600 membres de Boko Haram qui se sont repentis.



COVID : le résultat du deuxième test de Mme Wilson tarde à venir, son avocat s'impatiente



L'Américaine d'origine libérienne, Mme SkeeterT. Wilson, dont le résultat du test COVID-19 a plongé l'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL) dans un énièmes scandale, a réalisé un deuxième test à l'Institut.

Mme Skeeter a dû se soumettre à un deuxième test de COVID-19 pour s'en querir de son état de santé réel après que le résultat du premier a fait l'objet d'un scandale sanitaire. Mais il semblerait que le résultat du second test tarde à venir, alors que l'américaine meurt d'impatience devant la lenteur de l'appareil sanitaire du Libéria.

Son avocat a déclaré lundi au New Dawn que les autorités du NPHIL n'avaient pas encore répondu à une demande écrite concernant le statut COVID-19 de sa cliente. Il a en outre dit être sur le point d'écrire une deuxième communication pour obtenir des éclaircissements.

Au moins trois responsables de l'Institut ont été suspendus pour avoir délivré un certificat à une patiente du COVID-19, certifiant qu'elle n'était pas porteuse du Coronavirus, alors qu'en fait cette dernière avait été testée positive. Le NPHIL est l'institution gouvernementale chargée de tester les cas probables de coronavirus. Il est au-devant de la lutte contre le COVID-19 au Libéria.

Les fonctionnaires suspendus sont Amos F. Gborie, directeur adjoint, Division de l'hygiène du milieu et du travail, M. FahnTaweh, directeur adjoint du Laboratoire national de santé publique et de référence et Jonathan G. Ender, chef de cabinet du directeur général du NPHIL, Dr MasokaFallah.

Le trio a délivré un certificat médical de COVID-19 pour voyageur à une Américaine d'origine libérienne, Mme SkeeterT. Wilson, qui a été débarquée de l'avion le dimanche 2 août 2020 par des responsables du service d'immigration du Libéria après que les autorités ont découvert que son certificat était faux.

Selon les informations recueillies par ce journal, Mme Wilson a été testée positive et, grâce au protocole de traitement du système de gestion des incidents (IMS), elle a été informée du résultat et mise sous traitement. Moins d'une semaine plus tard, un certificat médical portant la signature du Dr MakosaFallah lui a été délivré, lequel certificat médical la déclarait exempte du virus.

Dr Fallah, qui n'a pas nié que c'est sa signature qui figurait sur le document, a accusé son chef de cabinet Jonathan G. Ender qui, selon lui, aurait apposé sa signature électronique sur le document à son insu.

« Cette question a été portée à mon attention le vendredi 7 août », a dit Dr Fallah au New Dawn le dimanche 9 août. « Je ne savais pas que cela se passait sous mon nez », a-t-il ajouté.

Selon lui, après que l'affaire a été portée à son attention, il a été informé par son adjoint Amos F. Gborie, que Mme Wilson était venue brusquement au bureau pour demander un certificat médical pour voyageur, qui est une exigence dans le cadre de la lutte contre la COVID-19.

Il a expliqué que lorsque la question a été portée à son attention, il a ouvert une enquête et a découvert que le résultat initial de Mme Wilson était positif, mais qu'il avait été changé en négatif par M. Gborie.

Les informations recueillies par ce quotidien indiquent que M. Gborie a délivré à Mme Wilson un certificat médical qui faisait état d'un test négatif après que M. TrokonYeabah, l'un des responsables du laboratoire, lui a été envoyé le résultat. M. TrokonYeabah avait pourtant clairement déclaré que le résultat était positif.

Gborie a ensuite envoyé une lettre de confirmation au chef du personnel du bureau de Dr Fallah, Jonathan Enders, qui sans vérification, a apposé la signature électronique du Dr Fallah.

La délivrance du certificat de décharge qui a été délivré à Mme Wilson a maintenant déclenché une controverse majeure qui pourrait miner la crédibilité du pays dans sa lutte contre le coronavirus alors que l'avocat représentant Mme Wilson a obtenu la libération de sa cliente.

Me Neto ZarzarLighe a déclaré

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Français

MeNwabudikerefait surface

mordicus par le régime actuel s'est précipité hors de la salle, sans mot dire ni à ses collègues ni aux journalistes. Il est reparti comme il est venu.

La plupart des avocats qui se sont confiés au journal New Dawn après le départ Me Nwabudike ont qualifié d'acceptable la participation de l'avocat expulsé à un programme des avocats, étant donné que la règle de la cour stipule que seuls les avocats qui sont en règle avec l'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria (LNBA) peuvent jouer le rôle d'avocat.

Par contre, d'autres avocats ont fait croire que c'était son droit parce qu'il n'a été expulsé que de la LNBA et non de la pratique du droit dans le pays.

A noter que le ministre d'État aux Affaires présidentielles, Nathaniel McGill, a déclaré récemment que le président n'a aucun droit de limoger Me Nwabudike parce qu'il occupe un poste permanent. Sa justification fait suite aux nombreux appels de certains membres de l'Assemblée législative libérienne au limogeage du nigérian d'origine.

La LNBA a expulsé, le vendredi 19 juin, l'avocat d'origine nigériane à la nationalité libérienne controversée, Me A. Ndubuisi Nwabudike, l'accusant de fraude et de faux et usage de faux. « Il est devenu membre de l'Association nationale du

barreau libérien par des moyens frauduleux », a indiqué le barreau national.

Le fonctionnaire en disgrâce continue de présider la LACC, un poste réservé aux Libériens, bien qu'il n'ait pas été à mesure de prouver qu'il est Libérien par naturalisation lors de l'audience de confirmation du Sénat à la suite de sa nomination à la tête de la Commission Électorale Nationale (NEC).

C'est le poste qu'il occupait quand il a été nommé par le président Weah à la tête de la commission électorale. Il travaillait auparavant à la Commission de la bonne gouvernance. Lors de l'audience de confirmation du Sénat, Me Nwabudike avait insisté qu'il s'est naturalisé Libérien en 1982, mais les documents qu'il a présentés pour étayer ses propos étaient truffés de contradictions au point qu'il était totalement impossible pour la chambre haute du parlement libérien de le confirmer à son nouveau poste.

Certes la confirmation précédente de Nwabudike en tant que président de la LACC s'est déroulée sans entrave car le faible système du Libéria n'avait pu détecter la supercherie qui entourait la façon dont il a acquis la citoyenneté libérienne, ce qui lui avait permis de pratiquer le droit ici, mais pas pour cette fois, apparemment parce que le poste de président de la commission électorale nationale est un poste stratégique et politiquement sensible.

COVID : le résultat du deuxième test

dimanche au New Dawn qu'il avait écrit l'IMS qui, sous la présidence du ministre de la Santé, Dr Wilhelmina Jallah, a immédiatement libéré sa cliente et lui a rendu son passeport américain. Me Lighe a déclaré que sa cliente ne peut être tenue responsable d'une erreur interne commise au NPHIL.

Dans une communication qui a été adressée à M. Gborie et à deux autres personnes, Dr Fallah a déclaré : « Au milieu de la crise du COVID-19, il est très dangereux pour le pays quand des cas positifs confirmés reçoivent des résultats négatifs. Cela entraînera une nouvelle propagation de la maladie, ce qui rendra son endiguement extrêmement difficile ».

Il a déclaré que conformément aux lignes directrices et aux meilleures pratiques du NPHIL, seules les personnes dont les résultats négatifs ont

été vérifiés reçoivent un certificat de voyage. Il a ajouté que la violation grave de cette mesure établie pour la lutte contre la propagation du COVID-19 dans le pays.

Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un tel incident se produit. On se souvient d'une situation similaire qui s'est produite lorsque le professeur Alaric Tokpah a rejeté les allégations selon lesquelles il était COVID-19 positif après avoir précédemment reçu un certificat signé par Dr Fallah, l'informant qu'il était négatif.

Quelques minutes après que les responsables de la santé ont alerté le professeur Tokpah et demandé sa mise en quarantaine immédiate, un tollé s'est ensuivi, incitant les militants du Parti de l'unification des étudiants (SUP) à déployer des étudiants dans sa communauté à Lapkzee pour empêcher les autorités sanitaires de le mettre en quarantaine.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Eric Posner

Éviter le piège de Trump

CHICAGO - Alors que Joe Biden est en tête dans les sondages, de nombreux Démocrates et de Républicains qui n'ont jamais soutenu Trump sont de plus en plus optimistes quant à la défaite du Président américain Donald Trump en novembre. Mais ce serait une erreur de faire une croix sur la candidature de Trump. Il dispose de quelques avantages redoutables qui vont devenir de plus en plus remarquables à mesure que la date des élections se rapproche. Ces avantages n'ont rien à voir avec ses réussites ou ses échecs, et tout avec sa maestria en matière de mise en scène politique.

Pour les progressistes, l'opinion dominante consiste à dire que, grâce à la mauvaise gestion par Trump de la pandémie de COVID-19 et suite à la crise économique qu'elle a déclenchée, les électeurs Républicains et les électeurs indépendants de tendance Trump parviendront à entendre raison. Mais c'est envisager la situation actuelle sous un angle optimiste. Trump a remporté les élections de 2016 en convertissant son inaptitude professionnelle, ainsi que l'inadéquation de son caractère à la présidence, en une vertu politique. La défiance envers les élites a donné à Trump la crédibilité auprès des électeurs Républicains, qui ont cru que les politiciens traditionnels négligeaient leurs intérêts.

Trump a consolidé son soutien en attisant les craintes que les immigrants ne renversent le pays et ne constituent une menace à l'encontre de la domination des Blancs américains. Il s'est présenté comme un sauveur. Cela lui a suffi.

Alors que l'immigration clandestine s'estompée de l'imaginaire populaire, Trump cherche un nouveau moyen de capitaliser sur les craintes des électeurs. Il pense avoir trouvé un tel moyen dans le spectre de la criminalité urbaine.

Trump s'attend clairement à bénéficier des affrontements chaotiques entre la police et les manifestants dans les grandes villes américaines. Peu importe si la plupart des Américains sympathisent avec Black Lives Matter : si les électeurs croient que le crime et le désordre vont augmenter (comme c'est le cas dans des villes comme Chicago) et que des émeutes vont éclater, leurs craintes vont l'emporter sur les idéaux de justice sociale.

Les gens craintifs recherchent la protection de formes d'autorité puissantes. Aucune forme d'autorité n'est plus puissante que le Président des États-Unis en exercice, qui supervise d'imposantes ressources de sécurité. C'est pourquoi tant d'observateurs s'inquiètent des motivations de Trump quand ce dernier envoie des forces paramilitaires fédérales dans les villes américaines - non pas afin de décourager la violence, mais pour la provoquer.

Comme pour l'immigration clandestine, Trump a tenté d'associer la crainte des citoyens pour leur sécurité à une inquiétude plus large quant au changement culturel. Tout comme Trump a qualifié les immigrants illégaux de criminels et de menaces envers les valeurs américaines traditionnelles, il décrit à présent les manifestants comme des émeutiers et des menaces envers la culture et l'histoire américaines. Ils ne se contentent pas de lancer des cocktails Molotov : ils foulent aux pieds les héros de l'Amérique.

Les médias progressistes croient ou espèrent que les Américains perceront à jour la stratégie de Trump. Et que la violence lui sera imputée à lui, plutôt qu'aux manifestants. C'est envisageable. Mais Trump suit les traces de Richard Nixon, de Ronald Reagan et de George H.W. Bush, qui ont tous provoqué ou exploité les craintes de la criminalité urbaine et de la désintégration sociale - et qui leur ont ouvert la voie de la présidence.

Imaginez que nous sommes en octobre. Les Américains ont oublié la mauvaise gestion par Trump de la pandémie de COVID-19, qui s'estompée au fur et à mesure que les vaccins arrivent sur le marché ou à mesure que le port du masque et les distanciations sociales deviennent enfin des habitudes et finissent par fonctionner. Ils ne sont pas très intéressés par les

promesses de Biden en vue d'améliorer les services de santé, de parer aux injustices raciales, de construire des infrastructures ou de renouer les relations de l'Amérique avec ses alliés. Ils s'inquiètent de la montée en flèche des taux de criminalité, des manifestations incessantes et de ce qu'ils considèrent comme des attaques de gauche contre les valeurs et les institutions traditionnelles. Ils font confiance à Trump pour lutter contre la criminalité et croient à son avertissement selon lequel « Sleepy Joe Biden » ignorera leurs craintes.

Dans un tel scénario, Biden aura le choix entre trois types de réponse. Il peut s'en tirer par le haut et souligner que la criminalité demeure faible selon les normes historiques et qu'il s'agit d'une question locale et non fédérale. Il peut soutenir qu'il s'agit de conséquences de traumatismes subis durant l'enfance, que seuls des programmes sociaux fédéraux et des réformes policières bien conçus seront à même de résoudre. Et il peut également faire remarquer que beaucoup plus de personnes aux États-Unis sont mortes à la suite de la réponse maladroite de Trump à la COVID-19 que suite à des homicides au cours d'une année type.

Mais contre un démagogue comme Trump, tenter de s'en sortir par le haut est le plus court chemin vers la défaite. Les électeurs craintifs ne seront pas satisfaits par une meilleure analyse statistique ni par des réformes politiques qui ne répondent que de manière indirecte à la menace.

Le choix opposé impliquerait un style de démagogie de gauche ou de centre-gauche. Dans ce cas de figure, l'objectif n'est pas de contrer la crainte que les citoyens éprouvent à l'égard de la criminalité, mais plutôt de la rediriger vers quelque chose d'autre. Biden pourrait tenter d'attiser la peur de la police, ou d'un État policier, avec Trump aux commandes et tenu par des paramilitaires fédéraux violents. Ou bien il pourrait imiter l'exemple des populistes classiques de la tradition qui va de Huey Long à Hugo Chávez, et s'attaquer aux riches et aux hommes d'affaires en les désignant comme source de tous les problèmes.

Biden ne peut choisir aucune de ces voies. Ses bonnes manières le lui interdisent : un appel aux peurs primales des électeurs ne serait pas crédible de sa part. Ces tactiques ne fonctionneraient pas non plus. Peu d'Américains sont favorables à une suppression du budget de la police - comme Biden l'a déjà reconnu. Et Biden fait trop partie de l'establishment pour attaquer les riches de manière plausible.

Heureusement, Biden a une meilleure stratégie : faire de la démagogie de Trump un thème de sa campagne.

Le dernier grand démagogue américain en date fut le sénateur Joseph McCarthy, qui a exercé son influence sur la politique américaine de 1950 à 1954. McCarthy a accédé au pouvoir en s'opposant à l'échec présumé de l'establishment politique à contrer la menace soviétique et l'influence communiste. McCarthy, comme Trump, a bâti sa réussite sur un bilan empirique réel, bien que mince. Les tentatives des communistes en vue de renverser le gouvernement américain avaient été stoppées à la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. En s'appuyant sur l'inquiétude de l'opinion publique quant à l'expansionnisme soviétique, McCarthy a amplifié la menace par de fausses accusations et par des manipulations de la presse.

Le sort de McCarthy donne une lueur d'espoir à Biden. Peut-être que l'opinion publique américaine ne peut tolérer plus de quatre ans de démagogie. De nombreux électeurs de Trump semblent avoir reçu le message qu'il n'a pas grand-chose à leur proposer, sinon une forme de divertissement, qui n'a même plus l'attrait de la nouveauté. Et Trump, comme McCarthy, a peut-être exagéré quand il s'en est pris à l'armée : en menaçant de déployer du personnel militaire dans les villes américaines, Trump a franchi la ligne qui sépare l'armée de la politique. Si Trump tente à nouveau de mêler l'armée à la politique intérieure (même si pour l'instant il a fait marche arrière sur ce point), Biden devrait lui demander de rendre des comptes pour avoir corrompu une institution vénérée.

Liberia-Japan signed 3.3 Million grant agreement

The Governments of Liberia and Japan signed a grant agreement for two separate grant aids totalling ¥350,000,000 Japanese Yen (approximately 3.3 million US Dollars) in Accra, Ghana on Thursday August 6.

The Exchange of Notes was executed between Liberia's Ambassador to Ghana, Genevieve A. Kennedy and Ambassador Tsutomu Himeno, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Liberia.

The Japanese grant to be used as assistance in food and medical supply as was approved by the cabinet of Japan on July 17, 2020, for Liberia.

According to a dispatch from the Liberian Embassy in the Ghanaian capital Accra, Amb. Himeno said that the grant assistances showcases the strong Japan-Liberia friendship and partnership and expressed the wish of the people and the Government of Japan that this assistance will make a valuable contribution to complementing the efforts of the people and the Government of Liberia in fighting the Covid-19

pandemic and food insecurity.

In response, Amb. Kennedy conveyed on behalf of President George Manneh Weah and the Government and people of Liberia heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Government and people of Japan for the essential grant aids to Liberia.

Ambassador Kennedy further recounted the strong development partnership that has existed between Liberia and Japan since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1961 and is reflected in the implementation of several development-related projects encompassing infrastructural and health development, including the construction of the Liberia-Japanese Friendship Maternity Hospital at the John F. Kennedy Medical Centre and the reconstruction and expansion of the Somalia Drive Road (now referred to as the "Japan Freeway").

Additionally, Liberia's Ambassador to Ghana cited Japan's provision of specialised vocations as well as the Monbusho programme that enable Liberians to study at various Japanese colleges and universities as examples of

Japan's sustained development-related partnership with Liberia. Ambassador Kennedy noted that she was one of the beneficiaries of the academic programme of the Japanese Government to provide scholarships to Liberians to seek post-graduate studies and through the Monbusho programme had studied in Osaka and Niigata obtaining a master's degree.

Ambassador Kennedy further noted that the co-signing of these Notes illustrates the esteem and warm feelings between the two countries and hope that the economic and technical cooperation between the two countries will be further deepened based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Ambassador Kennedy, who reiterated President Weah's commitment to further the economic and infrastructural development of Liberia, emphasised the President's appreciation of Japan's support to Liberia which was conveyed last August in Yokohama when President Weah and Prime Minister Abe had a bilateral tete-a-tete during the TICAD Summit.

The two separate grant aids, as part of Japan's Economic and Social Development Programme in response to the global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, are for medical supplies, valued at ¥100,000,000 Japanese Yen (Approximately \$950,000 United States Dollars), and food aid.



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Winner's Chapel official

the boy to also explain his side but while Prosper tried to give his own account, Sackor allegedly interrupted and disturbed at the police depot, requesting him (Bellepo) not to entertain any explanations from the boy, which was vehemently rejected on grounds that the boy is a minor.

The Police added that in the process, Sackor allegedly boasted that he works with the Executive Protection Agency (EPS) and immediately began making several telephone calls, while at the police depot before walking out of the police depot, leaving behind the boy.

The WCPS director continued that that due to the intransigent posture displayed by the complainant and considering the strength of officers on duty that night, they allowed him to leave

without any formal documentation process of the probe.

However, Madam Wilson disclosed that 15-year-old Prosper who currently lives with her sister, a personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) in Duazon Town, was out of their residence on the night of 20 May when Barak Sackor, who claimed to be an official (auditor) at the Winners Chapel Church stormed the house, kidnapped the minor and severely flogged him, leading to injuries on both sides of his face.

She further alleged that Barak did not stop there, but ordered one of his men that accompanied him to handcuff a 10-year-old-nephew of Prosper, identified Paul Gayflor, inflicting scars on the child's hand, adding that the handcuff was removed from Paul's hand when he began to cry out for

assistance, calling on neighbors.

Speaking on anonymity, the female AFL personnel who Prosper lives with, disclosed that she left both children at her house in Duazon Town on the night of 20 May to go buy scratch cards for her mobile phone and upon return, she received a call from the WCPS director assigned at the LNP depot #5 in Shufflin Town, requesting her to the depot to take delivery of the 15-year-old minor.

She said predicated upon the call from the WCPS director, she quickly rushed to the children's bedroom in the house but to her surprise, only 10-year-old Paul Garflor was in bed, with no where to find Prosper.

According to her, immediately she gathered some of her neighbors and they proceeded to the depot

Signs of violent

Cont'd from page 7

reduction in the amount of US\$4.3 Million and measures to be put in place to ensure that the outcome and integrity of the election are not compromised.

The release continues that with this reduction, the ECC calls on the government to give priority in the disbursement of needed financial resources to

the NEC so that electoral activities are implemented in a timely manner that is effective and efficient.

The ECC admonishes all political parties and their supporters to adhere to the laws and regulations governing the conduct of elections in Liberia.--Press release

Charcoal producers

Cont'd from page 6

opportunities because they are being enlightened on what they did not know before.

Speaking on behalf the participants, Madam Fatu Carter and Mr. Jomah M. Goll of Suehn/Mecca District Charcoal Producers Association, Madam Maima Washington of Senjeh District Charcoal Producers Association and Mr. J. Alexander Tokpa of Klay District Charcoal Producers Association, said they had considered charcoal burning as a mere venture, but NACUL continues to educate them on the importance of charcoal in Liberia, how to sustainably produce it and manage the forest using available resources and technologies.

"Today's training has given us more knowledge on many things surrounding charcoal burning to improve our living. We want to thank NACUL for the opportunity and appeal for more training programs," Ms. Fatu Carter of Suehn/Mecca District Charcoal Producers Association said.

For his part, NACUL's President, Mr. Richard T. A. Dorbor, praised participants for attending and challenged them to put into practice what they have acquired.

Dorbor told the local charcoal groups to be more proactive in their activities if they must attract more business and training opportunities in the county. He told the associations to use their legal status to expand their activities, urging them to work together as a group.

The Bomi County's training is in continuation of NACUL's training opportunities to its network organizations in counties of its operation, with plans extend to other counties.

Meanwhile, Dorbor is calling on the government, other local and international NGOs, institutions and individuals to pay more attention in the sector since the majority still depends on charcoal energy for cooking and other essential activities.

by 2AM and met Prosper at the police station with blood profusely running down his face from the head.

She said the WCPS director Bellepo informed her that Prosper was taken to the depot by one Barak Sackor, who claimed that the minor threw stones at his (Sackor's) house for which he brought him to the police.

The female AFL officer continued that she then requested the police to ensure that Barak Sackor, who severely brutalized her sister's son be brought back to the depot so that they can go through an investigation.

But Sackor has since refused to come thereby, compelling the WCPS director to ask her to sue Sackor because the Police could not probe the issue due to Sackor's unruly behavior displayed at the depot prior to calling her.

Meanwhile, Madam Wilson said she has reported the matter to the head office of the Woman and Children

Protection Section at the National Police Headquarters on Capitol Hill to ensure justice is attained, noting that her son could have been killed and his body dashed by Barak Sackor and his collaborators.

When the New Dawn contacted the Shufflin Town police depot, the WCPS head confirmed the information, but in a follow-up with Barak, this reporter was informed that he was out of his home.

At the Winners Chapel Church in Congo Town, a senior official who begged not to be identified, requested this writer to speak with the church's lawyer only identified as Cllr. Kollie, whose number was stitched off perpetually.

Also, effort to ascertain from the EPS via mobile phone through its Assistant Information Officer Philip Moore, whether Barak Sackor is in the employed of the Executive Protection Service, proved fruitless as Mr. Moore's number was similarly off. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Is VP Taylor seriously sick?

Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard-Taylor, was on Tuesday August 11, 2020, flown out of the country to seek additional medical care at a specialist hospital in Accra, Ghana.

2020, due to respiratory complications. The release said Vice President Howard-Taylor was said to have responded favorably to treatment and the state of her health stabilized.

However, the release said it

speaks of respiratory ailment, it could be recalled that in December 2018, Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel Tweah revealed that Vice President Taylor was sick. Minister Tweah made the disclosure then at an intellectual discourse on Bushrod Island, Monrovia in response to a question posed to him.

The Minister had gone at the intellectual center to interact with the public on the workings of the Coalition government, the economy and fiscal policy of the state. Minister Tweah's interaction was thwarted by a question from the audience, seeking to understand relationship between the Vice President Taylor and President Weah.

He describes the relationship as close and cordial, but disclosed how President George Weah had gone to visit VP Jewel Taylor when officers of the Executive Protection Service, the elite presidential guard informed the President that the Vice President is ill and doctors advise she takes bed rest.

was advised that the Vice President seeks further medical attention at a more advanced facility with specialty in the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory ailments.

Although the release issued



According to a press release from the Office of the Vice President, Madam Howard-Taylor was earlier admitted at the Aspen Medical Facility, in Sinkor, Monrovia, on Friday August 7,

In CBL Trial:

Starts from back page

authorizing the CBL to print currency and introduce coins without the full consent of the Legislature.

According to him, the "Board of Governors read" a document signed by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate that indicated ... that the Plenary of both houses in session directed that they communicate the decision of the joint session to the CBL.

He testifies that the last paragraph in the letter indicated that the House had issued full and legal authorization to the Central Bank to effect the decision made in both houses.

According to defendant KollieTamba, members of the Board of Governors "understood this document to be full authorization to the Central Bank to proceed with replacing completely all legacy currencies."

"The Board not being a lawyer also received a Draft of the referenced Resolution. In that draft and we as members of the Board of Directors, believed as certified all legal requirement," he says.

Mr. KollieTamba says, he began working with the Central Bank of Liberia when it was known at the time as the National Bank in 1988, holding a position of Assistant Manager in the Foreign Exchange Section.

His final position with the CBL was Senior Advisor for Multilateral Religion and Special Project and Head of the Microfinance Unit before he retired in 2013 during former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's administration.

After that Mr. Tamba says, in 2016 he was again contracted by the CBL to serve as Provisional Administrator at

the First United American Bank which is now the GN - Bank.

He says in May that same year, he was also appointed to the Board of Governors for a two-year's tenure that ended in May 2018.

Defendant Tamba is standing trial alongside several former officials including former CBL Executive Governor Milton A. Weeks, CBL board members David Fahart and Elsie DossenBardio for theft of property; economic sabotage; fraud on the internal revenue of Liberia; misuse of public money, property or record; theft or illegal disbursement of public money; criminal conspiracy and criminal facilitation.

The government indicted the ex-officials for allegedly printing and shipping to Liberia L\$13,004,750,000.00 without authorization between 2016 and 2018 and allegedly understating the printed amount as L\$10,359,750,000.00, giving a variance of L\$2,645,000,000.00.

The four defendants on trial have pleaded not guilty to the charges levied against them, but the fifth defendant Melisa A. Emeh is said to be out of the bailiwick of Liberia and has not been brought to court.

The son of former President Sirleaf Mr. Charles Sirleaf was included in the previous two indictments for this same case, but prosecutors did not include him in this third indictment after they nolleprosequi the former Deputy CBL Governor for Operations with prejudice in May this year.

Besides Mr. Sirleaf, the prosecution here also entered a nolleprosequi (dropped charges) in favor of defendants Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba and Joseph Dennis.- Edited by Othello B. Garblah

Death Announcement!!!



This is to announce the sudden death of our falling sister, Patience B. Kaplah of the Stephen A. Tolbert Estate.

This sad event occurred on Monday August 3, 2020 at the J.F.K Memorial Hospital from a brief illness.

She leaves to mourn her mother, Ma YamahKaplah, her son, Champ Sulontell, her sisters, Eleanor Kaplah and FatuKaplah, her brothers, Champ Sulontell, Ernest Tom Kollie and other relatives and friends.

Funeral Arrangement for the late Patience B. Kaplah is as follows:

The removal of the late Patience B. Kaplah will be held at the Abraham Robert Funeral home opposite the Stephen A Tolbert Estate on August 13, 2020 at the precise hour of 8:00am.

The funeral service will be held at the M. F. Bailey United Methodist Church in the Stephen A. Tolbert Estate at 9:00am and her body will be taken to Totota for internment

This announcement was brought in by her organization, The Familyhood Association

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In CBL Trial: Defendant unaware



By **Winston W. Parley**

Defendant Kollie S. Tamba, one of the four ex-Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Board of Governors on trial says he is unaware as to whether the Bank adhered to the Legislature's letter mandating it (bank) to furnish that body with appropriate details prior to printing and minting of coins.

"To the best of my knowledge, I am unaware whether the provision of that document that you referred to was adhered to," he told

prosecution Tuesday, 11 August in response to a question if the CBL ever reverted to the Legislature with the appropriate details of the volume and denomination of the banknotes prior to printing the LD\$10 billion.

Testifying at the ongoing hearing at the Criminal Court "C" in Monrovia Tuesday, defendant Tamba insists that the understanding of the Board of Governors is that the letter could not have been in reference to the previously printed LD\$5 billion because prior to the transmission of the

letter to the CBL, numerous meetings had been held with the Legislature.

"It was, therefore, impossible for the legislature to believe that the LD5 billion dollars that had been previously imported about two years previously was sufficient to replace completely all of the banknotes; 5 billion dollars just could not do it, and we believe that the legislature fully understood that," he explains.

"May I repeat that our understanding of the document of July 19, 2017 ... provided sufficient authorization to the central bank. Every member of the Board of Governors was fully aware that legislative approval was required in order to replace sufficiently all the legacy banknotes," he testifies.

Mr. Tamba denies prosecution's accusation that he and other CBL Board members passed a resolution

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CL: Linfield game off over Kosovan opponents' Covid-19 issues

Linfield's Champions League preliminary round tie with FC Drita was postponed just over an hour before kick-off after a second player from the Kosovan side tested positive for Covid-19.

Uefa regulations for this season's Covid-19 affected competition suggest that Drita may now forfeit the tie.

A Uefa statement said that the decision had been taken after two FC Drita players

returned positive tests.

The European tie was scheduled to take place in the Swiss city of Nyon.

Competition rules indicated that clubs concerned would be deemed responsible for failure to fulfil fixtures and the schedule is extremely tight with Legia Warsaw scheduled to host the winners in another one-leg tie next Tuesday.

Tuesday's game had been set to go ahead in Switzerland despite Drita's first positive

Covid-19 test last Friday.

However, Uefa said that the second positive test on Monday prompted the Swiss authorities to put the whole Kosovan team into quarantine.

"The player, who tested positive yesterday (Monday 10 August) had previously produced a negative test for Covid-19," continued the Uefa statement.

Vacancy Announcement

The Searchlight Communications Inc., Publishers of the New Dawn newspaper is seeking applications from young females between the ages of 18-28 for an internship placement within the business department of the paper as sales agents.

The internship runs for three months. Interns who demonstrate excellent marketing skills will be hired permanently after the three months.

The applicants must be at least high school graduates and above, have good communication skill, must be able to market the New Dawn to potential advertisers etc.

All interested persons should direct their communications to:
The Management of Searchlight Communications Inc.
P.O. Bo 1266
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