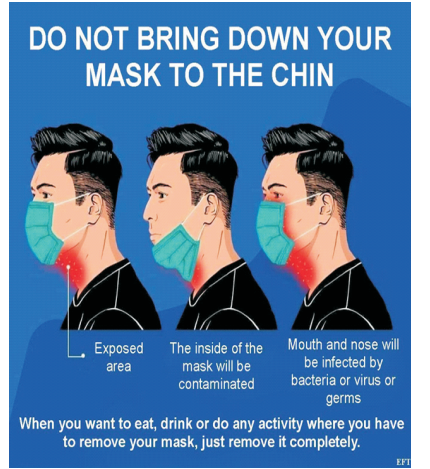


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# The New Dawn

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TRULY INDEPENDENT



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# CPP takes giant step -as NEC gives legal approval



**P11**

Mr. Cummings

Mr. Urey

Sen. Karnga-Lawrence

Ex-VP Boakai

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# Continental News

## Mauritius rush to pump oil before ship breaks up

The authorities hope to finish pumping out the remaining oil from the ship that has caused a huge oil spill off the coast of Mauritius on Wednesday.

The aim is to transfer the fuel oil to land before the Japanese-owned MV Wakashio breaks up.

The ship, believed to have been carrying 4,000 tonnes of fuel oil, ran aground on a coral reef on 25 July.

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. Police chief Khemraj Servansing told the media that cracks in the ship "keep increasing". "It is difficult to say when it will break but we have a boom deployment plan with the French Navy helping and we have made provisions for high sea booms," he said. It was "very

likely" that the pumping operation would be concluded on Wednesday, Mr Servansing added.

"I can say that a large amount of oil has been pumped and 700 tonnes are still on board," the police chief said.

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. On Friday, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth declared a state of emergency and appealed for international help. Since then volunteers have also 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. Greenpeace Africa has 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".

An oceanographer and environmental engineer in Mauritius, Vassen Kauppamuthoo, told the BBC that local residents were now "breathing heavy vapours of oil", and there was a "mixture of sadness and anger" over the spill. It has also led to political recriminations in Mauritius, the BBC's Yasmine Mohabuth reports from the Indian Ocean island. The opposition is demanding answers from the government on the oil spill, while community activists have called for the resignation of senior ministers, including the Minister of Environment Kavy Ramano.

Akihiko Ono, the executive vice-president of the ship's operator, Mitsui OSK Lines, has "profusely" apologised for the spill and for "the great trouble we have caused". BBC



The oil spill has caused an environmental disaster in Mauritius

## Somali jihadists in deadly prison shootout

The number of people killed in a shootout between jailed militant Islamists and security officers at a prison in Somalia has risen to at least 20, officials say.

The al-Shabab militants had attempted to escape from the heavily guarded prison in the capital, Mogadishu.

An investigation is under way into how the militants

obtained weapons.

Some reports suggested that an inmate managed to disarm a warden and then a group of them raided the armoury. The BBC's Bella Sheegow in Mogadishu says Monday's incident is highly embarrassing for the government as the prison, the second biggest in Somalia, is guarded by elite forces.

The attack was repelled after reinforcements were called in. The most dangerous

al-Shabab militants are kept in the prison, including those serving life sentences or awaiting execution after being sentenced to death.

Inmates had also attempted to break out of the prison in 2017, and the government was under pressure to prevent further such incidents, our reporter adds. "We will not leave anything to chance. The government is investigating how this happened and who was responsible for what happened as well as who facilitated the inmates to get the weapons," Acting Justice Minister Hassan Hussein Haji said.

Government spokesman Ismail Mukhtar said 15 prisoners and five soldiers had been killed in the shooting.

He had earlier said that 10 people had died, including four militants.

Al-Shabab, which is linked to al-Qaeda, has been waging a brutal insurgency in Somalia for more than a decade.

It has been pushed out of Mogadishu by government and African Union troops, but the group still carries out bombings and assassinations in the city. BBC



Al-Shabab is seeking to overthrow Somalia's government

## South Sudan's disarmament leaves at least 81 dead

The authorities in South Sudan say at least 81 people have been killed during heavy fighting between armed civilians and soldiers carrying out a disarmament exercise.

With several million guns thought to be in the hands of

hours. Amongst the dead were 55 soldiers.

The violence in Warrap State's Tonj county is a sign of how hard it is going to be to disarm civilians.

In a place where cattle are more important than cash,



civilians and clashes between rival communities common, disarming the population is a huge challenge for the unity government.

It was formed earlier this year following a deal to end a six year civil war.

A spokesman for the military in South Sudan said armed youths attacked an army camp at night twice.

Fighting between the two sides then went on for many

people want to protect themselves against the frequent raids by rival communities. As long as they feel that the state will not protect them it is likely to be hard to disarm them. Last week a civil society group warned that if the disarmament is rushed without meaningful consultation, the insecurity could get even worse. 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 Jayati Ghosh

## Male Leadership Malpractice

*The timing and intensity of the US, Brazilian, and Indian responses to COVID-19 may have varied, but the results have been the same: the world's highest numbers of infections. Their leaders' authoritarian personalities and divisive policies have a lot to do with it.*

**NEW DELHI** - The United States, Brazil, and India have surged ahead of the rest of the world in terms of the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, with no peak in sight. They (and fourth-place Russia) have one thing in common: macho leaders with authoritarian personalities.

There are notable differences in how these countries have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and US President Donald Trump have consistently downplayed the severity of the threat, and refused to take strong action.

More recently, Trump adjusted his stance somewhat, undoubtedly motivated by his falling approval rating. For example, he has begun wearing a mask in public, after months of refusing to do so - and ridiculing those who did. But he continues to undermine health experts with false and misleading claims. Bolsonaro, for his part, remains cavalier, even after having contracted (and recovered from) COVID-19.

By contrast, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed one of the world's strictest - and most sudden - lockdowns, when only a few cases had been reported in the country. This probably partly explains why the rate of infections per million inhabitants is much lower than it is in the US or Brazil, though independent research suggests that official figures in both India and Brazil are far lower than the actual total.

But Modi's lockdown wasn't accompanied by meaningful social protection or income support. As a result, a large-scale humanitarian tragedy ensued, with millions being plunged into poverty and hunger. Meanwhile, the virus continued to spread, meaning that, when the lockdown was lifted, poor workers faced even greater risks.<sup>2</sup>

The timing and intensity of the US, Brazilian, and Indian responses may have varied, but the results have been the same: millions of COVID-19 infections. The US comes in first, at over five million; Brazil second, with just over three million; and India third, with more than two million. Their leaders' personalities have a lot to do with it.

Trump, Bolsonaro, and Modi are all known for their arrogance, bluster, and rejection of criticism. They have all shown a demagogic ability to inspire faith in a divisive persona that both repels many and attracts the quasi-religious devotion of many others. They have all diligently served the interests of their friends and constituents above all. And they have all displayed serial contempt for the truth, using distraction, diversion, and outright lies to advance their preferred narratives and maintain their popularity.<sup>1</sup>

These qualities are at the root of the policy mistakes that have driven up the pandemic-related death toll in all three countries. For starters, the distribution of responsibility between federal and state or provincial governments has been unbalanced, arbitrary, and uncoordinated, while central governments - often disregarding science or expert advice - have imposed irrational, frequently changing rules and policies.

State and provincial governments, for their part, have been doing all the heavy lifting, not only in containing the virus, but also in supporting public health more broadly and addressing the pandemic's economic fallout. Federal governments have done nothing to ensure coordination among these lower-level entities.

Beyond a lack of effective guidance from above, states and provinces have struggled with insufficient resources. The fiscal imbalance is most marked in India, where the central government has denied state governments even the funds that it legally owes them, but it is also evident in Brazil and the US.

More broadly, none of the three countries has increased overall public-health spending. And while governments have offered financial support to ailing companies, the spoils have gone mainly to large corporations, with small businesses forced to make do with scraps. Meanwhile, the poor have received precious little help, especially in India.

The essential workers risking their lives to keep societies functioning - delivering health services, for example, or ensuring food supplies - have also received scant protections or support. Many lack adequate and timely wages, sufficient protective equipment, and even health insurance during the pandemic.

Yet, instead of addressing these lethal failures of leadership, Trump, Bolsonaro, and Modi are creating diversions. Trump would rather rail against China - even withdrawing from the World Health Organization over its supposed dissemination of Chinese "misinformation" - than implement an effective response. In Modi's India, years of Hindu-nationalist incitement by his government have made Muslims natural scapegoats.

In all three countries, the aggravation of social divisions - and the encouragement of aggression by dominant groups - long precedes the pandemic. Bolsonaro has a storied history of racist, misogynistic, and anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, and has chipped away at the rights of minority groups. Trump's similarly divisive track record is exemplified by his amplification of white supremacists and condemnation of ongoing protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

This brings us to another commonality: all three leaders have used the pandemic as an excuse to repress dissent. There has been outcry over Trump's use of federal forces, often in plain clothes, to crush largely peaceful protests. But in India, much worse is happening: people who have participated in peaceful protests are being arrested. Indian prisons - where COVID-19 is spreading fast - are now home to many human-rights activists, lawyers, teachers, and students.

Brute force cannot stop a virus. Nor can deception, manipulation, bullying, or coercion. As other countries (many with woman leaders) have shown, the only way to defeat COVID-19 is through community involvement, cooperation, and social solidarity. It is no accident that the world's biggest COVID-19 losers have taken a different path.



## O-PED

By Mohamed A. El-erian

## Reading the Dollar Doldrums

*A sharp decline in the relative value of the dollar this year has been met with cheers from those hoping for a short-term boost to the US economy, and with hand-wringing by those worried about the currency's global standing. But while both views reflect underlying truths, neither tells the whole story.*

**L**AGUNA BEACH - A near-10% drop in the value of the US dollar since its March high has given rise to two distinct narratives. The first takes a short-term perspective, focusing on how a depreciation could benefit the US economy and markets; the second takes the long view, fretting over the dollar's fragile status as the world's reserve currency. Both narratives contain some truth, but not enough to justify the emerging consensus around them.

Several factors have combined to put downward pressure on the greenback (as measured by the DXY index of trade-weighted currencies) in recent weeks, resulting in a depreciation that has reversed almost half of the appreciation of the last ten years within the space of just months.

As the US Federal Reserve has loosened monetary policy (actually and prospectively) in response to a worsening economic outlook, the income accruing to dollar-denominated safe havens, such as US government bonds, has declined. And with US-based investments having lost some of their relative attractiveness, there has been a shift in holdings in favor of emerging markets and Europe (where the European Union last month agreed to pursue deeper fiscal integration).

There also are indicators of lower capital inflows into the United States. House purchases by foreigners appear to have decreased again, owing in part to the US government's embrace of inward-looking policies and the related weaponization of trade and sanction measures.

With the exception of Lebanon, Turkey, and a few other countries that have experienced even sharper exchange-rate depreciations than the US, most currencies have strengthened against the dollar. But among those with appreciating currencies, the reactions to this generalized phenomenon have been far from uniform.

Some countries, particularly in the developing world, have welcomed the reversal, because their previous currency weakness had been contributing to higher import prices, including for foodstuffs. Moreover, a weaker dollar provides them with greater scope to support domestic economic activities through more stimulative fiscal and monetary measures.

But the reaction has been less welcoming in the other advanced economies. Japan and eurozone member states, in particular, fear that currency appreciation could threaten their own economic recovery from the COVID-19 shock. Also, the Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank now have to worry that they are not only reaching the limits of their policy effectiveness, but could also be putting their economies at greater risk of collateral damage and unintended consequences.

In the US, meanwhile, the dollar's depreciation has been welcomed as an overwhelmingly positive development for the economy, at least in the short term. After all, economic textbooks tell us that a weakening dollar boosts US producers' international and domestic competitiveness relative to foreign competitors, makes the country more attractive for foreign investors and tourism (in price terms), and increases the dollar value of revenue earned overseas by home-based companies. That is also all good for US stock and corporate bond markets, which benefit further from the greater attractiveness of dollar-denominated securities when priced in a foreign currency.

The longer-term consensus view is less positive for the US. The worry is that a dollar depreciation will further erode the currency's global status, which has already been weakened by US policies of the past three years - from trade protectionism and the weaponization of sanctions to increasingly bypassing global standards and the rule of law.

The more the dollar's credibility is eroded, the more the US risks losing the "exorbitant privilege" that comes with issuing the world's main reserve currency. A country in this position can exchange bits of printed paper or digital entries (currency creation) for the goods and services that other countries produce. It enjoys disproportionate influence over important multilateral decisions and appointments. And it benefits from others' willingness to outsource to its own institutions the management of their financial wealth.

Both of these (partly true) consensus narratives imply further significant dollar depreciation. While the immediate effects are theoretically positive, the practical situation is likely to be different, because so much economic activity is currently impaired by government restrictions and the reluctance of individuals and companies to return to previous consumption and production patterns. Around half of US states have now reversed or halted the process of economic re-opening.

Moreover, today's positive market effects demand further qualification beyond the health crisis. Owing to the reliable and ample provision of liquidity, particularly by central banks, most valuations have already decoupled from economic and corporate fundamentals. Under these financial conditions, it is hard to imagine that a dollar depreciation will have any more than a marginal effect on real economic performance.

As for the dollar's role as a reserve currency, I am reminded of a simple principle I learned at university: it is hard to replace something with nothing. At this time, there simply is no other currency that can or will fill the dollar's shoes. Instead, we will continue to see small pipes being built around the dollar. And, because none of these will be large enough to replace it, the eventual result will be a more fragmented international monetary system.

## OPINION

By Shlomo Ben-ami

## Lebanon's Agony

*The silver lining of the warehouse explosion that destroyed much of Beirut may be that the blast averts - or at least forestalls - a conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. But the root-and-branch reform of Lebanon's political system and regional alliances that the country needs to weather its crises remains unlikely.*

**T**EL AVIV - Last week, a warehouse stocked with nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate blew up, laying waste to the port of Beirut and ripping through much of the rest of the Lebanese capital. At least 137 people were killed, thousands were wounded, and hundreds of thousands were rendered homeless. For a country that was already roiled by political and economic crisis, the challenges ahead just became more profound. The only chance of overcoming them lies in root-and-branch reform of Lebanon's political system and regional alliances.

According to Beirut's governor, total economic losses from the blast may reach \$10-15 billion. Yet the Lebanese state is already on the brink of bankruptcy. And, with an incompetent kleptocratic regime running the country, no international lender, including the International Monetary Fund, is willing to offer it loans.

To be sure, in the wake of the latest crisis, Lebanon will receive considerable international aid. Already, donors have pledged nearly \$300 million in humanitarian assistance at a virtual summit, in order to support health care, food security, education, and housing.

That money doesn't come for free. To keep it from falling into "corrupt hands," as French President Emmanuel Macron has put it, the aid will be routed through the United Nations, international organizations and NGOs, rather than the Lebanese government. They know that, if the country's current rulers are in control of the finances, their contributions will only perpetuate corruption and crisis. Alas, this is just a temporary financial palliative that cannot address the root causes of Lebanon's maladies, and could, moreover, relieve internal pressure on the country's political class.

Yes, international donors are calling for political and economic reform. But the sad truth is that overcoming Lebanon's powerful vested interests - including both its domestic ruling class and the external powers, such as Iran and Syria, that wield considerable domestic influence - will be next to impossible. Lebanon's President Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah puppet, would not even agree to the call for an international inquiry into the port blast, claiming that this could "dilute the truth."

Lebanon's polity reflects the country's permanent sectarian strife. All that stands between relative calm and violent chaos is a fragile power-sharing system encompassing competing ethnic and religious groups, including Maronite Christians, Druze, and Sunni and Shia Muslims.

But that system has long depended on massive capital inflows, which allowed the sectarian elite to entrench itself through patronage. A sudden stop to inflows last year shattered the system's foundations, spurring widespread protests and shaking Lebanon's delicate peace.

Yet Lebanon's internal dynamics can hardly be separated from regional developments. Lebanon's sectarian politics have enabled foreign powers to gain a strong foothold in the country, turning it into an integral part of the Iran-led Axis of Resistance against Israel and America's regional designs.

Iran's lavish support for Hezbollah has enabled the Shia political party and militia to become what is probably the world's most powerful non-state actor, with military capabilities that dwarf those of Lebanon's army. It is telling that, when Macron visited Beirut after the port explosion, crowds chanted, "free us from Hezbollah."

But Hezbollah enjoys broad-based support among Lebanon's Shia, who comprise almost one-third of the country's population and form the most powerful sect, politically and militarily. Perhaps more important, Lebanon's sovereignty continues to be subverted by Iran, which is committed to using Hezbollah to advance its own strategic priorities. When the Beirut blast occurred, a United Nations-backed special tribunal was days away from issuing its verdict in the trial of four alleged members of Hezbollah for the 2005 murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister (and Saudi Arabia's man in Beirut) Rafik Hariri.

Of course, Iran's regional designs have spurred resistance: the specter of an Israel-Hezbollah war has lately been growing. The Beirut blast's silver lining may be that it averts - or at least forestalls - such a conflict, in which Israel would destroy Lebanon's infrastructure to neutralize the 150,000 missiles that Hezbollah has concealed among the civilian population before they devastate Israel's vulnerable home front.

Lebanon's distress makes it more difficult for Israel to conduct such a preemptive attack on Hezbollah's military capabilities, and discourages Hezbollah from antagonizing Israel. But whatever mutual deterrent exists is fragile, at best. If Hezbollah (with Iran's help) develops precision-guided missiles, all bets will be off.

Even without such weaponry, the international community's hope of using aid as leverage to bring about change - a hope shared not only by Western powers like France, but also potentially by Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states - is unlikely to bear fruit. As Macron himself reportedly told US President Donald Trump, sanctions against Hezbollah play into the hands of those they are meant to weaken, including Iran.

That said, Lebanon's vibrant and well-developed civil society has forced change before. After Hariri's assassination, the Cedar Revolution - a series of demonstrations under the motto of "freedom, sovereignty, and independence" - forced the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

But Lebanese civil society faces far stiffer opposition today than anything the embattled Syrians could mount in 2005. Over the last 15 years, Iran has spent lavishly to turn Lebanon into its strategic playground. As a result, Hezbollah is more powerful, and Lebanon more subservient to external powers - including Iran, Syria, and Russia - than ever.

These powers will not sit back and allow a reform of the political system that has made Lebanon such a crucial link in their regional strategy, even at the price of turning the country into another Libya. Far from a new Cedar Revolution, efforts to push reform could lead to a conflict much like the civil war of 1975-90, in which foreign powers and rival local militias join forces and tear Lebanon apart.



## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# A Thought on eLearning!

While attending the University of Liberia and at the same time deeply involved in student activism, part of the list of arguments we proffered to the school's Administration, was making the University twenty-first century compliant. Notable amongst these was to upgrade the registration process from being manual, to an electronic system that creates convenience for students intended to lessen the complexities they go through to get registered every given semester.

During the period under review, we opted for a University where a fast-speed internet would be placed at the disposal of students as an enabler to the effective use of whatever system that may be built, taking into consideration the difficulties they would go through should they be left to provide such internet service at their own expense. On the flip side, we further recommended to the UL Administration, the development of an off-line app through which students would access information once upgraded- one that is interactive.

While we think that the UL Administration as well as the Administrations of other accredited universities in Liberia have begun leaning toward full implementation of the recommendations we made years ago, one would be equally concerned over its timeliness; premising such concern on the possibility of a quick adaptation.

As it is common knowledge, most Liberian students do not get to effectively operate a computer until he/she has reached university level, or perhaps, graduated from university and had to do so to be worthy of the job market. Worded differently, an overwhelming majority of students attending universities in Liberia are extremely analog and will need time to go through a process of tutoring before getting adjusted to work efficiently in any electronic system.

In as much as it is necessary for improved learning that could, to a minimum extent equate our learning system to our counterparts within the sub-region, its abrupt imposition on students in the name of social distancing is untimely and will definitely not yield the desired results.

For some universities, especially those that are private owned, it is an opportunity to enroll more



students that the physical classroom cannot accommodate. As a result of this, the obsession about using this system at all cost this semester, is overbearing because the prolonged stay of COVID-19 has placed a pressing financial strain on school administrations. It is this obsession of raising capital through mass enrollment using this eLearning platform, that would make impact an unachievable venture.



Given the significance of transitioning from a manual to an eLearning system to make maximum impacts on the targeted beneficiaries, the below are recommendations necessary for moving forward:

1. GoL must increase subsidies to all public and private universities to relief the pressing financial

constraints faced by school authorities

2. School authorities must use this semester to run a full-scale tutorial for students who are to benefit from the newly developed eLearning system that has been introduced. It is also assumed that instructors themselves are analog and must be orientated to the system before being allowed to administer same to students

3. Based on the fierce importance of this electronic transition, the Executive must renegotiate data rates with telecommunication network providers for a more flexible downward adjustment of the existing data rates to enable adequacy in the process

4. University Administrations must be proactive in developing, as a way of negating the huge data expenses, an off-line application that students can use without data

It is believed, considering the complexity of this matter, that when these recommendations are taken into consideration and implemented, both the universities and students will have a smooth process that makes eLearning an experience worth living.

More still, it will enhance a massive but impactful enrollment of students at all universities, and avoid having congested classrooms as has been the case with learning in Liberia. Should the reverse of this become the reality to live with, massive failure, ineffectiveness, unprecedented drop-outs and lack of coordination will become the new order. Equally, students coming from high schools must be encouraged to get ahead of the growing digital world by building on their technology experiences through attending computer classes to make them suitable for the job market, as well as being able to operate any learning system built on ePlatforms.

T. Benjamin Myers

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Liberians walking into trouble

## -Clergy warns

By Winston W. Parley

Liberian clergy Madam Comfort Bedell is warning here that Liberians are walking into trouble given the wave of political violence being waged in the country in which

The Associate Pastor at the New Georgia Baptist Church and Proprietress of the Christian Bedell School in the New Georgia Estate told a live radio show on Prime FM Wednesday, 12 August that when President Weah begins to take decisions and make the people to understand that he's in control,

Pastor Bedell wonders.

According to Madam Bedell, some of these children that are throwing the stones just want to hear President Weah says he doesn't want them to do this and they will listen because they believe in him so much, but she says she hasn't heard this.

"If we allow our children to just do anything and there's no punishment, there's ... no regard to what has happened ..., we are planning another bomb for this nation," Pastor Bedell warns.

Pastor Bedell's comments come at a time Liberia's political tension is building up fast into chaos ahead of the December 2020 senatorial election, with ruling party Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) supporters and opposition supporters up against each other in deadly stone battles at political gatherings.

She reminds leaders here that if they continue to permit these people to continually behave in this way, they must remember that these very people will turn on them when they feel disenchanted one day.

"So we are creating our

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



young people are throwing stones against political opponents while President George Manneh Weah does nothing to reduce the violence.

violence will reduce.

"You are the head of us, you told us we must hope for change. Is this the change? I see us walking into trouble in this nation. Is this the change?"

# Marylanders, LEC disagree over bill payment

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Confusion has ensued between residents of Maryland County and the Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation in the county over non-payment of electricity bills.

Residents are complaining that despite purchasing two transformers on their own at the cost of US\$20,000, the LEC management is demanding them to pay bills, something that has sparked row in the county.

In July this year, the Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation Maryland Chapter, issued circular, calling on residents to visit the corporation's office to pick bills for payment.

The communication, aired on various community radio stations in the county, indicated that bills payers, late bills payers and non-bills payers should make payments before end of July.

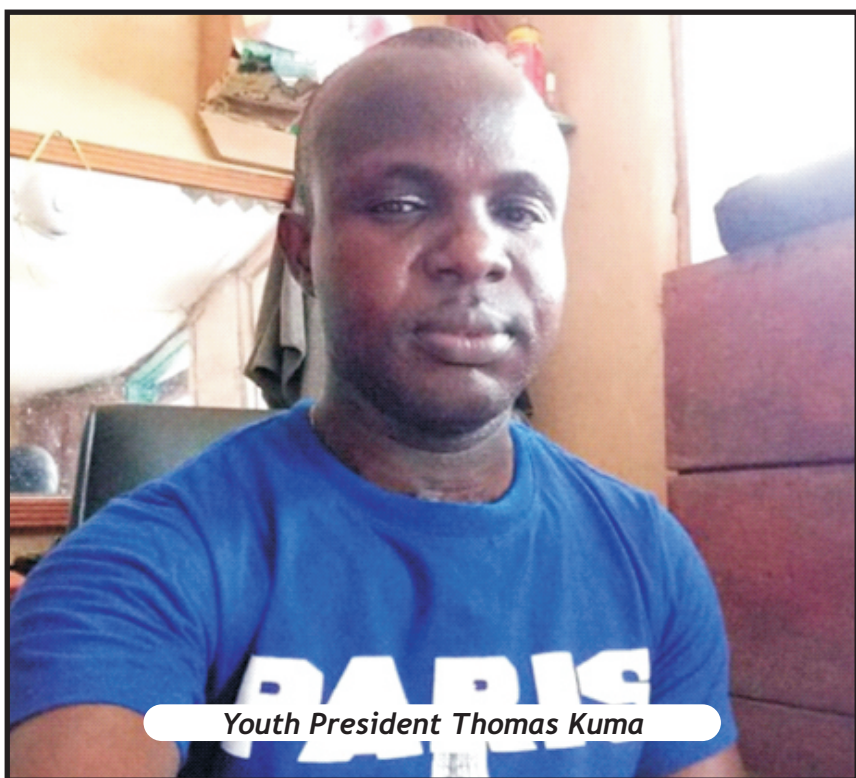
It added that anyone, who refuses to pay, would be disconnected and asked to pay a fee before reconnection.

The communication disclosed that the LEC Maryland office has yet to receive any payment or money from central government on behalf of power users as is being circulated in

the county.

Although Superintendent George A. Proud pronounced on local radio station that due to the Coronavirus pandemic, government decided for citizens to benefit free electricity for one month from June 8 to July 8, 2020, but the Management of LEC said since that

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Youth President Thomas Kuma

# Pastor in jail

## -for proposing marriage to girl, 15

By Ben P. Wese

The Zone Five Police depot in Paynesville Township, outside Monrovia is investigating Pastor Elijah Moses, a Nigerian, for allegedly tempering with a 15-year-old girl and proposing marriage to the minor.

The father of the minor, Mr. Baysah Mawolo, told reporters in an interview Wednesday, 12 August in the Women and Children division at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia that the accused is the Pastor of the church his daughter's mother attends.

Mr. Mawolo narrated that it all started some times last year, when his daughter left his home in Margibi County without him and his wife knowledge, which prompted him to launch a search for her,

his concern grew when the girl's mother refused to return her to him, adding that he started seeking advice from family members in order to press kidnapping charge against the mother for the action of not returning his daughter to him and his current wife, who have been taking care of the minor.

He continued that while in the process, his daughter's mother called and informed him that she and their daughter were coming to pay him a visit and to discuss some serious issues concerning the girl's fate.

"They came as planned on my birthday which was August 3, my friends with my wife were sitting in a gathering; she first started with apologies so my wife and myself accepted



thinking she had gone missing.

He explained that before starting the search, he called his daughter's mother, who resides in Monrovia to find out if she had any knowledge of the whereabouts of their daughter that had left his house without returning but the mother told him that she was unaware of her whereabouts.

"I kept searching for my daughter until one day her mother called and informed me and my wife that she found her daughter. When I asked how she was able to find our daughter, she told me that someone from her old yard took our daughter to her new place when my daughter was in search of her, which I never had problem with because the safety of my daughter was my concern," he noted.

However, Mr. Mawolo said

then she went on to tell us that her pastor had asked for our daughter's hands in marriage. I felt real shocked to hear that a pastor will ask for a fifteen-year teenage girl's hands in marriage," Mr. Mawolo lamented.

According to him, since he didn't want to spoil his day with his friends, he then asked his wife to find out from his daughter if she were aware of what her mother had said but even more shocking to him, he said his daughter confirmed that was fully cognizant and in favor of her mother's decision to give her out for marriage to Pastor Moses.

Mr. Mawolo said out of shock, he told his daughter and her mother that he will get back to them and later asked his friend and wife, along with



**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Police charge woman in husband's murder**

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Barely two weeks after the suspicious death of the late John Yao Seshie in Pleebo, Maryland County, the Liberia National Police have charged the deceased's widow with Murder, awaiting trial.

The Liberia National Police detachment in Harper City charged Ms Catherine Seshie

Criminal Physical Evidence and Murder.

Addressing a news conference in Harper on Monday, County Police Commander Jacob Kumah said Police found Ms. Seshie as a prime suspect for the death of her husband.

She is being detained at the Central Prison in Middlecex, awaiting court trial.

before his sudden demise in his bathroom, lying in a pool of blood.

She narrated that the three individuals who visited her late father were not identified but alleged that he was being hunted by people who were planning such harm. Predicated on the information, relatives of suspect Catherine Seshie have



Ms Catherine Seshie, widow of the late John Yao Seshie

on Monday, August 10, 2020 with the crime, following preliminary investigation over the gruesome death of Mr. Seshie.

According to Police charge sheet, Ms. Seshie has been charged on several counts, including Tempering with Criminal Investigation,

Meanwhile, since the suspicious death, there have been controversies over the incident characterized by fear among Harper residents.

After the death of Mr. Seshie his daughter revealed that three unknown men visited her father on Sunday, July 26, 2020 and held conversation with him

expressed dismay over the Police's handling of the case.

According to a relative of the accused, Edward Stem, who served on a 15-man coroner's jury after the discovery of the remains of the late John Yao Seshie, the

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

**LIS wants legislative history rewritten -writes 54th Legislature**

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

The Director of the Legislative Information Service (LIS) Mr. B. McCarthy Weh, has written House Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Senate President Pro-Tempore, Albert Chie, calling for rewriting of the History of the Liberian Legislature and by extension, the Republic of Liberia.

"The LIS in June of 2017 invited Madam Munah Pelham-Youngblood to a roundtable dialogue on "writing/rewriting of the history of the Liberian Legislature and by extension the Republic of Liberia", the communication reads.

It recalled that as keynote speaker, the fallen lawmaker used the opportunity to launch what she referred to as "one of her signature undertakings", the history writing/rewriting project, and emphasized a compelling need for digitization of the

Legislature and creation of a website for that body to provide public access to its records.

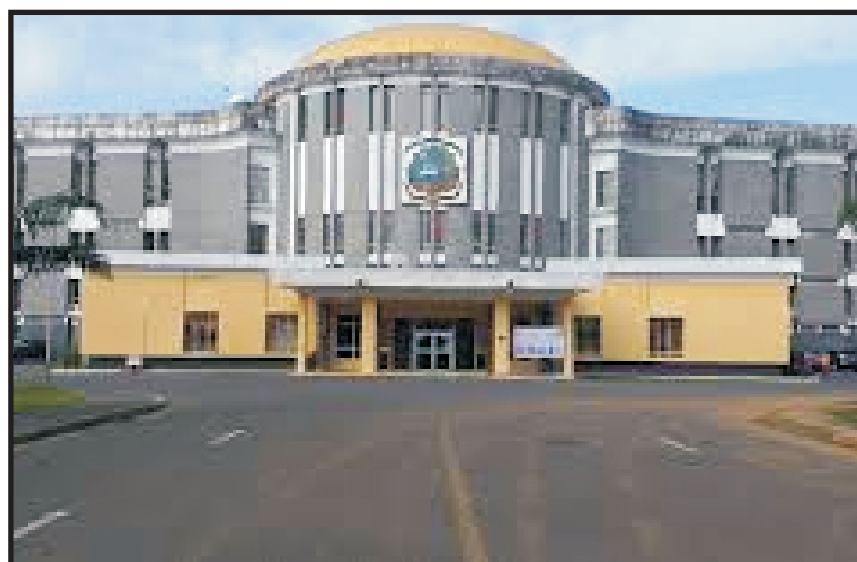
It said the late Representative Youngblood then vowed to seek support of her colleagues through written communication.

The communication continued that she also submitted a communication to the plenary of the House of Representatives the next session day immediately following the event, urging the

House to own and sponsor such project under a legislative endeavor, but nothing much was heard of in that regard till her death.

"LIS respectfully informs you through this medium that LIS has written the House of Representatives, requesting it to make Rep. Youngblood's 'history writing/rewriting' quest a 'memorial legacy project' to be backed by digitization of the legislature."

It pleads with the Legislature to provide



**"I decided to leave"**

**--Former CARI OIC clarifies**

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The former Officer - in - Charge at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) Madam Paulette Findley says it was her own decision to leave the institution, but she didn't back down to noise from detractors.

Speaking in an interview with our Bong County correspondent on Wednesday, 12 August, Madam Findley said she feels very strong that the time has come for her to move on, having completed the task assigned to her to set up a framework from a more sustainable development at the institute.

According to her, it is not because of a flippant protest that has made her to leave, maintaining that it was important that she left.

Madam Findley, who earlier served the institute as an administrator prior to her appointment as OIC, says her arms remain open to CARI if the new leadership seeks her professional ideas on improving the entity.

"Well I am still available here in the county so I will

always be willing to contribute my ideas to the new leadership in making sure that CARI becomes the best," she says.

She sent in her letter of resignation on 11 August expressing most sincere gratitude to President George Manneh Weah for the opportunity given her to serve Liberia in the capacity as Officer - in - Charge since last year.

The former CARI Officer - in - Charge at the same time reaffirmed her confidence in President Weah and his government in moving the country to a greater level.

Meanwhile, several citizens in Bong County are calling for a rapid investigation at the institute before the new leadership takes over.

The citizens, many of whom are radio talk show participants, say it will be necessary for the investigation to be conducted on grounds that it will bring to the attention of the public what the company had, in terms of money and materials before Madam Findley's resignation.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley



Madam Paulette Findley

budgetary support, beginning this 2020/2021 fiscal year, as its implementation will legislatively memorialize her.

Director Weh intimated that the 54th Legislature in general and the legislative caucus of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) particularly must remember the late Representative Munah-Pelham Youngblood in a more meaningful way via the project, which was her wish.

He urged that the Legislature should do so in addition to the usual temporal but solemn pomp and pageantry as well as powerful

eulogies that characterized her funeral and interment rites.

He narrated that to date, the legislature, inclusive of its archives and entire repository unit, is yet to be digitized and lacks operational website.

This has and continues to cause serious embarrassment for the institution as Liberians in and out of the country have expressed disappointments repeatedly in the legislature over failure to have this august body digitized in the past 14 years with just two years (out of the 14) of website services sponsored by USAID.



# Français

## La CBL croyait avoir eu l'autorisation d'imprimer de nouveaux billets de banque

« À ma connaissance, je ne sais pas si la disposition de ce document que vous avez mentionné a été respectée », a répondu KollieS. Tamba au parquet mardi 11 août à la question de savoir si la Banque Centrale du Liberia (CBL) a obéi à l'injonction de l'Assemblée législative qui

réclamait des détails appropriés du volume et de la valeur nominale des billets en circulation avant de procéder à l'impression des 10 milliards de dollars libériens

Le défendeur KollieS. Tamba, l'un des quatre anciens membres du conseil d'administration de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL) en procès, ne sait pas si la Banque

a suivi l'instruction du parlement libérien qui exigeait que des détails concernant l'impression des nouveaux billets de banque lui soient soumis avant toute autre action.

Dans son témoignage lors de l'audience de mardi au tribunal pénal «C» de Monrovia, le co-accusé Tamba a déclaré que pour le Conseil des gouverneurs, la lettre en question ne pouvait en aucun cas faire référence aux 5 milliards de dollars libériens imprimés car avant que la CBL eût accusé réception de ladite lettre, il y a eu bon nombre de réunions avec l'Assemblée législative.

« Il était donc impossible pour le législateur de croire que les 5 milliards de dollars libériens qui avaient été importés environ deux ans auparavant étaient suffisants pour remplacer complètement tous les billets de banque mutilés en circulation. 5 milliards de dollars ne pouvaient tout



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## Comment se porte la vice-présidente du Liberia ?

La vice-présidente du Liberia, Mme Jewel Howard-Taylor, a été évacuée d'urgence le mardi 11 août à Accra au Ghana pour des traitements dans un hôpital spécialisé.

À en croire le communiqué de presse rendu public par le bureau de la vice-présidence, La Vice-Présidente Howard-

Taylor avait été admise à l'hôpital Aspen Medical Facility, à Sinkor, Monrovia, le vendredi 7 août, 2020, suite à des complications respiratoires.

Selon ce communiqué, le numéro deux du régime actuel avait répondu favorablement aux traitements et que son état de santé était stable.

Cependant, le médecin traitant

aurait conseillé que la Vice-Présidente bénéficie davantage d'attention médicale dans un hôpital spécialisé dans le diagnostic et le traitement des malaises respiratoires comme celui dont elle souffre.

Le communiqué parle certes de malaise respiratoire, cependant l'on se souvient que le ministre libérien des finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, avait révélé en juin 2018, que la Vice-Présidente Taylor était malade.

Le Ministre Tweah a fait cette révélation lors d'un entretien à Bushrod Island, Monrovia. Il répondait à une question qui lui avait été posée.

Le Ministre s'était rendu dans le centre intellectuel pour s'entretenir avec le public afin de donner plus d'informations sur les activités de la Coalition au pouvoir, l'économie et la politique fiscale sous ce régime. On lui avait ainsi posé la question sur les rapports entre le président Weeah et son adjointe. Le Ministre avait



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## Côte d'Ivoire : Simone Gbagbo sort de son silence, le RHDP bat la campagne

L'ex-première dame a pris la parole mardi 11 août pour défendre son mari, l'ancien président Laurent Gbagbo toujours en Belgique où il attend un passeport pour rentrer dans son pays. Simone Gbagbo a également jugé illégale la candidature du président Ouattara à un troisième mandat.

Le poing levé, Simone Gbagbo est arrivée dans une posture conquérante. L'ex-première dame parle rarement. Mais elle a pour une fois décidé de s'exprimer, en tant que « leader d'opinion », alors que « l'heure est grave », et que « l'avenir s'assombrit », dit-elle. La vice-présidente du FPI a donc demandé des mesures d'apaisement en faveur de Laurent Gbagbo.

« Je voudrais appeler le chef de l'État à prendre une loi d'amnistie pour rendre M. Laurent Gbagbo éligible. Je l'invite à lui délivrer un passeport diplomatique. Il y a droit. Et qu'il libère les prisonniers de la crise post-électorale. Et qu'il facilite le retour sécurisé des milliers

prochain, l'Union de la Jeunesse du RHDP veut mettre les bouchées doubles. Elle a tenu une conférence de presse pour appuyer son candidat tout en fustigeant l'opposition qui à l'instar de Simone Gbagbo réfute la légalité d'un troisième mandat du président sortant.

« On ne touche pas à Ado [initiales de Alassane Dramane Ouattara] » : le message a le mérite d'être clair. Maintenant que le RHDP a un candidat, il est hors de question pour les jeunes militants du parti que la victoire d'octobre leur échappe. La première urgence, c'est donc de clore le débat sur l'anticonstitutionnalité d'un possible troisième mandat du président sortant.

« La Constitution n'interdit en aucune de ses dispositions la candidature de notre candidat. À dire vrai, l'attitude de l'opposition procède d'une mauvaise communication, d'une mauvaise compréhension et d'une mauvaise volonté de la classe politique qui refuse d'aborder sereinement l'élection présidentielle du 31



d'exilés. Qu'il réinscrive sur les listes électorales M. Blé Goudé Charles et pourquoi pas M. Soro Guillaume.»

Elle s'est ensuite attardée sur le cas d'Alassane Ouattara, citant la Constitution ou encore des collaborateurs du chef de l'État. Elle juge sa candidature à un troisième mandat illégale.

« La candidature de M. Alassane Ouattara n'est pas recevable. Un chef de l'État ne peut pas se dire et se dédire. Surtout devant la nation. Le respect de la parole donnée doit plus que jamais être observée en politique. »

Proposant des négociations, Simone Gbagbo a d'ailleurs tendu la main vers le pouvoir en déclarant que « rien n'était encore perdu » et qu'« ensemble », il était « possible de bâtir une Côte d'Ivoire forte, juste et apaisée ».

Le RHDP se dit légaliste et appelle au calme

À peine une semaine après l'officialisation de la candidature d'Alassane Ouattara à l'élection présidentielle du 31 octobre

octobre 2020 », a ainsi tancé Tilkouété Dah Sansan, le président de l'Union de la Jeunesse du RHDP.

Il y a quelques jours, des petits groupes de partisans de l'opposition ont manifesté dans les rues d'Abidjan et dans plusieurs villes du pays contre la candidature d'Alassane Ouattara. À trois mois de l'élection, la situation politique se crispe déjà. Mais ça n'inquiète pas du tout Youssouf Diabagaté, responsable d'Actions Prado : « Non non pas du tout ! La campagne du président Alassane Ouattara est faite de façon naturelle parce que son bilan est là. Rien ne va se passer en Côte d'Ivoire, parce que nous sommes tous témoins de ce qu'il s'est passé en 2010. »

Les partisans du RHDP appelle au calme et se disent légalistes. À ce titre, ils fustigent les manifestants et encouragent plutôt leurs opposants à faire des recours judiciaires s'ils le souhaitent.



# Français

## La CBL croyait avoir

simplement pas le faire, et nous pensons que le législateur l'a bien compris », a-t-il expliqué.

« Puis-je répéter que selon ce que nous avons compris, le document du 19 juillet 2017a fourni une autorisation suffisante à la banque centrale d'imprimer de nouveaux billets. Chaque membre du Conseil des gouverneurs était parfaitement conscient que l'approbation du parlement était nécessaire pour remplacer suffisamment tous les anciens billets », a-t-il ajouté.

M. Tamba nie l'accusation selon laquelle lui et d'autres membres du Conseil de la CBL ont adopté une résolution autorisant la CBL à imprimer des devises et à introduire des pièces sans le plein c o n s e n t e m e n t d e l'Assemblée législative.

Selon lui, le « Conseil des gouverneurs a lu » un document signé par le greffier en chef de la Chambre des représentants et le secrétaire du Sénat. Lequel document indiquait que la Plénière des deux chambres en session leur ordonnait de communiquer la décision de la session conjointe à la CBL.

Le dernier paragraphe de la lettre, selon lui, indiquait que la Chambre avait donné à la Banque centrale l'autorisation complète et légale d'exécuter la décision prise dans les deux chambres.

Selon le défenseur Kollie Tamba, les membres du Conseil des gouverneurs « ont compris que ce document était une autorisation complète à la Banque centrale de procéder au remplacement complet de tous les anciens billets de banque ».

« Les membres du Conseil, qui ne sont des juristes, ont également reçu un projet de résolution référencée. Par ce projet, nous avons cru avoir toute l'autorisation légale », a-t-il dit.

M. Kollie Tamba a dit qu'il a commencé à travailler avec la Banque centrale du Libéria lorsqu'elle était connue à l'époque sous le nom de

Banque nationale en 1988. Il occupait un poste de directeur adjoint dans la section des changes.

Son dernier poste à la CBL était conseiller principal pour la région multilatérale et les projets spéciaux et chef de l'unité de microfinance avant de prendre sa retraite en 2013 sous l'administration de l'ancienne présidente Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf.

Après cela, M. Tamba a déclaré qu'en 2016, il a de nouveau été engagé par la CBL pour servir d'administrateur provisoire à la First United American Bank, qui est maintenant la GN-Bank.

Il a dit qu'en mai de la même année, il a également été nommé au Conseil des gouverneurs pour un mandat de deux ans qui s'est terminé en mai 2018.

L'accusé Tamba est jugé aux côtés de plusieurs anciens fonctionnaires, dont l'ancien gouverneur exécutif de la CBL Milton A. Weeks, des membres du conseil d'administration de la CBL David Fahart et Elsie DossenBardio pour vol de propriété, sabotage économique, fraude sur les revenus internes du Libéria, utilisation abusive des fonds publics, des biens ou des archives, vol ou décaissement illégal d'argent public, complot criminel et facilitation criminelle.

Les anciens fonctionnaires sont poursuivis pour avoir prétendument imprimé 13 004 750 000,00 L \$ sans autorisation entre 2016 et 2018 et n'auraient déclaré que 10 359 750 000.

Les quatre accusés ont plaidé non coupables des charges retenues contre eux, mais la cinquième accusée Melisa A. Emeh serait hors du Libéria et n'a pas été traduite en justice.

Le fils de l'ancienne présidente Sirleaf, M. Charles Sirleaf, était inclus dans les deux actes d'accusation précédents dans cette même affaire, mais les procureurs ne l'ont pas inclus dans ce troisième acte d'accusation après qu'un non-lieu ait été prononcé en sa faveur. Ce fut aussi le cas de Richard H. Walker, Dorbor M. Hagba et Joseph Dennison dont les charges ont été abandonnées.

## Comment se porte la vice

dit que les rapports entre les deux étaient cordiaux et amicaux. Il avait ajouté que le président de la république s'était rendu au domicile de la vice-présidente pour lui

souhaiter bonne guérison après que des éléments de la garde rapprochée de cette dernière l'ont informé de son état de santé.

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Jayati Ghosh

## Le fiasco des mâles chefs d'État

**N**EW DELHI - Les États-Unis, le Brésil et l'Inde se démarquent tristement du reste du monde en termes de nombre de cas confirmés de COVID-19, et n'entrevoient pour l'heure aucun pic de l'épidémie. Ces trois pays (comme la Russie, en quatrième position) ont une chose en commun : un chef d'État machiste à la personnalité autoritaire.

Des différences significatives existent dans la manière dont ces pays répondent à la pandémie de COVID-19. Le président brésilien Jair Bolsonaro et son homologue américain Donald Trump ont systématiquement minimisé la gravité de la menace, et refusé de prendre des mesures fortes.

Plus récemment, Trump a quelque peu réajusté sa position, certainement motivé par une cote de popularité en déclin. Il a ainsi commencé à porter un masque en public, après avoir refusé de le faire pendant des mois - et ridiculisé ceux qui en portaient un. Le président américain continue néanmoins de saper le travail des experts de la santé, à travers ses déclarations erronées et trompeuses. Pour sa part, Bolsonaro continue de faire preuve de désinvolture, même après avoir contracté le COVID-19 (dont il est guéri).

Par opposition, le Premier ministre Narendra Modi a imposé l'un des confinements les plus stricts - et les plus soudains - de la planète, alors que seulement quelques cas étaient rapportés dans le pays. Ceci explique probablement en partie pourquoi le taux d'infections par million d'habitants est beaucoup plus faible en Inde qu'aux États-Unis ou au Brésil, bien que plusieurs études indépendantes suggèrent que les chiffres officiels en Inde et au Brésil se situent bien en dessous de la réalité.

Seulement voilà, le confinement décidé par Modi ne s'est pas accompagné de mesures significatives de protection sociale et de soutien aux revenus, ce qui a donné lieu à une tragédie humanitaire majeure, plusieurs millions de personnes tombant dans la pauvreté et la famine. Dans le même temps, le virus a continué de se propager, ce qui a abouti à une situation dans laquelle, une fois le confinement levé, les travailleurs pauvres se sont retrouvés confrontés à des risques encore plus importants.

Mais si le timing et l'intensité des ripostes américaine, brésilienne et indienne ont pu varier, le résultat est le même : plusieurs millions d'infections au COVID-19. Les États-Unis sont les plus touchés, avec plus de cinq millions de cas, devant le Brésil et ses plus de trois millions de personnes infectées, puis l'Inde et ses plus de deux millions de cas. De toute évidence, la personnalité des chefs d'État concernés y est pour beaucoup dans cette situation.

Trump, Bolsonaro et Modi ont en commun leur arrogance, leurs excès, et leur rejet de toute critique. Tous trois démontrent une capacité démagogique à inspirer la confiance dans une figure clivante à la fois repoussante pour un grand nombre d'habitants et mobilisatrice d'une dévotion quasi-religieuse pour beaucoup d'autres. Tous trois œuvrent activement avant tout pour les intérêts de leurs amis et électeurs. Enfin, tous font preuve d'un mépris systématique pour la vérité, usant de distractions, de diversions et de mensonges purs et simples pour promouvoir leur discours idéal, et conserver leur popularité.

Ces caractéristiques sont à l'origine d'erreurs politiques qui alourdissent le tribut des décès liés à la pandémie dans les trois pays. Pour commencer, la répartition des responsabilités entre le gouvernement fédéral et les autorités étatiques ou provinciales se révèle déséquilibrée, arbitraire et mal coordonnée, de même que le gouvernement central a tendance - bien souvent au mépris de l'avis des scientifiques et experts - à imposer des règles et politiques irrationnelles et souvent changeantes.

De leur côté, les autorités étatiques et provinciales assument les tâches les plus lourdes, non seulement dans l'endiguement du virus, mais également dans le soutien à la santé publique plus généralement, ainsi que dans la gestion des retombées économiques de la pandémie. Le gouvernement fédéral des trois pays ne fait rien pour faciliter la coordination entre ces entités de niveau inférieur.

Au-delà d'un manque de cap efficace fixé au niveau fédéral, les États et provinces sont confrontés à l'insuffisance des ressources. Le déséquilibre budgétaire est particulièrement marqué en Inde, où le gouvernement central refuse même aux gouvernements étatiques les fonds qu'il devrait légalement leur verser, ce problème existant également au Brésil et aux États-Unis.

Plus largement, aucun de ces trois pays n'a augmenté ses dépenses globales dans la santé publique. Et si le gouvernement apporte une aide financière aux entreprises en détresse, l'essentiel des fonds est versé aux grandes sociétés, les petites entreprises devant se contenter des miettes. De même, les personnes les plus défavorisées ne bénéficient que d'une aide minime et pourtant vitale, notamment en Inde.

Les travailleurs essentiels, qui risquent leur vie pour permettre à la société de continuer de fonctionner - les travailleurs de la santé par exemple, ou ceux qui assurent les approvisionnements alimentaires - ne bénéficient eux aussi que d'une protection et d'une aide dérisoires. Beaucoup perçoivent des salaires insuffisants, parfois versés en retard, et manquent d'équipements de protection voire d'une couverture santé face à la pandémie.

Or, plutôt que de remédier à ces échecs funestes de leadership, Trump, Bolsonaro et Modi ne cessent de créer des diversions. Trump préfère ainsi s'en prendre à la Chine - et même se retirer de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé en raison d'une prétendue « désinformation » menée par la Chine - que de travailler à l'élaboration d'une réponse efficace. De même, dans l'Inde de Modi, plusieurs années d'incitation au nationalisme hindou de la part du gouvernement font des musulmans les boucs-émissaires naturels.

Dans ces trois pays, une aggravation des divisions sociales - ainsi qu'un encouragement aux comportements agressifs par les groupes dominants - existaient bien avant la pandémie. Bolsonaro est depuis longtemps connu pour son racisme, sa misogynie, son discours anti-LGBTQ, et son mépris pour les droits des minorités. Les antécédents tout aussi clivants de Trump s'observent aujourd'hui dans sa sympathie pour les suprémacistes blancs, ainsi que dans sa condamnation des manifestations actuelles contre l'injustice raciale et les violences policières.

Ceci nous conduit à souligner un troisième point commun : les trois chefs d'État utilisent la pandémie comme une excuse pour réprimer les dissidences. Nombre d'Américains sont révoltés de voir Trump déployer des agents fédéraux, souvent en civil, pour écraser des manifestations pour l'essentiel pacifiques. C'est encore pire en Inde, où les personnes qui ont déjà participé à des manifestations pacifistes sont incarcérées. Les prisons indiennes - où le COVID-19 se propage à toute vitesse - sont devenues un foyer de militants des droits de l'homme, avocats, enseignants et étudiants.

La force brute ne peut stopper un virus. De même pour la tromperie, la manipulation, l'intimidation ou la coercition. Comme le démontrent d'autres pays (souvent dirigés par une femme), la seule manière de battre le COVID-19 réside dans la participation de la communauté, la coopération et la solidarité sociale. Ce n'est pas un hasard si les plus grands perdants face au COVID-19 sont ceux qui ont pris un tout autre chemin.



Cont'd from page 7

# Police charge woman

Police didn't consider some of the findings submitted by the jury, arguing that the jury's reports didn't indicate any foul play into the death.

Another brother of suspect Catherine Seshie, E.K.Seton, recalled that though there was misunderstanding between the late Mr. Seshie and his wife before his death, it was settled by In-lords of the deceased.

Both brothers protested that their sister wasn't investigated properly by the Police because since settling dispute between them, both parties had lived together without any problem up to

Seshie's death.

"My people, what will make this woman, who and her husband were living happily together to carry on this act?" They asked.

Both brothers however, called on the Police and other authorities of the county to ensure proper justice for their sister.

Prior to his death, the late 54-year-old John Yao Seshie worked as Chief Mechanic for the Williams V.S. Tubman University in Harper City.

The incident occurred near Green and McGill Street in Harper on Monday, July 27, 2020 at evening hours, while Ms

Catherine Seshie, a nurse, had left for work at the J.J. Dossen Referral Hospital in Harper

The deceased's 17-year-old daughter, Musu Wilson narrated that she discovered the sudden death of her late father Monday evening after a neighbor asked her to use their bathroom, but noticed the bathroom door was locked.

Musu continued that she didn't know who was in the bathroom but when the person couldn't respond or come out for a long time, she decided to again knock at the door.

She added that despite knocking the door for several times, no one answer, so she decided to forcibly open the bathroom, but to her utmost surprise, she saw her late father lying in a pool of blood in the bathtub. Information gathered by the New Dawn correspondent in Pleebo, reveals the late John Yao Seshi was found dead in his bathtub in a pool of blood with a knife found near the body.

Eyewitnesses who actually viewed the corpse disclosed that it was stained with blood and cuts on the neck and stomach. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



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# Liberians walking

own trouble. They are chunking now, the day they are disenchanted with you they will chunk you. Definitely they will chunk you because you encouraged them to chunk others so in their mind they feel it is good, so they will practice it on you," she says.

Madam Bedell warns that it's very scaring that things are happening here but "we don't see any protection," and the president is not speaking at all.

"I come to our president, he's not speaking at all. He's the father of the home, he ought to come out and speak on these matters. Even if he doesn't want to speak, his instruction to the police director can turn situations. You know, silence means concern," she says.

In the Montserrado County District #13 violent incident, Madam Bedell says she was a victim as her home was stoned and the attackers jumped on her children into fight because she had spoken the truth, noting that some of the attackers were from the church she pastors.



According to her, if discipline measures were taken, the violent incidents that happened in Montserrado District #13 and District #15 would not have happened.

But the clergy suggests that examples are not being set by President Weah, lamenting that following the violence in District #13 in which she and her family were also attacked, no one has gone there to call the residents and say something to them.

"People could have died. You don't wait until serious things happen and then you want to show that you are in control," she adds, and also calls on all the religious people here not to wait until things get out of hand before intervening.

She cautions here that when you are a leader you need to set discipline rules that those working with you will follow or set an example if you find out that those working with you are not following the rules.

She says she expects Mr. Weah to show the leadership he exhibited when he had the opportunity to serve as an administrator on the national team, disciplining people when they went wrong.

"So obviously those traits, those strategies, those mechanisms that he put into place that made the people, some of them to be where they are today, he must put it into place," she urges.

# VP Taylor tests

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Friday 7 August 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 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.

As of 10:00 PM, Tuesday, 11 August, the National Public Health Institute of Liberia

(NPHIL) said there were two new confirmed cases, one new death and one new recovery reported.

With that figure from 11 August, it means Liberia has 432 active confirmed cases, 82 deaths and 738 total recovered cases. Liberia has had 1252 total confirmed cases of coronavirus since the outbreak here, according to NPHIL.

Madam Howard-Taylor, was on Tuesday, 11 August flown out of Liberia to seek additional medical care at a specialist hospital in Accra, Ghana.

# Pastor in jail

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his daughter and her mother, who came to celebrate with him to give them a lift to 15 Gate in order to board a commercial vehicle for Monrovia.

"When my wife got back from dropping them with my friend, my wife told me that my daughter's mother asked her to appeal to me not to let the opportunity pass my daughter, telling my wife that Pastor Moses promised her car that is on ship coming with all of her wedding clothes; can you imagine that we are talking about 15 years teenage, who is still in 7th Grade," her further lamented.

He disclosed that over the weekend, his daughter's mother invited him to Monrovia for a very important meeting, noting that upon his arrival in the capital, he

proceeded directly to the National Police Headquarters and narrated the situation and the Police instructed a plain-clothe officer to accompany him to the meeting.

"The undercover officer and I got at the meeting just to find out that the pastor went with some people to introduce himself to us as my 15-year-old daughter in-coming husband. I was shocked and angry, but decided to keep calm; I started asking some questions that make me believe even more that my daughter had already been tempered with," Mr. Mawolo fumed.

He said immediately Pastor Elijah Moses was arrested and detained at the Zone Five Police depot in Paynesville undergoing interrogation. *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

# Marylanders, LEC

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pronouncement by Superintendent Proud, it has not received a dime from the government.

Speaking in an interview on Monday, August 10, the president of the Maryland County Youth Association Thomas Kuma, said it is clear that citizens in the county shouldn't pay bills other than maintenance fees because the power being used in Maryland County is under the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the former administration, arguing that it has not been turned over formally to the Weah administration.

According to him, since the Ghanaian electrification group planted light poles and installed primary or tension wire, no company has won bid for the power distribution.

He claimed former

Maryland County Superintendent, Betsy Kouh Toe only asked Mr. Wallace Dennis to serve as caretaker, adding that though Mr. Dennis hasn't won a bid, his team has been asking users to pay bill, something, he considers detrimental to ordinary citizens in the county.

Youth president Kuma also disclosed that following a meeting local authorities, it was confirmed that residential areas in the county should pay US\$ 5.00, while businesses pay US\$10, including connection fee which is US\$50.00, respectively.

He lamented that while these measures are in place, Mr. Dennis and his teams are still asking citizens to pay bills, instead of maintenance fees.



# CPP takes giant step

By Othello B. Garblah

The National Elections Commission or NEC will on Friday August 14, certificates the four Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) months after the parties signed a framework document to operate as one ahead of the 2020 mid-term senatorial election and 2023 general and presidential elections.

The CPP comprises the former ruling Unity Party (UP), the Alternative National Congress (ANC), the All Liberian Party (ALP) and the Liberty Party (LP).

In a letter of acceptance to the CPP dated August 11, 2020, NEC averred that the parties have met the requirements of Article 79 of the Liberian Constitution and Chapter 8, Section 8.5 of the 1986 New Election Law, which speaks to the registration of alliance and coalition in Liberia.

"In view thereof, the Commission will issue a certificate of accreditation to the Collaborating Political Parties on August 14, 2020 in the James M. Fromayan Conference Hall at 2:00 PM," the letter signed by EC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah noted.

The CPP is currently chair by ANC's political leader Alexander B. Cummings. He took over from ALP's political leader Benoni Urey whose chairmanship saw the drafting of the framework document that binds the party together.

The four opposition parties signed the framework document in May this year at which time they drew up a roadmap for their collaboration.

The document set three steps that the four collaborating parties will utilize for nomination processes to determine the selection of CPP's candidates for both presidential and legislative candidates to guide this year's and the 2023 elections.

The parties agreed to work with the document which says consensus shall be the first process conducted to select the ticket and that any decision emanating from there shall be binding on the parties and endorsed by the CPP.

15 of Liberia's 30 senators are expected to seek re-election this December, including Grand Bassa's Nyonblee Karnga - Lawrence; Nimba's Thomas Grupee; River Cess' Francis Paye;

Montserrado's Abraham Darius Dillon; Grand Kru's Peter Coleman; Maryland's Dan Morais and Bomi's Sando Johnson.

The CPP Collaborative Framework Document says the objective of the alliance is to present a single presidential ticket and or legislative candidates for all elections leading up to and including 2023 general and presidential elections.

It mandates all constituent political parties allocated slots for both the senatorial and representative elections are required to determine their nominees in compliance with their party's internal democratic selection processes.

The four constituent political parties are obligated under the arrangement to participate in the formal endorsement ceremony for all representatives and senatorial candidates preferably to be

in selecting a ticket, the framework document directs that the CPP shall conduct a Voters Perception Survey (VPS) as prescribed in Sections 10.5.2 of the agreement.

For the purpose of presidential nomination, the framework document notes that consensus shall be by unanimous choice made through a confidential medium, and that the presidential aspirants of the four initial parties shall have until December 1, 2021 to, by consensus, decide or agree on and name a presidential ticket, including a running mate.

The agreement gives the Standard Bearer of the CPP three months to name his/her running mate for subsequent endorsement by the National Executive Committee of the CPP in keeping with the electoral laws and Constitution of Liberia.



held in the constituency or county concerned, to be attended by the relevant district or county representatives as well as representatives of the National Executive Committee of the alliance.

Further, all constituent political parties are under obligation to be fully represented or to form part of any established campaign committee for the presidential, senatorial and representative elections, provided that the candidate shall select the head of any such committee.

The document further commits the four political parties to work toward an eventual merger of the constituent political parties in the future in line with the CPP's objective to reduce the number of political parties to an affordable number in response to the desire of the people.

Where consensus is not met

of the CPP constituent parties as survey subjects (SS), and in addition, also obtain voters' preference and perception about other influentially potential presidential and legislative aspirants from within and outside of the CPP, as SS.

Where the designated official of the CPP on legislative nomination are unable to decide/agree on and name the legislative candidate for a district or county, the framework document also mandates that the CPP shall conduct a Voter's Perception Survey funded by the CPP, for the purpose of informing the four parties and its delegates on the views of the public in preparation for primaries.

But the results from the VPS for presidential candidates will not be binding, except that the conduct of the VPS shall be mandatory and conducted no earlier than six months and no later than three months to the conduct of the primaries.

The results emanating from the primaries shall be binding on all parties in the collaboration," the document says.

Concerning legislative candidates, it also says the results from the VPS for legislative candidates will not be binding unless in the case of incumbent lawmakers as per Section (10.5.4).

But it notes that the conduct of the VPS shall be mandatory and conducted no earlier than four weeks to the conduct of the primaries.

Further, the document says an alliance member may lose his/her membership when a political party resigns from the alliance for cause or is dissolved by the National Elections Commission (NEC).

Other causes for losing membership include inaction of the other parties to probe a matter concerning the actions of a member party against the party in reasonable time; the party is consistently maligned, attacked and brought to public disrepute by officials and affiliates of a member party.

It cites also as further reason for losing membership, consistent violation of the agreement by one or more members of the alliance; the political party's consistently refusal or neglect to fulfill its financial obligations as provided in Article 8 of the framework, provided there is no pending/undetermined matter or grievance filed by the defaulting member. The document gives the alliance the power to establish a single account to be managed by designated signatures as agreed by the authorities of the constituent political parties.

Agreement is reached for each political party to make equal financial contribution to fund all activities of the alliance based on a 25% cost-sharing principle of the total expenditure required to fund any activity of the alliance as long as the framework is in place. Members of the alliance are required to make an initial contribution of USD \$10,000 for the opening of the bank account to be paid upon the signing of the document and an annual due payment /contribution of USD\$ 24,000 to run the affairs of the Alliance.

The document says the total amount of annual contribution agreed to by the parties shall be paid in quarterly installments of US \$6,000 with the first quarter installment to be invoiced and paid within three months after the signing of the agreement.

In the guideline set in the framework document, a party is found guilty of violating the provisions of the agreement provided that due process is accorded and party's or its Executive Committee member(s) or official(s) are found guilty of promoting the activities of a political party that is not one of the members of the alliance.

It sets a punitive measure of suspending the violator's membership for up to one year or expelling them from the alliance if they are found promoting the activities or programs of a person or organization engaged in acts that are counterproductive to the objective of the alliance.

The document states equality, transparency & accountability, integrity, inclusiveness, respect for rule of law, peace & unity, discipline & hard work and gender equity as the core values of the alliance.

The CPP seeks to strengthen the democracy here through grassroots engagement with the people, using town hall meetings, community engagements, radio and technology.

Members of the alliance are to jointly and in equal proportion finance the operational costs of the office of the alliance which shall be rotated based on the chairmanship of the alliance. The alliance says it is aware that the media have the power to shape public opinion and make or break the alliance's political mission, thereby committing to endeavor to enhance its activities with a tolerant media engagement strategy and seeking to empower media entities to voice the vision of the alliance in pursuit of its overriding objective.



# VP Taylor tests Covid-19 positive

## --Health Minister's letter says



A communication under the signature of Health Minister Dr. Wilhemina S. Jallah says Liberia's Vice President Jewel Howard - Taylor has been tested positive of COVID - 19 on 10 August, and she has requested to travel out of the country for treatment.

"I am pleased to present my compliments and inform

you that H.E. Madam Jewel Howard - Taylor, has been tested positive of COVID - 19 on August 10, 2020, and she has requested to travel out of the country for treatment," a communication circulating on social media from Health Minister Jallah says.

"Based on the advice of her doctor, the Incident Management System (IMS) is

granting her permission to travel to seek treatment," the communication dated 11 August adds.

The communication makes its way onto social media as the Liberia News Agency (LINA) comes under intense criticisms for quoting unconfirmed source in its publication that Vice President Taylor is Covid-19 positive, disregarding a press release from her office which had informed the public about what it said was her health status.

LINA has made an apology "for the inaccuracy of the report" though, but the Health Minister's communication says the Vice President is Covid-19 positive.

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

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# Barcelona confirm coronavirus case

Barcelona have confirmed a positive coronavirus test ahead of their Champions League quarter-final with Bayern Munich.

However, the Blaugrana have declared that it was not posted by a member of the first-team squad that will travel to Lisbon on Thursday.

Instead, it is one of nine senior players currently separate from the first-team squad available for the

Champions League last eight.

Those nine returned to the club's training ground on Tuesday for testing ahead of medical checks on Wednesday and the beginning of pre-season on Thursday, having either been signed by the club or returning from loan spells elsewhere.

A club statement confirmed on Wednesday however that one had tested positive and had subsequently been placed in isolation.

"After the PCR tests carried

out yesterday Tuesday afternoon to the group of nine players who today have to start pre-season, one of them has tested positive for Covid-19.

"The affected person is asymptomatic, is in good health and is isolated at home.

"The club has informed the competent sports and health authorities. In addition, all the people who had contact with the player have been traced to carry out the corresponding PCR tests.

# 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  
UN Drive  
Monrovia-Liberia

Email: info@thenewdawnliberia.com  
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