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Continental News

Two found guilty over Kenya shopping mall attack

A court in Kenya has found two men guilty of helping Islamist militants to attack an upmarket shopping mall in 2013. At least 67 people died in the assault by al-Shabab on the Westgate shopping complex in the capital, Nairobi. The state said the four militants who carried out the attack were found dead in the shopping centre's rubble. The militants occupied the mall for four days, in one of the deadliest jihadi attacks in Kenya. A third man was found not guilty on all counts of conspiracy to commit a terrorist act.

The trial is the only one so far over the Westgate shopping mall attack.

More than 140 witnesses testified in the case. The accused denied conspiring to commit terrorism.

The presiding judge ruled that the two suspects, both Kenyan citizens, will be sentenced on 22 October. The BBC's Ferdinand Omondi in Nairobi says their convictions will be welcomed in a country that remains on high alert

over possible attacks by al-Shabab. The al-Qaeda affiliate is based in neighbouring Somalia, and has carried out a series of attacks in Kenya.

Kenya has troops in Somalia to help fight the militants. Mohammed Ahmed Abdi and Hussein Hassan Mustafa were charged with planning and committing acts of terror, as well as supporting and helping a terrorist group. The third suspect, Liban Abdullahi, was

found not guilty. The Somali refugee was also acquitted of the charge of being in Kenya illegally and possessing identification documents by false presences.

On a Saturday afternoon in September 2013, gunmen entered the mall and opened fired on shoppers, leading to a four-day siege. "People were panicking, children were crying," survivor Surajit Borkakyoty told the BBC that

day. "We were trying to calm people and tell them not to use their phones, or to keep them on silent. All the time we could hear gunfire. It was a war-like situation."

Live television broadcasts showed smoke billowing from the complex, as armed police and military vehicles surrounded the site and dozens of terrified people escaped. When it was over days later, at least 67 people had been killed - 62 civilians, five security officers and the four attackers. Al-Shabab said it carried out the attack in response to Kenyan military operations in Somalia.

Initially the authorities said there had been 10 attackers, but then revised the figure down to four. They said all of them had been killed but forensic tests on their remains have never been released. Rivalry between police and military forces has previously been pointed out as a factor that hindered the response.

Since the attack there has been better co-ordination, correspondents say.

This helped in the response to the nearby DusitD2 hotel and office complex attack in January 2019, where 21 people died. Police and military counter-terror units, foreign security personnel, ambulance and fire brigade co-ordinated to end the assault. BBC



Hussein Hassan Mustafa (left) and Mohammed Ahmed Abdi (right) were charged while Liban Abdullahi (centre) was found not guilty

Liberian man drowns rescuing dropped \$20 note

A man has drowned after jumping from a bridge into a river in Liberia's capital, Monrovia, to retrieve a \$20 note that he had dropped, police spokesman Moses Carter has said.

Street hawker Tamba Lamine managed to find the

money, and showed it to onlookers but then drowned, he said. Mr Lamine was walking with a friend on the bridge when the note fell.

He felt pressured to get the cash back because he had to give his friend his \$5 "share" of it, Mr Carter said.

The two had jointly sold

some merchandise, the police spokesman added. The US dollar trades alongside the Liberian dollar in the West African state, which was founded by freed American and Caribbean slaves.

It is much stronger and, with the value of the local currency depreciating, people are desperate to hold on to the US dollar, says the BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh in Monrovia.

Mr Lamine's body has not yet been recovered, Mr Carter said.

He drowned in the Mesuradu River, which runs between mainland Monrovia and the industrial district of Bushrod Island.

The crowd which had gathered on the bridge thought Mr Lamine was safe after he emerged from the water to show them the note, but he then disappeared and did not resurface, Mr Carter said.

Drownings in the river are extremely rare, and Mr Lamine's death has caused much sadness and grief, our reporter says. BBC



Flooding hits six million people in East Africa

The number of people hit by seasonal flooding in East Africa has increased more than five fold in four years, according to UN figures.

Nearly six million people have been affected this year with 1.5 million of them forced from their homes.

Parts of the region are recording the heaviest rains in a century.

In 2019, a big temperature differential between the east and west sides of the Indian Ocean was blamed for heavy

worst affected countries, 860,000 people have had their homes destroyed or damaged and more than 120 have died, the UN says quoting government figures.

Nearly every state in Sudan has experienced heavy flooding and in neighbouring South Sudan, 800,000 people have been affected with 368,000 people forced from their homes. "Entire communities have fled to higher ground to escape the rising waters," the UN said in a statement.



Floodwater in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, has destroyed people's homes

rainfall. The data gathered by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs paints a worrying picture, reports the BBC's Catherine Byaruhanga.

The number of people affected by flooding in East Africa has gone from 1.1 million in 2016 to four million in 2019, to close to six million so far this year - this is before the short rains, which normally peak in November and hit most countries in the region. In Sudan, one of the

After a visit to some of the worst hit areas in South Sudan last month, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for the country, Alain Noudéhou, said that "vast areas of the country along the River Nile are now under water". In Ethiopia, which has a much larger population, 1.1 million people have been affected by flooding.

Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda are also included in the figures. BBC

EDITORIAL

Liberians should fear for their lives

ADMITTANCE BY THE Inspector General of Police Col. Patrick T. Sudue that officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) contaminated the crime scene of two deceased employees of the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) whose corpses were mysteriously found in a parked vehicle early Friday morning, 2nd October on Snapper Hill, Broad Street in Monrovia is very worrisome.

THAT SINGULAR CONFESSION by IG Sudue jeopardizes further investigation into the mysterious deaths of two citizens, who were diligently serving the Motherland up to their suspicious demise, leaving the entire nation hopeless about any possibility of finding their killer(s) or circumstances that led to their death.

WE ARE HIGHLY disappointed in the Liberia National Police for making such public confession of error over a major crime that has kept Liberians speechless and created a sense of insecurity in our society.

WHEN COL. SUDUE appeared at a news conference at the National Police Headquarters in Monrovia on Monday, 5 October with a flying sheet to address the public concerning the death of Albert Peters and Gifty Lama journalists had thought the Police was in possession of a lead.

HOWEVER, RESPONDING TO a reporter's question why police officers drove the car in which the two LRA employees' bodies were found instead of towing it or lifting it from the scene to protect evidence, Col. Sudue disappointingly replied, "This is what we call contamination of the crime scene."

"LOOK I MUST say publicly that there was some errors on the crime scene but those errors on the crime scene were not significant as to destroying the evidence that we had...."

LIBERIANS ARE APPREHENSIVE and rightly so, that this mysterious death case may never go to court or even if there were formal charges, probable suspect or suspects may find escape route within the law, and walk away because of this so-called "contamination of the crime scene."

THE STATE HANDLING of previous mysterious and suspicious deaths had left much to be desired and citizens seem to have mistrust for the system that should guarantee their security at all times.

IT IS ABOUT time the Police and the entire national security apparatus become robust in exercising professionalism during incidents that lead to loss of lives. Liberians expect nothing less because their taxes are paying for these services.

WE CAN BUT only hope that circumstances that led to the mysterious deaths of these two public servants would be established by the relevant authorities, particularly the Police so that perpetrators would face justice and members of the bereaved families can trust the system governing their peace and happiness.

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COMMENTARY

By Joseph S. Nye, Jr.

Post-Pandemic Geopolitics

Estimating the long-term effect of the current pandemic is not an exact prediction of the future, but an exercise in weighing probabilities and adjusting current policies. When envisioning the international order in 2030, five scenarios stand out.

CAMBRIDGE - There is no single future until it happens, and any effort to envision geopolitics in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic must include a range of possible futures. I suggest five plausible futures in 2030, but obviously others can be imagined.

The end of the globalized liberal order. The world order established by the United States after World War II created a framework of institutions that led to a remarkable liberalization of international trade and finance. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, this order was being challenged by the rise of China and the growth of populism in Western democracies. China benefited from the order, but as its strategic weight grows, it increasingly insists on setting standards and rules. The US resists, institutions atrophy, and appeals to sovereignty increase. The US remains outside the World Health Organization and the Paris climate agreement. COVID-19 contributes to the probability of this scenario by weakening the US "system manager."

A 1930s-like authoritarian challenge. Mass unemployment, increased inequality, and community disruption from pandemic-related economic changes create hospitable conditions for authoritarian politics. There is no shortage of political entrepreneurs willing to use nationalist populism to gain power. Nativism and protectionism increase. Tariffs and quotas on goods and people increase, and immigrants and refugees become scapegoats. Authoritarian states seek to consolidate regional spheres of interest, and various types of interventions increase the risk of violent conflict. Some of these trends were visible before 2020, but weak prospects for economic recovery, owing to the failure to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, increase the probability of this scenario.

A China-dominated world order. As China masters the pandemic, the economic distance between it and other major powers changes dramatically. China's economy surpasses that of a declining US by the mid-2020s, and China widens its lead over onetime potential contenders like India and Brazil. In its diplomatic marriage of convenience with Russia, China increasingly becomes the senior partner. Not surprisingly, China demands respect and obeisance in accordance with its increasing power. The Belt and Road Initiative is used to influence not just neighbors but partners as distant as Europe and Latin America. Votes against China in international institutions become too expensive, as they jeopardize Chinese aid or investment, as well as access to the world's largest market. With Western economies having been weakened relative to China by the pandemic, China's government and major companies are able to reshape institutions and set standards to their liking.

A green international agenda. Not all futures are negative. Public opinion in many democracies is beginning to place a higher priority on climate change and environmental conservation. Some governments and companies are re-organizing to deal with such issues. Even before COVID-19, one could foresee an international agenda in

2030 defined by countries' focus on green issues. By highlighting the links between human and planetary health, the pandemic accelerates adoption of this agenda.

For example, the US public notices that spending \$700 billion on defense did not prevent COVID-19 from killing more Americans than died in all its wars after 1945. In a changed domestic political environment, a US president introduces a "COVID Marshall Plan" to provide prompt access to vaccines for poor countries and to strengthen the capacity of their health care systems. The Marshall Plan of 1948 was in America's self-interest and simultaneously in the interest of others, and had a profound effect on shaping the geopolitics of the ensuing decade. Such leadership enhanced US soft power. By 2030, a green agenda has become good domestic politics, with a similarly significant geopolitical effect.

More of the same. In 2030, COVID-19 looks just as unpleasant as the Great Influenza of 1918-20 looked from 1930, and with similar limited long-term geopolitical effects. Prior conditions persist. But, along with growing Chinese power, domestic populism and polarization in the West, and more authoritarian regimes, there is some degree of economic globalization and a growing awareness of the importance of environmental globalization, underpinned by a grudging recognition that no country can solve such problems acting alone. The US and China manage to cooperate on pandemics and climate change, even as they compete on other issues such as navigation restrictions in the South or East China Sea. Friendship is limited, but rivalry is managed. Some institutions wither, others are repaired, and still others are invented. The United States remains the largest power, but without the degree of influence it had in the past.

Each of the first four scenarios has about a one chance in ten of approximating the future in 2030. In other words, the chances are less than half that the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic will profoundly reshape geopolitics by 2030. Several factors could alter these probabilities. For example, the rapid development of effective, reliable, and cheap vaccines that are widely distributed internationally would enhance the probability of continuity and reduce the probability the authoritarian or Chinese scenarios.

But if Donald Trump's re-election weakens America's alliances and international institutions, or damages democracy at home, the probability of the continuity scenario or the green scenario would decrease. On the other hand, if the European Union, which was initially weakened by the pandemic, succeeds in sharing the costs of member states' response, it could become an important international actor capable of increasing the likelihood of the green scenario.

Other influences are possible, and COVID-19 may produce important domestic changes related to inequalities in health care and education, as well as spurring the creation of better institutional arrangements to prepare for the next pandemic. Estimating the long-term effect of the current pandemic is not an exact prediction of the future, but an exercise in weighing probabilities and adjusting current policies.

O-PED

By Kemal Dervis

Can Biden Save the World?

An administration led by the Democratic challenger could pursue a concerted US effort to renew multilateralism and reverse the trend toward a starkly divided world of great-power rivalry. At a time of unprecedented global challenges, such an outcome would benefit all, including China.

WASHINGTON, DC - The outcome of the US presidential election on November 3 will have momentous consequences for America in terms of economic policy, racial justice, the judiciary, health care, and the overall quality of its democracy. But the election's international effects could be equally far-reaching and lasting. In particular, can a victory for the Democratic nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, prevent a dangerous great-power confrontation and usher in a new era of global cooperation?

If President Donald Trump were re-elected, he would not necessarily seek more confrontations abroad during his second term. On the contrary, as Trump's electoral incentive for hardline posturing diminished, he might become less hawkish, notably toward China, and pursue "economic deals" whenever possible.

In fact, the Trump administration's grandstanding about "values" and human rights may cease altogether. After all, the president is perfectly comfortable with autocrats, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent lambasting of China for human-rights abuses was more electoral theater than evidence of moral conviction.

A second-term Trump administration - much like the first - would not try to project systemic notions of democracy and human rights around the world. Instead, it would pursue a purely transactional approach to diplomacy with allies and rivals alike, calculating that America's huge domestic market and military-industrial prowess, along with the dollar's extraterritorial reach, will strengthen its bilateral negotiating power, even vis-à-vis China and the European Union. But, although bilateral deal making may be effective in specific cases, Trump's neglect of alliances and disdain for multilateralism - a key source of US strength for decades - has diminished America's power and influence.

True, despite Trump's malign efforts, the United States retains considerable soft power, because much of the world regards his presidency as an aberration that does not reflect America's "true" character. But if Trump is re-elected, that soft power would decline precipitously. A purely transactional approach would further erode the already weakened multilateral system. The need for rules and standards will nonetheless grow.

A world of greatly diminished multilateralism would likely crystallize into three rival spheres of influence - led by the US, China, and the European Union - each with its own rules and standards. The EU could have enough weight to form a third pole of its own, particularly if it can attract some like-minded medium-size countries into its sphere. Should the EU lack the cohesion to do this, the world would become bipolar, because the weight and gravitational pull of the US and China are orders of magnitude greater than those of any other potential rivals.

Such a world would be inefficient, with different rules and standards segmenting markets. Moreover, reaching burden-sharing agreements to provide global public goods such as climate mitigation would be very difficult. It would also be a dangerous world: despite their still considerable interdependence, China and the US might slide into a technology cold war that could become hot, owing to miscalculations on both sides - including with regard to new cyber weapons.

How might the future play out differently if Biden wins?

Regarding the US-China relationship, not much would change in the near term. If anything, bilateral frictions might even increase, because a Biden administration would elevate the human-rights issue in a more consistent fashion. Current tensions on trade, industrial policies, and technology would persist, and a strong Sino-American rivalry would remain a feature of the international system.

But a Biden administration could radically change America's current relations with its traditional allies - notably Europe - as well as its approach to multilateralism. Forcefully pursuing such a strategy could prevent inefficient and dangerous fragmentation of the international order.

With Biden in the White House, the US, Europe, and many African, Latin American, and Asian countries could work together to establish common rules and standards reflecting fundamentally similar values, although difficult compromises would be necessary in areas such as data management and digital taxation. The US would undoubtedly re-engage with the World Trade Organization and champion a rules-based global trading system, while also seeking much-needed institutional reforms.

America under Biden also would remain a member of the World Health Organization and work on pandemic prevention in a multilateral framework. Likewise, it would rejoin the 2015 Paris climate agreement and commit to serious mitigation goals.

It is not certain that a Biden administration would pursue such an agenda strongly enough to bring about a renewed multilateralism in which the US was a leading and decisive force, but no longer a hegemon. Although diverging national interests would persist, and working out compromises would be difficult, shared fundamental values and enlightened self-interest could lead to agreed solutions.

Crucially, a successful revival of multilateralism could make China want to be part of the renewed international system. Although the Chinese leadership has publicly declared its commitment to global multilateralism, in practice it has pursued an unrestrained hard-power strategy, which may be China's best option if Trump wins again.

But, despite its size, China cannot afford to stand alone in defiance of most of the rest of the world should the EU and a Biden-led US pursue agreed rules and standards in cooperation with many other countries. Nor could China persuade many East Asian countries to align with it in such a scenario.

A concerted US effort to renew multilateralism could reverse the trend toward a starkly divided world of great-power rivalry. At a time of unprecedented global challenges, such an outcome would benefit all, including China. That could be as momentous as any domestic difference between a Trump and a Biden victory.

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OPINION

By Richard Haass

Learning from Rabin

The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin 25 years ago by a right-wing Jewish extremist almost certainly was a turning point in the Middle East. A quarter-century later, Rabin's goal of a separate Palestinian state remains the only option that can ensure Israel's future as both Jewish and democratic.

NEW YORK - Assassinations are by definition significant because they involve the murder of a prominent individual for political purposes. But not all assassinations constitute turning points. World War I, for example, would likely have happened even without the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The stage was already set for what was to become The Great War, and something else would have provided the spark.

Nor is it obvious that the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy, as significant as it was, was a historical turning point. Some say that, had he lived, he would have limited US involvement in Vietnam, a war that in the hands of his successors ultimately claimed some 58,000 American lives. Obviously, there is no way of knowing. What can be said with some confidence, though, is that the US political system was sufficiently robust that the broad direction of domestic and foreign policy alike were not dependent on a single person.

By contrast, the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin 25 years ago by a right-wing Jewish extremist almost certainly was a turning point in the Middle East. The reason is clear: Rabin may well have been the only Israeli leader of his generation both willing and able to make peace with the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. He saw the need to compromise and was strong enough to take calculated risks and persuade a majority of Israelis that it was wise to do so.

By contrast, Rabin's rival and successor, Shimon Peres, had the desire to make peace, but his very enthusiasm undermined his ability to rally skeptical Israelis behind him. Rabin's reluctance proved invaluable. And several subsequent Israeli prime ministers, including the incumbent, Binyamin Netanyahu, possessed the hardline credentials to make a deal with the Palestinians, in the sense that the anti-communist Richard Nixon could broker the US breakthrough with China a half-century ago. But, unlike Nixon, they lacked the desire to do so on terms that had any chance of being accepted.

This is not to say that Rabin would have succeeded had he lived. It takes two to make peace. It was Nelson Mandela's - and South Africa's - good fortune that President F.W. de Klerk was a willing partner in ending apartheid. Peace requires leaders who are both willing and able to compromise and sustain their commitments. And here it is not obvious that Rabin had a viable partner in Yasir Arafat, although it is instructive that Rabin ultimately judged that it was worth pursuing, because only Arafat possessed the authority to make a deal.

What also made Rabin remarkable was his openness to change. As Israel's defense minister from 1984 to 1990, he imposed harsh measures on Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied territories and cracked down on violent protest. I was working on the Middle East at the White House at the time. When I challenged Rabin on the wisdom of saying Israel would break the bones of the protesters, he responded, "What would you have us do? Kill them?"

For Rabin, it was a legal and political necessity to maintain order, but it was also a moral imperative to minimize the loss of life. Using non-lethal force was to him the right approach.

Over time, however, Rabin concluded that force alone would not succeed. He came to see political and economic incentives as essential as well. And in his second term as prime minister, he accepted the Palestine Liberation Organization as a negotiating partner despite its history of terrorism, and approved the 1993 and 1995 Oslo Accords that established a path designed to bring about ever greater political autonomy for Palestinians.

As we know, the Oslo Accords were never implemented in full. Rabin was assassinated, subsequent attempts at negotiating peace failed, Arafat died, and no Palestinian state materialized.

All this is relevant now given the recent diplomatic breakthrough between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Arab governments, motivated by the threat from Iran and a desire for access to Israeli technology and US arms, have determined not to allow the unresolved Palestinian issue to stand between them and normal relations with Israel. Other Arab states eventually will do much the same.

The Palestinian reaction has been equal parts predictable and disappointing. Most Palestinians still seem unprepared to accept that the path to a state of their own does not run through the Arab League or the United Nations or even Washington, DC, but rather through direct talks with Israel.

As Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank continue to expand, time is running out. Israel's government has agreed to postpone annexation of significant portions of the West Bank for just three years. The question is whether the next generation of Palestinian leaders will, like Rabin, be willing and able to compromise for peace.

But Israelis would be wise to learn from Rabin as well. He believed that Israel must remain both Jewish and democratic, and understood that this requires separate states. The only alternatives are to make Palestinians citizens of Israel (thereby ending Israel's Jewish character), or deny Palestinians voting rights (thereby ending Israel's democratic character).

For good reason, Rabin rejected both alternatives. There would be no better way to honor his legacy than by reviving a diplomatic process leading to the creation of two separate states living side by side in peace.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Marylanders campaign against alcohol drinking

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland Co.

Amid protects by health workers across the country, demanding better incentives and par rise, the Maryland County Health Team in collaboration with Partner In Health has conducted a day-long awareness against drinking of alcoholic beverages.

The campaign was held recently in Harper and Pleebo districts, respectively, bringing together health workers, youths, elders, women and owners of entertainment centers in the county.

Miss Augustus Nagba, county health focus person, said the awareness was intended to sensitize citizens about harmful alcohol poses to the human body.

She said often, citizens are badly affected from drinking

damage your lungs, liver and heart, so we need to stop drinking alcohol", she continued.

She advised citizens to pay heed because the health system of Liberia can't treat someone who has damaged his or her lung or liver by drunkenness.

For their part, participants commended the Maryland County Health Team for initiating the awareness against excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages.

At the same time, Maryland County health workers have joined their colleagues across the country in demand of salary and benefits.

Since the national stay home protest by health workers started, several patients have been abandoned in hospitals.

A 30-year-old female resident of Pleebo District narrated that she visited a health center in the district,

equipment to health facilities especially, referral hospitals.

Assistant Secretary-General Deemi T. Dearzrua, said Liberia's poor health system has led to death of many citizens, because the government is yet to prioritize the health sector of the country.

He said they presented key concerns to the government, including granting the Union a certificate of recognition to operate as a trade union, better salaries, and hazard benefits, considering that COVID-19 has exposed them to more danger.

We have to initiate this strike action since the government has denied us the right to become a union on grounds that doing so will be going against the "Decent Work Act" which prohibits union for civil servants.

Deemi called on fellow health workers to continue the stay-home action until government can address their plights.

In a related development, Maryland County former senator John A. Ballout, who is seeking reelection, has regretted action by the government, threatening health workers with dismissal without finding solutions to their problems.

"We need them in the hospital, not in the street. We need to engage them and find a compromise instead of threatening them with dismissal," Ballout said.

Atr the same time he cautioned health workers to understand the government is currently faced with lots of challenges, so they need to find a compromise with the authorities.

He acknowledged that it is right of health workers' to protest, but they should dialogue with government in having their demands met.

"This, too, will not happen overnight and they will not get everything they want and the government will not threaten them with dismissal because they cannot employ these people overnight. The mass dismissal is out of the question and it is wrong. Health workers have sacrificed a lot, so they have to be treated with respect. We have to work with them; we have to find a solution... Besides, I think if this organization is unionized, it will bring the best out of this country," the former senator said. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

Joint Liberia, French Development Agency Recruits 2nd Batch of Scholars

The Joint Liberia and French Development Agency (AFD) Training Project has begun recruitment for the 2nd batch of students to study on a four-year scholarship at the Félix Houphouët-Boigny National Polytechnic Institute in Yamoussokro, La Cote D'Ivoire.

The project, an initiative of the Liberian government with funding from the government of France, through the French Development Agency (AFD), aims to provide young Liberians the opportunity to specialize in various engineering sciences and technology disciplines in order to become employable and productive.

The recruitment exercise, being coordinated by the Office of the First Lady in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the University of Liberia among others, seeks to recruit and properly vet at least 18 young, brilliant and deserving Liberians, especially females.

According to the committee, interested persons must not be older than 26 years and must be 2019 successful WAEC or WASSCE candidates with good scores in Mathematics, English, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

A release quotes the committee as urging eligible students to take advantage of the opportunity by acquiring applications forms at designated locations to fill-out and return them with requested documents no later than October 17, a week to the entrance exam slated for October 24, 2020.

Designated areas where the application forms can be acquired include the Ministry of Education, the FG-6 Building, Student Affairs at the

University of Liberia's Capitol Hill Campus, Stella Maris Polytechnic, St. Theresa Convent and F-SHAM in Paynesville among others.

The committee disclosed that successful candidates will join the first batch of 21 students currently in the Ivory Coast, to earn undergraduate degrees in various technical disciplines including Information and Communication Sciences and technologies; Industrial Engineering Sciences and Technologies and Process Engineering Sciences and Technologies.

Others are Civil Engineering, Mining and Geology and Agricultural Engineering Technologies.

When recruited, the second batch of 18 students would bring to 40 the total number of students targeted to benefit from the project being funded by the French government in response to President George Weah's request.

It can be recalled that, during President Weah's first state visit to Paris, France in February 2018, he engaged French President Emmanuel Macron on the need to build the capacity of Liberian youth to addressing unemployment in the country.

In response to this request, the French government provided one million euros through its international development agency (AFD) giving rise to this scholarship scheme which is being implemented by the Félix Houphouët-Boigny National Polytechnic Institute.

The first batch of students, comprising of seventeen (17) males and four (4) females were recruited last year and have already undergone their first year of study. -Press release



alcohol because they are not aware of its sad effects.

"Let me inform you as you have gathered here today to witness this occasion that marks the awareness of citizens against the drinking of alcohol, that alcohol is dangerous to your health and you need to know this", she said.

The county health focus person said although the sensitization lasted for only a day, but should bring change in citizens' lives.

She lamented though it is difficult to change everybody at once, the awareness will help in reducing the constant drinking of alcohol.

"My people, let me be clear to you that alcohol can

but wasn't accorded medical care due to the strike by health workers.

She though it is also wrong for the government not to fulfill its commitment to health workers, it's also important for health workers to prioritize saving lives of patients going to their facilities for medication.

However, when this paper contacted Mr. Garrison Sayon, administrator of the Pleebo Health Center, he declined to comment.

Meanwhile, speaking on a community radio station on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 via mobile phone, a representative of the National Health Workers Union of Liberia (NAHUL) alleged that government has failed to provide drugs and

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Senate summons APM Terminal

By Ethel A. Tweh

The plenary of the Liberian Senate has summoned authorities at APM Terminals, ordering their appearance before that august body this Friday, 9 October to give reasons why they shouldn't

Terminals was made by Montserrado County Senator Saah Joseph.

Senator Joseph's motion followed a concern raised by Senator J. Gbleh-bo Brown of Maryland County, urging that the plenary should reject the committee's report because it

forwarded to the Labor Ministry when the same Labor Ministry has failed in its function.

According to the report by the Labor Committee Chaired by River Gee Senator Matthew Jay, during the hearing with the workers union and the APM Terminals which was represented by its lawyers, there was documentary evidence by the workers union to substantiate their claims.

However the report indicates that the APM Terminals' lawyers refused to address the Senate's Labor Committee on grounds that the complaint shouldn't have been carried to the Senate, but to the Labor Ministry.

But Senator Brown says the Senate has oversight responsibility and a law firm has no right to tell Senators what to do.

"It is a complete disrespect to this body for those lawyers to tell us what case should be brought to us or not. The workers have been to the Labor Ministry but there has been no result. They came to us for redress and we are representing the people, we cannot send them back to the same Labor Ministry," Senator

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



be held in contempt.

The plenary to the decision unanimously due to APM Terminals' alleged show of disrespect to the Senate Committee on Labor. The motion to summon APM

had been disrespected by APM Terminals.

Senator Brown had expressed disappointment in the committee for submitting a report that recommended that a case with the Dock Workers Union of the APM Terminals be

Liberia prepares for National Transfer Accounts profile

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) through its Sub-regional Office for West Africa formally begins a three-day capacity-building workshop in Liberia for several institutions of the Liberian government.

A release issued by a member of the ECOWAS Economic Journalists Network, Jacob N.B. Parley, said the virtual training workshop, taking place in Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia, is aimed at producing economic and National Transfer Accounts (NTA) profile on Liberia.

According to the release, the exercise is bringing together two employees, each, from key institutions of government, including the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning, Labour, Health, Agriculture, Justice, the Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-

dividends in West Africa plays an essential role in improving living conditions of the populations through sustainable development and structural transformation of the region's economies.

"Liberia is now the only country in the region that does not have the NTA demographic profile and as such, the training is intended to build the capacity of Liberians that will help the government develop the NTAL profile on Liberia." Barthelemy Biao added.

He stressed the need for employees from government entities to familiarize themselves with the handbook for measuring the generational economy, published in 2013 by the United Nations and cited the importance of the document in line with the vision of the West Africa Sub-regional Office to invest in approaches aligned with



Participants pose for photo

"Stimulus package was to run campaign"

-Sen. Dillon claims

By Ethel A. Tweh

Opposition Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon claims that the coronavirus stimulus package has been used by the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) regime to run a campaign in Montserrado County given the ruling party's vow to do everything to reclaim the county.

Mr. Dillon is seeking re-election in the county against the ruling party's candidate and sitting Representative Thomas Fallah.

Dillon on Wednesday, 7 October expressed disappointment in the report of the Steering Committee of the Food Distribution Program which was chaired by former Commerce Minister Prof. Wilson K. Tarpeh.

According to Dillon, the reason Montserrado County dominated the report of the distribution is all political, adding that they were using the people's money to run campaigns.

During the distribution of

the stimulus package food, Dillon argues that the steering committee called on a few members of the Legislative Caucus and members of the ruling party, instead of Montserrado County Legislative Caucus.

Appearing before the plenary of the Liberian Senate on Wednesday, 7 October, Prof. Tarpeh who is now transferred as Executive Director of the Environmental Agency (EPA)

said the process is still ongoing.

But he notes that it is stalled because of the rainy season and bad road condition in the country which have denied the team the opportunity to reach other counties, except Montserrado.

He says further that the rainy season is about to end

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Senator Abraham Darius Dillon

Information Services (LISGIS) and the ECOWAS Economic Journalists Network. The Network, established in Dakar, Senegal, in 2017, reports on economic and environment issues, among others.

The National Transfer Accounts (NTA) is an idea dedicated towards helping to strengthen capacities of government employees, specifically in areas that enable ECOWAS member countries, including Liberia, integrate issues relating to demographic dividends in developmental policies.

In a virtual remark made on behalf of the UNECA from Niger, Barthelemy Biao, noted that West Africa's 2019 population of 391 million inhabitants, raises urgent need for investment in demographic transition.

Biao strongly believes capturing the demographic

demographic economics.

"The ECA will do everything possible to institutionalize the NTA approach and support countries to institutionalize it."

The ECA executive, at the same time mentioned that the program has a window of economic growth, if accompanied by appropriate government policies, including investment in health and education and further described demographic dividend as economic benefits that arise from changes in population age structure and from other demographic forces that enhance opportunities for economic development, among others.

Meanwhile, Assistant Finance Minister for Development Planning, Benedict Kolubah, hailed the United Nations Economic

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire partnership for cross border peace and security

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Varney A. Sirleaf is visiting the Ivorian Capital Abidjan as guest of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire.

the delegation is holding talks with heads of top local government and Security agencies regarding the protection of the border between Liberia and

mainly Grand Gedeh for illegal activities including farming, mining and other illicit acts. According to reports parts of Maryland, Rivergee and Nimba Counties are currently being used for some of these activities.

The Liberian delegation believes these activities have the propensity to pose security threats, therefore joint cooperation and collaboration would be required to address the situations. The team also made request for technical and logistical assistance.

The release said the team arrived in Abidjan on Sunday, October 4th and has since held discussions with Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko, Minister of Security and Civil Protection Diomande Vagondo and Minister of Interior Sidiki Diakite. Others are the Army Chief of Staff, the Heads of the Immigration, Police, and Intelligence among others.

As chairman of the Board of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), Minister Sirleaf provided updates on the status of Ivorian refugees in Liberia including local integration and voluntary

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(L-R) Ivorian PM Bakayoko and Min. Sirleaf

The Internal Affairs Minister is being accompanied by Robert W. Budy Commissioner-General of Liberia Immigration Service and Attorney Samuel F. Dakana, Deputy National Security Advisor to the President of Liberia.

According to an Internal Affairs Ministry press release,

neighboring Cote d'Ivoire, sustaining peace in border communities and enhancing trade.

Key among the concerns raised by the Liberian team is the alleged use of the Ivorian border by foreign nationals, most of them Burkinabe nationals who continue to cross illegally into large parts of Liberian bordering Counties,

Bishop Kunkun frowns on unlawful elections activities

By Ben P. Wesee

Bishop John Kunkun of the Full Gospel International Fellowship and Pastor of the City Of Light Church of God, has frowned on the continued election violence by some politicians here in the wake of the midterm senatorial election.

Speaking in an exclusive interview Wednesday, 7 October office in Barnerville, Bishop Kunkun expressed disappointment over the ongoing elections activities across the country when the National Elections Commission is yet to announce the start of campaign.

"First of all, we are disappointed with the way the process is going. Everyone is behaving as if campaigns have started when campaign has not yet been launched by the National Election



Commission," he says.

He speaks against the trucking voters, saying it's to the disadvantage of the people who live in districts where others from different districts go to register to vote.

"The people that are being trucked to Bomi to vote might even be more than the population of Bomi County," he notes.

The Bishop expresses shock that while he was enroute to

Liberia celebrates World Post Day on 9 October

On Friday, 9 October, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications joins the world in observance of World Post Day celebration, a press release issued by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications says.

It notes that the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a specialized body of the United Nations and it governs the international postal sector and helps ensure a universal network of up - to - date products and services among its member states.

Liberia being a founding

member of the UPU since 1847, the country will celebrate World Post Day under the theme: "More than mail."

World Post Day is celebrated every year on 9 October by the 192 member states of the UPU since its declaration by congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

The purpose of the World Post Day is to bring awareness to the Post's role in the everyday lives of people and business, as well as its contributions to global social and economic development.--

Press release



Several armed robbery suspects charged

By Winston W. Parley

Police have charged four young men over alleged commission of armed robbery and criminal facilitation, following an incident in the Battery Factory community on 30 September in which victims were said to have lost several valuable items.

Police say defendants Alfred Doe, Oumie Sanoh, Alieu Sumo and Melvin Kollie allegedly admitted voluntarily to the crimes.

The accused allegedly searched the victims' shop and their bedroom, making away with victim Mohammed Karyon's items including cash US\$350; one Tecno C-x valued US\$210; 25 bags of 25 kg rice valued US\$350; one flat screen TV valued US\$80; and 10 pieces of scratch cards valued US\$47.

They also allegedly stole victim Ma - Fatu Sheriff's Tecno

phone valued US\$210.

They have been sent to the Monrovia City Court and would be held in detention pending their indictment because armed robbery is not bailable.

According to police, the defendants were armed with cutlasses and other deadly weapons, damaged the zinc of the victims' shop and forced their way in.

The victims were in bed during the armed robbery operation, according to police, and the suspects allegedly threatened to harm them. One of the accused, Alie Sumo, is just 18 years old, according to the police's record.

In addition to those sent to court, police say the defendants also named other persons as alleged accomplices to the crime, including Abu/Raza, Mark, Master Queen/Diamond and others to be identified.

Grand Cape Mount County, he saw about eight National Transit Authority (NTA) buses taking people from Brewerville to Bomi County.

He warns that this not healthy for the country's young democracy because it could lead to serious problem.--

Edited by Winston W. Parley

Français

Charles Sirleaf réclamerait de l'argent à l'Etat du Libéria

L'ancien gouverneur exécutif adjoint de la Banque centrale du Libéria, M. Charles Sirleaf, dont les charges ont été abandonnées il y a des mois par le tribunal, réclamerait à l'Etat du Libéria un certain montant d'argent pour avoir été « illégalement demis de ses fonctions » à la Banque pendant qu'il était en procès.

L'annonce a été faite par Mme Nyemadi Pearson

récemment lors de son audience de confirmation au sénat à la suite de sa nomination en tant que sous-gouverneure exécutive de la CBL. Selon Mme Pearson, M. Sirleafa fait valoir qu'il n'a pas été officiellement limogé par le chef de l'Etat et son mandat de cinq ans n'était pas encore terminé, mais il a été tout simplement remplacé.

Elle n'a pas mentionné le montant que réclame M.

Sirleaf, mais d'après elle, ce dernier, vu que l'économie du pays est en récession, aurait proposé à l'Etat d'effectuer le paiement en six versements.

M. Charles Sirleaf est l'un des fils de l'ex-présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Pendant qu'il était poursuivi dans le cadre de la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens, le président

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Pres. George M. Weah

Mr. Charles Sirleaf

FMI : débloccage d'une aide d'urgence pour 22 pays africains, dont le Libéria

Le FMI est toujours au chevet des plus pauvres en cette période de crise mondiale. Le Fonds a approuvé lundi le versement d'une nouvelle aide d'urgence pour 28 pays, dont 22 sont en Afrique. L'argent reçu pourra leur permettre soit d'alléger leurs dettes, soit de contribuer au

financement de la lutte contre les effets de la pandémie, indique le FMI.

En avril dernier, le FMI allégeait la dette de 25 pays parmi les plus pauvres, en actionnant un mécanisme d'urgence, le Fonds fiduciaire d'assistance et de réponse aux catastrophes naturelles. Un outil rapide et efficace, immense

porte-monnaie de 500 millions de dollars rempli par les pays riches et les émergents que le FMI aimerait voir tripler de volume. Car ce fonds fiduciaire va être de nouveau mis à contribution à partir de ce mois-ci pour aider un groupe de 28 pays dont 22 africains.

Ils pourraient recevoir d'ici avril 2022 un montant global de 959 millions de dollars. L'avantage de ce fonds fiduciaire étant qu'il s'agit de dons et non de dettes remboursables. Les pays peuvent utiliser l'argent soit pour alléger leur dette soit pour lutter contre la pandémie et ses effets, notamment pour l'amélioration des systèmes de santé.

En Afrique, à l'exception du Rwanda, ce sont les moins riches qui sont servis. Le Mali, pourtant éligible, est encore sur la liste d'attente. Le Fonds veut d'abord savoir si la communauté internationale reconnaîtra le nouveau gouvernement issu du régime militaire.



La Banque Centrale du Libéria annonce la nécessité d'imprimer de nouveaux billets

« Si des billets supplémentaires ne sont pas imprimés, le pays assistera à une augmentation rapide des billets déchirés », a averti le gouverneur exécutif de la Banque centrale du Libéria (CBL), Aloysius Tarlue. « La durée de vie des billets de banque est de trois ans, d'où la nécessité d'en imprimer d'autres pour remplacer les vieux billets », a-t-il ajouté.

S'exprimant récemment lors d'une session exécutive à la Chambre des représentants, le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue a déclaré : « Dans la plupart des pays du monde, les banques centrales ont une réserve de leur monnaie pour remplacer l'argent en circulation en temps opportun. Cela n'est pas le cas pour le Libéria. La CBL travaillera donc avec d'autres autorités compétentes du gouvernement pour traiter ce problème de manière optimale. »

des raisons pourquoi elles refuseraient de donner les billets de 500 dollars aux clients en dépit du fait que ces billets avaient été mis à leur disposition. « La CBL continuera à mettre progressivement à disposition les billets restants, conformément aux demandes de liquidités en grande partie des banques commerciales », a-t-il rassuré.

A la question de savoir pourquoi la banque n'a imprimé que des billets de 500 dollars, le Gouverneur Exécutif a répondu que c'était à cause des contraintes budgétaires. « Le coût d'impression des billets de 500 », a-t-il dit, « est inférieur à celui des petites coupures ».

Le Gouverneur exécutif a informé les membres de la Chambre basse de ce que la Banque, par l'intermédiaire de son Conseil des



Dans un communiqué de presse, le gouverneur exécutif de la CBL avait révélé que les 4 milliards de dollars libériens récemment imprimés par la CBL en juillet étaient uniquement destinés à l'atténuation du besoin de liquidité pour la fête de l'indépendance. Cet argent est maintenant insuffisant pour répondre aux futurs besoins de liquidités exprimés par les populations. Selon lui, environ 37% des nouveaux billets ont été mis en circulation par le biais des banques commerciales. Il s'agit d'environ 1,5 milliard de dollars libériens.

Le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue a en outre révélé que la CBL a rencontré quelques banques commerciales pour s'enquérir

gouverneurs, déploie tous les efforts possibles pour remédier durablement à la situation de manque de liquidité. Il a ainsi imploré la Chambre de travailler avec la CBL pour accélérer le processus de passation des marchés qui pourrait aboutir à l'impression d'autres billets supplémentaires.

Le gouverneur exécutif Tarlue et son équipe ont été sommés par la Chambre des représentants de comparaître pour expliquer pourquoi les billets de 500 récemment imprimés ne sont pas visibles sur le marché et pourquoi les banques continuent de donner des billets mutilés aux clients en dépit de l'impression de 4 milliards de dollars en juillet.

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Français

Charles Sirleaf réclamerait

George Weah a annoncé Mme Pearson comme sa successeuse, ce qui l'empêchait de reprendre ses fonctions même après qu'un non-lieu a été prononcé en sa faveur par la justice.

Il effectuait un deuxième mandat en tant que gouverneur exécutif adjoint de la CBL avant son inculpation avec d'autres personnes par l'administration Weah pour son implication présumée dans la saga de la disparition

présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens. Il serait en train de rechercher tous les moyens possibles pour confronter les autorités pour son argent.

En plus de M. Sirleaf, l'ancien gouverneur exécutif Milton Weeks et quatre autres responsables de la banque avaient été accusés de sabotage économique, d'abus de fonds publics et de complot criminel. Tous ont été acquittés.

Côte d'Ivoire : Guillaume Soro et 19 de ses proches poursuivis

Adou-Richard Christophe, Procureur de la république a fait le point des procédures judiciaires entamées contre l'ancien président de l'Assemblée nationale et 47 de ses proches

Il a fait ce point cet après-midi suite à l'achèvement des investigations du Juge instruction. Selon le Procureur de la république, cette information judiciaire a clairement démontré l'implication active de certains inculpés dans la commission de faits de nature criminelle, révélé que d'autres inculpés n'avaient commis que des faits délictuels, et a totalement mis hors de cause dix-neuf inculpés.

"Ainsi l'information judiciaire a mis en évidence que les personnes ci-après n'étaient nullement impliquées dans la commission des différentes infractions à elles reprochées. Un non-lieu total a donc été requis à leur encontre conformément aux dispositions des articles 209 et 211 du code de procédure pénale", a-t-il expliqué.

Il s'agit de KONE SIRIKI, Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de Yamoussoukro, de TOURE ALLASSANE, Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de Treichville, de FOFANA MAMADOU alias « KATIB », Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de Treichville, de FOFANA MOHAMED ALI, Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de Treichville, de FOFANA MOHAMED alias « VIP », Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de Treichville, chauffeur de Monsieur SORO GUILLAUME, de COULIBALY ARDJOUA, Sergent-chef en service à la Garde Républicaine de

Treichville, de KONE ADAMA, Gardien, Ancien combattant FRCI, de LOGBO GUY ARMAND, Chauffeur, de TIOTE AHOUMA, Garde rapprochée et chauffeur de Madame TAGRO Sylvie, épouse de Monsieur SORO KIGBAFORI GUILLAUME, de SAWADOGO HAMIDOU, Gardien à Assinie-Mafia, de BRAHIMA KONE alias « SIX SECONDES », se disant Tradi-praticien, de KONE SOULEYMANE, Électricien réseau, de MIMI FRANCK ELVIS OMER, Informaticien, de BRAKATOU KOUADIO BLECK, Infirmier diplômé d'Etat, de SORO KELOFOHOUA, Agent de la brigade de salubrité du district autonome d'Abidjan, de TOURE ABOUBACAR, Médecin, de OUATTARA, de Géomètre à SODUREB, de KRAMOH SEYDOU OUATTARA, Équipementier sportif, de TOURE AMARA, Entrepreneur en bâtiment.

En revanche, cette information judiciaire a révélé l'implication effective et active de certaines personnes dans la commission des faits de trouble à l'ordre public, diffusion et publication de nouvelles fausses jetant le discrédit sur les institutions et leur fonctionnement et ayant entraîné une atteinte au moral des populations. Ces faits prévus et punis par les articles 179, 183 et 190 du code pénal étant de nature délictuelle, leur renvoi devant le Tribunal Correctionnel pour y être jugées conformément à la loi, a été requis.

Ce sont notamment, SORO KANIGUI MAMADOU, Député, MAMADOU DJIBO, Enseignant, Professeur de Philosophie, TEHFOUR KONE, Conseiller en alphabétisation, CAMARA LOUKIMANE, Député, YAO SOUMAILA, Député, OUATTARA MARC alias « MARC KIDOU OUATTARA », Enseignant professeur de lycée, Inspecteur principal de Physiques-Chimie Président du parti.

COMMENTAIRE

PAR JOSEPH S. NYE, JR.

Après la pandémie : perspectives géopolitiques

CAMBRIDGE - Il n'existe d'autre avenir que celui qui surviendra, c'est pourquoi toute tentative de concevoir une géopolitique après la pandémie de Covid-19 doit se présenter sous la forme d'un éventail d'avenirs possibles. J'en verrais cinq, plausibles d'ici 2030, mais d'autres peuvent évidemment être imaginés.

La fin de l'ordre libéral mondialisé. L'ordre du monde mis en place par les États-Unis après la Première Guerre mondiale a créé un ensemble d'institutions qui ont conduit à une libéralisation notable des échanges internationaux, commerciaux et financiers. Avant même la pandémie de Covid-19, cet ordre était remis en question par l'ascension de la Chine et la montée des populismes dans les démocraties occidentales. La Chine a tiré parti de cet ordre, mais à mesure qu'elle augmente son poids stratégique, elle cherche de plus en plus à en définir elle-même les règles et les normes. Les États-Unis résistent, les institutions internationales s'atrophient, et les appels à la souveraineté se multiplient. Les États-Unis demeurent en dehors de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce et de l'accord de Paris sur le climat. Le Covid-19 renforce la probabilité de ce scénario en affaiblissant le « gestionnaire du système », les États-Unis.

Une contestation autoritaire semblable à celle des années 1930. Le chômage de masse, le creusement des inégalités et les bouleversements créés dans la vie des populations par les changements économiques liés à la pandémie créent les conditions propices à des approches politiques autoritaires. Les entrepreneurs politiques cherchant à exploiter le populisme nationaliste pour obtenir le pouvoir ne manquent pas. Nativisme et protectionnisme gagnent des adeptes. Les droits de douane et les quotas d'importation se durcissent, la circulation des personnes est restreinte, migrants et réfugiés deviennent des boucs émissaires. Les États autoritaires cherchent à former et affermir des zones d'intérêt régionales et des interventions de différents types accroissent les risques d'un conflit violent. Certaines de ces tendances étaient perceptibles avant 2020, mais les faibles perspectives de relance économique, dues à l'incapacité de faire face à la pandémie de Covid-19, renforcent la probabilité de ce scénario.

Un ordre du monde sous domination chinoise. Tandis que la Chine maîtrise la pandémie, son économie connaît une évolution spectaculaire vis-à-vis des autres grandes puissances. L'économie chinoise dépasse au milieu des années 2020 celle des États-Unis, qui s'essouffent, et la Chine creuse son avance sur ses concurrents potentiels de naguère, comme l'Inde et le Brésil. Dans son mariage diplomatique de convenance avec la Russie, c'est elle qui devient le partenaire principal. Comme on peut s'y attendre, elle exige le respect et l'allégeance dus à son rang. Les nouvelles routes de la soie - le projet « Une ceinture, une route » - lui permettent d'exercer son

influence au-delà de ses voisins, auprès de partenaires aussi lointains que l'Europe et

l'Amérique du Sud. Dans les instances internationales, le prix des votes contre la Chine devient trop élevé, car ils compromettent non seulement son aide ou ses investissements, mais aussi l'accès au plus important marché de la planète. Les économies occidentales ayant été affaiblies par la pandémie en comparaison de l'économie chinoise, le gouvernement chinois et les grandes entreprises chinoises ont la capacité de remanier les institutions internationales et d'y mettre en place des normes à leurs goûts.

Un ordre du jour écologiste international. Les futurs possibles ne sont pas tous sombres. Dans beaucoup de démocraties, l'opinion publique commence à considérer le changement climatique et la conservation de l'environnement comme des enjeux prioritaires. Certains gouvernements, certaines entreprises sont en train de se réorganiser pour répondre à ces questions. Avant même le Covid-19, on pouvait prévoir que l'ordre du jour international serait défini pour 2030 par l'intérêt que portent certains pays aux questions écologiques. Parce qu'elle met en évidence les liens entre la santé des humains et celle de la planète, la pandémie accélère l'adoption de cet ordre du jour.

Ainsi l'opinion a-t-elle remarqué, aux États-Unis, que les 700 milliards de dollars des dépenses de défense n'ont pas empêché le Covid-19 de tuer plus de vies américaines que toutes les guerres menées après 1945. Dans un nouvel environnement politique, le président des États-Unis lance un « plan Marshall Covid » afin de fournir aux pays pauvres un accès rapide aux vaccins et de renforcer les capacités de leurs systèmes de soins de santé. Le plan Marshall de 1948 était dans l'intérêt des Américains, mais en même temps dans celui des autres, et il eut une influence déterminante sur la géopolitique au cours des dix années qui ont suivi. Cette impulsion a renforcé le soft power, les capacités d'influence, des États-Unis. En 2030, un ordre du jour écologiste est désormais de bonne politique intérieure, avec des conséquences géopolitiques pareillement importantes.

Un état stationnaire. En 2030, le Covid-19 est un souvenir aussi désagréable que l'était la pandémie grippale de 1918-1920 en 1930, avec des conséquences géopolitiques à long terme similaires. La situation antérieure persiste. En revanche, si la Chine accroît sa puissance, si populisme et polarisation politique subsistent en Occident, tandis que le nombre de régimes autoritaires augmente, un certain degré de mondialisation économique se maintient et l'on prend de plus en plus conscience de l'importance de la mondialisation environnementale, l'une et l'autre se fondant sur le fait admis qu'aucun pays ne peut en agissant seul résoudre les problèmes posés. Les États-Unis et la Chine parviennent à coopérer pour ce qui est des pandémies et du changement climatique, même s'ils sont toujours en concurrence sur d'autres questions comme les restrictions de la navigation sur les mers de Chine méridionale et orientale. L'amitié n'est pas débordante, mais la rivalité est contrôlée. Certaines institutions internationales s'étiolent, d'autres sont redressées, et d'autres encore inventées. Les États-Unis demeurent la principale puissance, mais sans jouir du même degré d'influence que par le passé.

Grace Church Monrovia

Starts from back page

officiated by Chief Consecrator, Bishop Dr. George D. Harris of Philadelphia Church Ministries International; Bishop Dr. Nathaniel N. Zarway, Greater Refuge Cathedral; Bishop Jacob Henry Harris, National Overseer, Church of God Liberia Incorporated and Bishop Dr. M. Wolo Belle of Bethel Cathedral of Hope, Bethel World Outreach Ministries International in absentia, all Co-consecrators, respectively.

The atmosphere inside the Grace Cathedral was serene and spirit-filled as the youthful choir, Gracetone International struck an inspiring tone, "Allalujah, Allelujah Lord God Almighty, Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb Lord God Almighty" and the Chief Consecrator, Bishop George Harris mounted the pulpit and delivered the consecrational sermon on the theme, "Be Diligent in Fulfilling Your Calling" with text from the New Testament book, I Corinthians 1:25-26.

He reminded the congregation that the Bible says curse is the man who does the work of God with sluggishness and that God has not called believers of the Lord Jesus Christ to non-progression or failure, but to fulfill heavenly missions.

"One of the most crucial needs of the Church is to teach the word of God", Bishop Harris added. He said preaching may bring people to the faith, but teaching the Holy Gospel will keep them there.

Bishop Harris provided five cardinal reasons why it is important for one to diligently fulfill his or her calling, saying "You must fulfill your calling because this is what God wants."

He said the Church will become a better place when all believers know their callings and diligently fulfill them.

He said fulfillment of the heavenly assignment is possible and told the celebrant that his works here on earth will speak for him.

Finally, the Chief Consecrator said diligently fulfilling God's calling is required because there is a reward awaiting every true servant at the end.

The Bishop George D. Harris then proceeded to performing the formal consecration of the celebrant, Apostle Sam Bishops, assisted by members of the College of Charismatic

Bishops and Apostolic Overseers offering prayers and reading the solemn charge and examination as the celebrant responded in humility.

"The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of bishop in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And remember that you stir up the grace of God which is given by the imposition of our hands; for God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness. Give heed to reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this book. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost; be so merciful that you may not be too remiss; so minister discipline that you forget not mercy, that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear you may receive the never fading of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." The Bishop charged the celebrant.

Co-consecrator Bishop Nathaniel Zarway noted that the bible is the ancient book of the Church and serves as the heart of a Christian's private devotion in life, telling the celebrant "Among the symbolic treasures presented to you on this day of your consecration is the Holy Bible. Receive the Holy Scriptures; from them feed the flock committed to your care. Amen."

Other holy instruments, representing the



Bishop and Mother Oroge

Bishopric Office were presented, including the Cross, Cassock or robe, Cincture, Rochet, Chimere, Tippet, Pectoral Cross, Stole, Cope and the Mitre, respectively, symbolizing God's glory and awesome power.

Bishop Sam B. Oroge, 46, hails from Nigeria. He migrated to Liberia in 1997 and matriculated to the Baptist Theological Seminary along the Robertsfield highway outside Monrovia where he graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor degree in Theology. He also holds a Master's degree and formerly served as Head Pastor for the City Hills Church of God (Inc.) for nearly 10 years, bringing great transformation to that ministry before moving on to establish the Grace Church Monrovia. He is married to beautiful Mother Peace Bishops Oroge and the union is blessed with four Christian children, Faith, Gifty, King and Princess.

"Prophecy is fulfilled in this third generation", responded the newly consecrated Bishop Sam Oroge.

He disclosed that he learned to how to preach, how to teach and how to pray right in his parents' living room back in Nigeria at a very early age, as both his father and grandfather, who both predeceased him, were archdeacons in the Anglican Church of Nigeria.

"I was very small when my grandfather passed. He had always wanted to be Bishop. My dad also wanted to be Bishop. As a teacher he had begun to heal people", he added.

Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire

Cont'd from page 7

repatriation programs.

Minister Sirleaf and team briefed their colleagues on efforts made by the Government of Liberia regarding peace and security, and assured of Liberia's preparedness to further collaborate along the border.

Addressing a high-level meeting on Tuesday, the Liberian Internal Affairs Minister said President George Manneh Weah was deeply concerned about reports of alleged intrusion and therefore directed him (Min Sirleaf) to lead an inter-governmental effort to find out the facts.

He said it was against this background and other issues related to other cross-border cooperation that President Weah sent him to Abidjan along with the other two officials to meet and discuss with counterparts.

At the same time, Ivorian Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko is commending Liberia for the level of bilateral cooperation even at the highest levels of the two governments involving Presidents George Manneh Weah and Alassane Ouattara.

"These discussions are very time and important especially at the time when Cote d'Ivoire is heading to a major Presidential election later this month of October". Prime Bakayoko asserted.

Meanwhile, technical discussions are being held to draw up action points by the teams of both countries on how the bilateral cooperation relating to border security would be handled.

The visit is also continuation of a joint Communique' of the Joint Council of Chiefs

and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) between the two countries which started in 2013 in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, graced by then Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ivorian President Alasane Ouattara. A second edition of the JCCEM was held in the Ivorian town of Guiglo in 2016.

Preparations for the third leg of the JCCEM scheduled to take place in Ganta, Nimba County in April 2020 was disrupted as a result of the outbreak of Covid-19.

In early 2018, during a state visit in Abidjan, President Weah and his counterpart Ouattara discussed the JCCEM and instructed their Ministers of Interior to continually ensure the implementation the outcomes.

The joint communique' of the JCCEM among other things calls on both countries to remain engaged to consolidate sustained peace and security. Additionally to improve cross-border trade, work on projects and programs for women and youth empowerment and involvement of local leaders and chiefs both countries in dialogues. The release concluded.

**SECTION I. INVITATION FOR BIDS
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS
(101st Graduation Academics)
IFB NO.: UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21**

September 15, 2020

- The University of Liberia has allotted portion of its Convocation's budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and intends to apply it towards the procurement of Academics for the 101st Graduating Class, 2020.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement & Concessions Act (PPCA), 2010 and approved by the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission (PPCC) of the Republic of Liberia.

3. Specification and quantity:

| ItemNo. | Description | Quantity |
|---------|---|----------|
| LOT # 1 | Academics LOT 1- Graduate Programs/Visitor/Professors | Assorted |
| LOT # 2 | Academics LOT 2- Undergraduate Programs | Assorted |

- Qualification requirements include:
 - Valid Government of Liberia (GOL) Business Registration with Code M7410
 - Valid GOL Tax Clearance
 - Past Performance records including the names and contact numbers of at least 4 clients who had purchased same/similar goods in the last 4 years. They will be used as references to check the performance and quality of the offered model, if necessary.
 - Bank statement for the past three (3) years to present
 - Bids will be examined for proper signature and completeness before consideration for further evaluation.

5. A set of bidding documents in English can be obtained by interested bidders for a non-refundable fee US\$50.00 (Fifty United States Dollars) from the Procurement Department, Fendall Campus beginning September 15 - October 14, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

6. All bids must be accompanied by a Notarized Bid Securing declaration valid for 60 days after the opening of bids.

7. Interested Bidders are advised to visit the Procurement Department (see address below) to view samples of the fabrics before submitting bids.

8. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 p.m., October 14, 2020 and will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the Administrative Conference Room (AC1-01), Right wing of the Administrative Complex, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia. All bids should be addressed as follow:

In the upper left corner of the envelope, print:
"SEALED BID FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ACADEMICALS"
 LOT#: _____
 REF.: IFB NO.:UL/SP/NCB/002/20/21

Below the bid reference number, print the bidder's address.

In the middle of the envelope, print the address below:

Procurement Department
 Administrative Complex, Right wing, 1st Floor, Room #: AC1-09
 University of Liberia
 Fendall Campus, Liberia

9. Note that Electronic bids will not be accepted, and that late bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Signed: _____
 DIRECTOR/Procurement Dept.

Approved: _____
 ADMINISTRATION

“I requested retirement”

Former Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) Deputy Governor for Operations Mr. Charles E. Sirleaf says at no time did he demand the Government of Liberia for a payoff, contradicting the NewDawn newspaper's Wednesday, 7 October publication.

“I, at no time, made any demand on the Government of Liberia as falsely reported by the New [Dawn] newspaper. Instead, I requested retirement from His excellency Dr. GEORGE

Mr. Sirleaf, one of former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf's sons, was still in the employ of the CBL as deputy governor when he and several others were indicted on account of a financial scandal. He was nolle - prosequi (charges dropped against him) by prosecution.

This paper reported Wednesday that he was demanding payoff from the Liberian government for illegally replacing him at the bank while he was still battling the lawsuit filed against him by

Sirleaf was requesting the government to make payment in six installments since the country's economy is in recession.

She indicated that Mr. Sirleaf noted that while facing indictment from the government, President George Weah announced her (Madam Pearson) as his successor, creating a situation where he may not return even after a not guilty verdict was declared in his favor by the high court of the land.



Pres. George M. Weah

Mr. Charles Sirleaf

MANNEH WEAH and such was approved,” Mr. Sirleaf writes on social media Facebook following the NewDawn's publication.

“I remain committed to serve my President and the people of Liberia as I have done over many years. My separation from the bank was amicable and done in good faith. We, as [Liberians], must be patriotic in order to foster growth and development throughout the breath of our country,” he continues.

the State.

The publication by this paper was based on a disclosure made recently by Madam Nyemadi Pearson during her confirmation hearing at the Senate.

The newly appointed deputy CBL executive governor Madam Pearson said that Mr. Sirleaf had argued that he was neither dismissed by the government nor did his five years tenure service at the Central Bank end.

Yet she said, Mr. Sirleaf noted that he had been replaced. According to her, Mr.

Sirleaf was serving a second term as deputy executive governor of the CBL before his indictment along with others by the Weah administration for alleged involvement in the reported missing LRD16 billion saga. The government here has lost the case. On 5 March 2019, the Government of Liberia charged the bank officials with economic sabotage in connection with the unlawful printing of excess local currency notes to the tune of billions of dollars.

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“Stimulus package

and the team will reach out to the other counties including those in the southeast, noting that they are working on their challenges to resume the distribution.

Additionally Pro. Tarpeh notes that he is not happy with the level of performance, noting that the process has been slow.

According to him, the World Food Program was contacted by them to aid in the food distribution for which it was given US\$9 million.

For his part, Grand Cape Mount County Senator Cllr. Varney Sherman expresses disappointment in the steering committee, saying

all of the obstacles that the chairman named were things that they knew they would take.

Smerman notes that the committee is aware that it would rain at a certain time, adding that his county that is not far from Montserrado County did not see a single bag of rice or a gallon of oil.

Cllr. Sherman continues that the nearby counties with good roads like Bomi and Grand Bassa didn't even receive anything, but the distribution was limited to Montserrado County only.

“We gave you US\$25 million dollars, the World Bank gave you US\$5 million dollars, but our people couldn't benefit from the food that was meant

for everyone in the country. You didn't treat our people well,” Se. Sherman tells Prof. Tarpeh.

Speaking on the matter, Lofa County Senator Stephen Zargo says he discussed with Prof. Tarpeh the need to empower local farmers so that the money can remain in the country.

“We should be empowering our local farmers so the money can remain right here instead of importing everything,” he says.

Grand Kru County Senator Peter Coleman suggests that since the team has used up to US\$14 million for the food, the remaining money should be redirected to different

Swedish Mission

Starts from back page

Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. Minister Eriksson has outlined four priority areas for all Swedish Embassies for the working year 2020/21 which includes a focus on Feminist Foreign Policy, the Drive for Democracy, Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity, and Anti-Corruption.

Sweden is one of the lead donors working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Governance Commission for the implementation of the Liberia Decentralization Plan. They provide support to the Government's national development strategy through numerous projects aligned with the MTEF Sector including the Liberia Nationally

Determined Contributions through the Swedish International Development Agency relative to environment and biodiversity. This project is currently being implemented by the EPA with UNDP support.

The Swedes have also funded the work of the ODI's Budget Strengthening Initiative (BSI) in Liberia since 2014. The project currently provides two resident advisors in the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Departments, as well as short term and remote support to the Liberia Project's Dashboard and Debt Management Unit in the Department of Economic Management. -Press release

Senate summons

Cont'd from page 6

Brown says.

Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, also speaking on the matter suggests that the Senate should summon the Labor Ministry so that it can tell the Senate plenary why it is not enforcing its own Labor law at the APM Terminals.

He wonders why the Ministry is not enforcing the law while peaceful citizens and workers at APM Terminals are suffering.

The meeting with the Dock Workers Union and APM Terminals' lawyers ended in a deadlock, as the company's lawyers refused to cooperate

with the Senate's Labor Committee.

The meeting was called due to a communication from Senator Abraham Darius Dillon, seeking a probe into the situation between APM Terminals and its workers.

Dillon added that for the past two weeks, the workers had been on go-slow, saying that there had been an amendment to a law preventing them from having some entitlement that they enjoyed before, one of which is medical benefit, among others.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Liberia prepares

Cont'd from page 6

Commission for Africa (UNECA) for selecting Liberia as host for the three-day training.

Mr. Kulobah, deputizing for Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah, noted that the occasion marked the beginning of a new day for Liberia.

“This program is a roadmap for enhancing the national demographic of our country and setting the profile comes at a time Liberia is in its preparatory stages of conducting a national census.” He observed.

Mr. Kolubah assured the

UNECA that participants from Liberia are prepared to be trained and to adequately take part in the process so that Liberia cannot be the only country in the West African Sub-region without a National Transfer Accounts (NTA).

The workshop, running from Tuesday, October 6 to Thursday, 8th, October, 2020, is being facilitated by experts from the UNECA, in collaboration with the Liberian Government, through the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP).

sectors of the country.

According to him, the time the people the needed the food is now over, saying the

money can be used in the health direction.--Edited by Winston W. Parley



Swedish Mission visits Liberia



Mr. ERIKSSON

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Mr. Peter ERIKSSON, is heading a high-level Mission to Liberia and will arrive on October 8, 2020.

Mr ERIKSSON is expected

to have an open-ended discussion with Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., and key Ministers of government, on the country's development challenges, and to identify areas where Swedish support fits. Priority areas

where discussion will focus include the work for gender equality, women's empowerment, anti-rape and anti-SGBV.

Earlier this year, the Swedish embassy in Liberia in consultation with Liberian authorities developed a proposal for a 5-year Country Development and Cooperation Strategy to be implemented from 2021 to 2025. The new proposal is more or less a continuation of the current cooperation strategy with the addition of a new thematic area relating to Climate Change and the Environment.

The Swedish government is expected to approve this proposal before the end of this year. The discussion with Minister Eriksson is therefore an opportunity for the Government of Liberia to further influence the direction of this cooperation strategy in the context of the

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Grace Church Monrovia consecrates Bishop

By Jonathan Browne

The sun rose early on Monday, 5th October and beamed right over the Grace Cathedral, Grace Church Monrovia 1 Jallah Compound, Perry Street, Monrovia where its charismatic and apostolic shepherd, the Rev. Sam Bishops Oroge, was anointed and consecrated into the Apostolic and Episcopal Office as Bishop, under the Apostolic Grace Mission

Incorporated, Grace Churches Worldwide.

Grace Church Monrovia was established five years ago and has since planted five other churches across Monrovia and its suburbs, winning souls for Jesus Christ, healing the sick, and feeding the flock with the word of God.

The occasion was highly celestial but prophetic, drawing church members, families, well-wishers and supporters in their thousands



Bishop Sam B. Oroge

led by saints of God under the Inter-denominational College of Charismatic Bishops and Apostolic Overseers of Liberia, which is headquartered in Maryland, United States of America under the leadership of Bishop Dr. Darlington Johnson of the Bethel World Outreach Ministries International.

A total of 15 prelates participated in the ceremony

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