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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

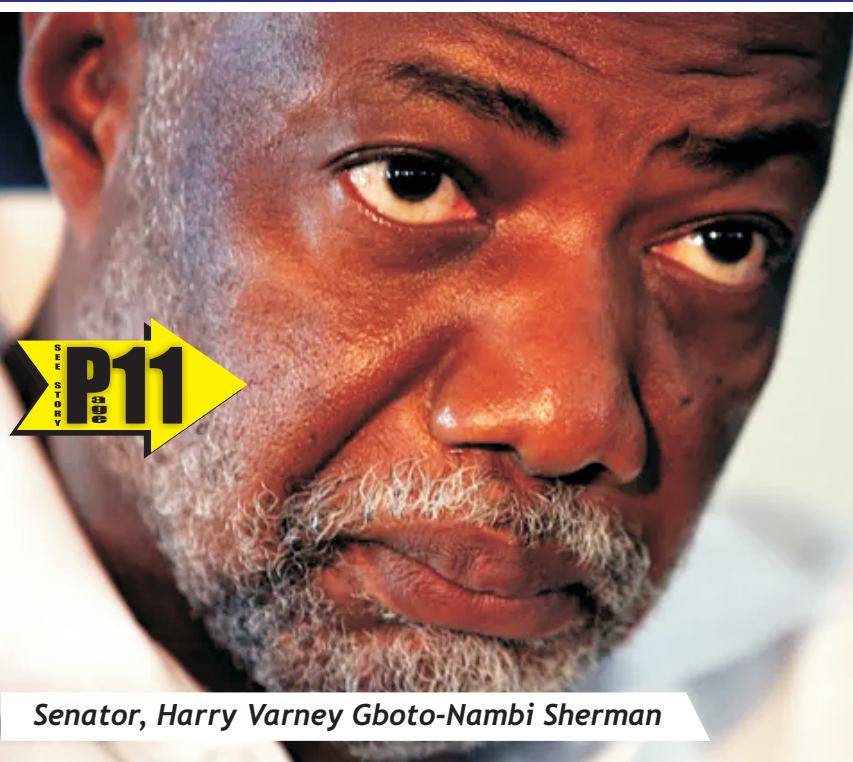
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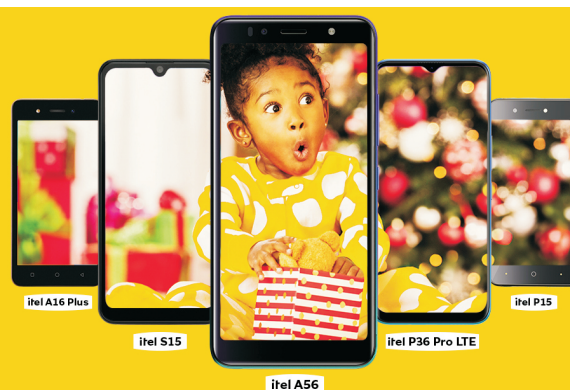
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Continental News

Tigray Fighting is Spiraling Out of Control, UN Rights Chief Warns

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, warns that fighting in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region is spiraling out of control and is having an appalling impact on civilians who are without aid and protection. Despite Ethiopian government claims to the contrary, High Commissioner Bachelet says fighting continues between Ethiopian armed forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front, as well as affiliated militia on both sides. She says human rights monitors and aid agencies are unable to access this volatile area. That means they are unable to fully verify disturbing allegations of violations against civilians caught in this chaotic situation. However, she believes the information her office has received to be credible. "We have corroborated information of gross human rights violation abuses including



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet attends a news conference at the European headquarters

indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian objects – looting, abductions and sexual violence against women and girls. We have also reported forced recruitment of Tigrayan youth to fight against their own communities," she said. The High Commissioner says

there is an urgent need for independent monitoring of the situation in Tigray. She is calling on the government to grant access to the region to ensure protection for the civilian population and to bring those responsible for abuse to account. Bachelet

notes the humanitarian situation in the region also is distressing. She is appealing to the government to implement an agreement with the U.N. to grant aid agencies unimpeded access to civilians in desperate need of

assistance.

Elsewhere in Ethiopia, rights chief Bachelet says there are numerous reports of ethnic profiling of Tigrayans. She says Tigrayans reportedly have been dismissed from jobs in the civil service, journalists are harassed and hate speech directed against people of Tigrayan origin is growing.

"I think that such discriminatory actions are deeply unjust. They also are fostering divisiveness and sowing the seeds for further instability and conflict. So, I urge the government to take immediate measures to halt such discrimination," she said.

Bachelet expresses concern about a reported rise in inter-communal violence in recent weeks in other parts of Ethiopia. She says fighting, which has flared up in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali, Afar and Oromia regions, reportedly has resulted in fatalities. VOA

HRW urges the UN to continue watching Burundi

Human Rights Watch has called on the UN Security Council to continue watching the security situation in Burundi. The call comes just days after the council called for the termination of regular assessment reports on Burundi, citing the "improved security situation" under new President General Evariste Ndayishimiye.

The move follows attempts by "Burundi and its allies on the Council... to quash much-needed scrutiny

of the situation in the country", according to Louis Charbonneau, HRW director at the UN.

"In practice, the Security Council's limited monitoring of Burundi is likely to continue as before, but for many Burundians, the symbolic message this sends at a critical juncture for the country is worrisome," he said. "Reversing Burundi's descent into lawlessness will require systemic reform and strong political will," he added. The UN security briefing resolution on

Burundi was adopted in 2016 following the worsening security and human rights situation after the failed coup attempt the year before and a controversial third-term bid by the late President Pierre Nkurunziza, which led to mass protests and violent crackdown by security services.

Since then every three months, the UN secretary general would give an update on Burundi to the Security Council. In its latest report, HRW says killings, disappearances and arbitrary arrests still happen in Burundi, though there were hopes for change when the new president came to power in June.

The Burundi government is yet to make a public comment on the report, but it has previously said such allegations are baseless and politically motivated.

Last Friday's call by the Security Council to terminate the briefings was welcomed by Burundi authorities, with President Ndayishimiye tweeting it "allows for Burundi, its friends and its partners to focus on the development and wellbeing of the citizens". BBC

China's Supreme Court hires Uganda's ex-chief justice



Justice Katureebe retired in June 2020

China's Supreme Court has hired Uganda's former Chief Justice, Bart Katureebe, as a member of its expert committee on adjudication of international commercial disputes.

Justice Katureebe will sit on the committee for the next four years. He retired from Uganda's Supreme Court in June after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70 years. "I am profoundly excited about this appointment, for it is a high-level committee that will keep me professionally connected," he is quoted as saying in a statement tweeted by Uganda's judiciary.

The expert committee,

established in August 2018, is part of the China International Commercial Court (CICC) which is an organ of China's Supreme Court.

The committee is comprised of 31 leaders of international organisations, legal experts, scholars, judges and lawyers selected from different countries, the statement by Uganda's judiciary added.

It mediates international commercial disputes assigned to it, provides legal opinion on foreign laws when asked and gives advice on the future of the CICC. The Chinese embassy in Uganda has congratulated Justice Katureebe on his appointment. BBC



President Evariste Ndayishimiye took power in June after his predecessor Pierre Nkurunziza died suddenly

EDITORIAL

Electoral violence undermines peace

WHETHER THEY ARE in position, opposition or no position Liberians generally have duty to reject and denounce violence during and after Tuesday's senatorial election and national referendum to keep the Motherland stable and united.

IT IS FOOLHARDY for any Liberian, be it a voter or loyalist to a particular candidate or political party in these elections to think that narrow interest of a political party or candidate is above the survival of the State. Nurturing such believe is not being myopic in thought, but blinded by selfish motives that do not contribute to the national cause.

INSTEAD, THE OVER-RIDING responsibility of every citizen irrespective of party, tribal or religious affiliation should focus on contributing towards building a better Liberia in which all would co-exist harmoniously and endeavor to achieving his or her full potential.

NEWS FROM GRAND Cape Mount county over the weekend about campaign violence that led to burning of cars and a home is both scaring and disappointing. That we would want to revert our dear country to anarchy and vandalism after 14 years of violent killings and destruction just to satisfy a political party or candidate is sad.

WHY PEOPLE WOULD want to go so low in desperation for power that is purely inherent in the people. If the people of Grand Cape Mount county decide to elect candidate X or Y, it is their full right under the Constitution, which should be respected.

A CANDIDATE LOSING an election should always know there are more opportunities ahead, and such experience from a poll just signals a need to return to the drawing board and re-strategize for future election. Current President George Manneh Weah is a glaring example of the benefit of exercising patience and self-control, for when God's-appointed time comes, you will have it all without much sweat.

WE ARE SURE no politician or candidate in the race wants to preside over a burning country that drives away partners and investors and leaves the citizenry in misery and starvation. Any Liberian carrying such ambition does not mean well for the country and his fellow compatriots.

THIS IS WHY we join call by Foreign Missions accredited to Liberia for the Grand Cape Mount violence to be investigated promptly so that perpetrators would be brought to justice to reassure both citizens and foreign residents.

CONDEMNATION AND OF the violence by President Weah and call for political partisans and their leaders to conduct themselves peacefully is not enough. The government should apply the strong arm of the law to make sure it is not repeated anywhere else in the country.

ELECTIONS WOULD COME and go but Liberia, our common denomination should always supersede all self interest that is just for a while, for without a stable country, every other thing is meaningless.

COMMENTARY

By Marcel Fratzscher

The EU Must Break the Brexit Deadlock

With the Brexit negotiations now in their final days, it is crucial that the European Union break the impasse and secure a deal. If Europe cannot even forge an agreement to establish its long-term relationship with the United Kingdom, it will have little chance of becoming a global power in its own right.

BERLIN - This week, we will finally know whether a Brexit deal can be agreed. Whatever is decided, it will have significant long-term implications for Europe, affecting not just the terms of trade and common rules but also the European Union's place in the world. To be able to stand its ground and defend its interests vis-à-vis China and the United States, the EU must maintain a strong relationship with the United Kingdom and prove that it can adapt to changing global dynamics.

The importance of the current Brexit negotiations is only superficially linked to the commercial costs of the UK crashing out of the EU and having to adhere to World Trade Organization rules (though this would almost certainly create havoc for supply chains in the coming months). The looming political, social, and strategic costs are even more consequential.

After all, a no-deal scenario would deprive Europe of the foundation on which to build a future relationship with the UK. Pretty much everyone agrees that the goal should be to build a strong long-term partnership that respects UK sovereignty and gives each side sufficient space to pursue its interests. This is necessary even if, as many in the EU are wont to point out, nation-states' sovereignty is inherently limited in a globalized world.

The message that a no-deal Brexit would send to the rest of the world would be devastating for Europe. It would indicate that other leading powers need not worry about respecting Europe's wishes in key policy areas. In today's polarized world, China is becoming increasingly self-confident and assertive, and the US is looking inward to its own domestic problems (this will likely remain the case under President-elect Joe Biden's administration). It has never been more important for Europe to pool its resources and influence so that it can speak with one voice.

Moreover, a strong relationship upon which to achieve mutual prosperity is as important for the EU as it is for the UK. Britain has much to offer in areas where Europe is lacking. For example, as the continent's only global financial center, the City of London could play an instrumental role in maintaining Europe's status as an attractive place for international investment and a leader in financial innovation, as well as a platform on which to strengthen the international role of the euro.

Of course, failure to reach a deal would also

seriously threaten the UK, whose national integrity depends in no small measure on the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the absence of a physical border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. But as the latest internal challenges from Poland and Hungary show, the EU cannot take its own integrity for granted, either. It would be foolish to think that taking a tough line with the UK will discourage these governments from acting as spoilers, let alone make it easier to tackle much-needed EU reforms in the future.

The rational decision, then, is for everyone to agree on a deal this week and move on. The EU is in a position of relative strength in these negotiations. It knows that Brexit will change little with respect to its internal functioning, and that the UK is facing the monumental task of rebuilding its institutions and charting a new policy course outside of the EU.

At the same time, given the EU's strong interest in a prosperous post-Brexit UK, it should take the first step toward breaking the current deadlock, by softening its stance on maintaining the equivalent of the existing state-aid and dispute-settlement regimes. It is highly unlikely that a relatively large country like the UK would - or even could - free-ride on the EU in the way that some small countries do. Moreover, the EU should drop its insistence on fishing rights, which are economically unimportant but politically potent within the UK as it pursues some degree of demonstrable sovereignty.

The most important task for the remainder of the negotiations is to draw up a blueprint for rebuilding the EU-UK relationship in the months and years ahead. In an increasingly polarized world, both sides need to agree in principle on common goals and objectives, so that they can cooperate on climate change, the digital transformation, and other shared challenges.

The details of the future EU-UK relationship will not be decided by the Brexit deal. That process will unfold and evolve for years to come. Nonetheless, the terms of the separation that are being decided right now will have profound implications both for the further development of bilateral ties and for Europe's role in the world.

An amicable agreement that can serve as a solid foundation for the next phase of engagement is thus essential. The European Commission and the German and French governments would do well to adopt a longer-term perspective, because that would show them that the only reasonable step now is to break the deadlock.

New Dawn
TRULY INDEPENDENT

O-PED

By Jan-werner Mueller

Merkel's Last Chance

Faced with the threat of a veto from the Polish and Hungarian governments, many in the EU are now counting on the German Chancellor to broker a deal to secure passage of the bloc's next seven-year budget and recovery fund. But given that the dispute involves fundamental European values, there should be nothing to negotiate.

BERLIN - This week's meeting of the European Council has rightly been called a "doomsday summit." It is overshadowed not just by a ghastly winter wave of COVID-19 infections and the prospect of a chaotic no-deal Brexit, but also by a showdown with the governments of Hungary and Poland, which have taken hundreds of millions of people hostage by threatening to veto the European Union's 2021-27 budget and the pandemic recovery fund.

Hungary and Poland are trying to block the enactment of a new "rule of law" mechanism that would prevent EU money from being siphoned off for corrupt purposes - a practice for which Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's kleptocratic regime is notorious. As the longest-serving head of government in the EU, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has stepped in to try to break the impasse, calling on "all sides" to prepare "to compromise to some extent."

But why should the EU compromise on a fundamental value like the rule of law (which is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty), and why should EU taxpayers consent to having their hard-earned euros enrich authoritarians and their cronies? Rather than trusting Merkel to broker a deal, Europeans should remind her that this is her last chance to prove that she really cares about democracy and the rule of law.

After all, it was Merkel's own Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, that enabled Orbán to create his autocracy in the first place. And it is her pick for the European Commission presidency, Ursula von der Leyen, who has failed to protect the independence of the Polish judiciary from the country's chauvinistic, populist, and increasingly defiant Law and Justice (PiS) party government.

Europe's simmering "rule-of-law crisis" has always seemed more abstract and less urgent than other challenges during Merkel's long reign, which has spanned the euro crisis, the 2015 refugee crisis, and now COVID-19. Yet it is the former issue that most threatens the EU's moral core - and its day-to-day operations.

While the EU is often caricatured as a distant and aloof super-state, it works closely with and through the member states to implement EU policy. Even more to the point, the EU functions primarily as a legal community in which national courts double as European courts. This arrangement cannot work without mutual trust, because it depends on national courts recognizing the decisions of other member states' courts. If a judiciary has been captured by an authoritarian government that is targeting politically unreliable judges (as in Poland), other courts cannot be expected to recognize its arbitrary rulings.

The European Commission is supposed to be the "guardian of the treaties" that enshrine fundamental European values. But their enforcement in the face of member states' violations has usually amounted to too little, too late. Even after years of bad-faith conduct by Poland and Hungary, the Commission still naively calls for more "dialogue," which simply allows aspiring autocrats to consolidate their power by co-opting the judiciary and creating other facts on the ground.

Given the Commission's failure to act, member states have taken matters into their own hands. For example, the European Arrest Warrant is becoming a dead letter, because countries are starting to refuse extraditing anyone to Poland, where fair trials can no longer be guaranteed. Just this month, the Netherlands' parliament called on the Dutch government to take Poland to court over its rule-of-law violations, potentially precipitating a bilateral confrontation that never would have been plausible had the Commission been doing its job.

Meanwhile, in a recent interview, Orbán charged Germany with "intellectual indifference," by which he apparently means an inability to see the larger historical picture and insensitivity to the experiences of smaller member states. Orbán has things backwards: Where Germany has been indifferent, it has been with respect to the preservation of democracy and the rule of law in Hungary under his rule.

Germany's neglect of core European values is best explained by Orbán's faithful service to the German auto industry, creating what critics have called an "Audi-ocracy." To be sure, some members of Merkel's CDU have long made noises about "red lines" that Orbán must not cross, even occasionally calling for his Fidesz party to be expelled from the supranational European People's Party, the umbrella grouping of conservative parties in the European Parliament.

Orbán, however, has never paid a meaningful political or financial price for his behavior. The result of this appeasement, as astute observers have pointed out, is that he now treats his European "partners" with the same brutality as he does his own country, accusing them of making the EU into something akin to the Soviet Union.

Merkel has deservedly earned praise for her opposition to outgoing US President Donald Trump's assaults on shared liberal-democratic values and international institutions, and for her determination in dealing with the pandemic. She has also acted courageously in agreeing to some form of debt mutualization under the new recovery fund, which is putting the EU on a more robust financial footing.

But when Merkel steps down next year, she will have left behind no coherent framework to support either the eurozone or Europe's aspirations of becoming a global "normative power" capable of promoting democracy and the rule of law. Its advocacy of such values will ring hollow as long as it tolerates member states that no longer meet democratic criteria.

Merkel's legacy would look different if she were to face down Europe's self-declared

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OPINION

By Andrei Kolesnikov

Putin's Constitutional Autocracy

Recent amendments to Russia's constitution reflect the political and economic changes that have taken place during President Vladimir Putin's 20-year rule. Above all, they abolish the fundamental constitutional principle of power rotation, and fix the institutional framework of what is now a mature authoritarian state.

MOSCOW - Earlier this year, Russian lawmakers and voters approved amendments to the country's constitution that would allow President Vladimir Putin to reset the term limits of his office and prolong his rule until 2036. Even if he decides not to exercise this option, a proposed law that would greatly expand former Russian presidents' criminal immunity will protect him from prosecution. Other constitutional amendments establish the primacy of Russian law over international law, define marriage as the union between a man and a woman, and protect official historical discourse from falsifications.

Countries change their constitutions when they undergo significant social and political transformations. For example, post-war Europe witnessed a wave of new basic laws, such as the 1946 French constitution and the 1949 West German Grundgesetz. Subsequent political upheavals, such as the Algerian crisis, led to a new French constitution and the establishment of the Fifth Republic in 1958, and in the 1970s, Greece, Portugal, and Spain introduced new constitutions after getting rid of military dictatorships.

The Soviet Union's 1936 constitution consolidated the establishment of Stalinist totalitarianism, and served the same purpose as Stalinist architecture - to be a lush, decorative façade. As Boris Pasternak wrote in *Doctor Zhivago*, it was a constitution not designed for use. But, as in the cases above, it reflected and codified recent political and social changes.

It was the same story with the 1977 "Brezhnev Constitution" (the first version of which had been drafted in 1973), although Nikita Khrushchev had wanted to record the results of his own rule in a constitution in the early 1960s.

Similarly, the 1993 Yeltsin Constitution recorded the changes stemming from the October Crisis. This constitution was - in strictly Leninist terms - a reflection of the "real correlation of forces in the class struggle," with the liberals supporting Yeltsin and his use of armed force to dissolve the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation (then a parliamentary-type body). It also came to shape the reality of Russian statehood. But the fact that the 1993 constitution created a presidential republic did not imply that Russia's political system would inevitably tilt in an authoritarian direction.

Some insist that political institutions borrowed from the West do not work in Russia. But after 1993, Russia had a real parliament that the president and the government had to take into consideration, as well as real elections. Moreover, the Russian people were absolutely ready for democracy and took advantage of it, including by exercising their newfound human and civil rights and freedoms under Chapter 2 of the constitution.

But Putin subsequently turned the Yeltsin Constitution into mere window dressing. In this, he was assisted by the politicized Constitutional Court, whose chairman, the ideologically simpatico Valery Zorkin, contributed to the quasi-legal basis of Russia's transformation into an authoritarian state. The birth pangs of Russian democracy and the Yeltsin Constitution's presidentialism do not explain why the Putin regime evolved as it did and ignored key constitutional provisions, including Article 31 on the right to assembly (one of the constitutional rights most often violated today).

With his recent constitutional amendments, Putin has memorialized the political and economic changes that have taken place during his 20-year rule, while clarifying his own future prospects. The presidential term reset abolished the fundamental constitutional principle of power rotation, and other constitutional amendments fixed the ideological framework of what is now a mature authoritarian state.

As a result, within the formal framework of one constitution, Russia now has two basic laws. Yeltsin's remains as decoration, while the essential provisions of Putin's are applied in practice.

Surveys of focus groups have highlighted a belief among some ordinary Russian citizens that the 1993 constitution was written in the United States, and that Russia sovereignty demands a sovereign constitution. Ordinary Russians are not about to read Putin's amended document; the point is that they should now sleep soundly in the knowledge that not only Crimea but also the constitution is Russian.

Had Russia's domestic political opposition chosen protection of the 1993 constitution as its slogan last summer, it would have been acting in the Soviet dissident tradition of calling for compliance with the Potemkin constitution. Unfortunately, the opposition did not take the constitution seriously either, and thus simply ignored the Putin regime's abuse of the Russian state's legal foundations.

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Advertising of bid	December 3, 2020	
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Opening of bids	Thursday, December 17 2020 @ 2:05pm	
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4A30/PSD/004

Supply and Delivery of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for Liberia Electricity Corporation

Background and Context

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of Liberia (the "Government" or "GoL") have entered a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in Liberia (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately 256,726,000 USD ("MCC Funding"). The Government, acting through Millennium Challenge Account - Liberia (the "MCA Entity"), intends to apply a portion of the MCC Funding to eligible payments under a contract for which the Request for Quotation ("RFQ") is issued.

MCA-Liberianow invites priced quotation from eligible firms/suppliers for the Supply and Delivery of Heavy Fuel Oil for Liberia Electricity Corporation.

The RFQ is for:

Supply and Delivery of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for Liberia Electricity Corporation

How to Participate in the Process:

Interested firms/suppliers should send an email to MCALiberiaPA@cardno.com requesting a copy of the RFQ, which is free of charge.

Important dates:

No.	Activity	Dates
1	Release of RFQ	December 02, 2020
2	Deadline for Submission of Quotations	December 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm

What the People Want Is Climate Leadership

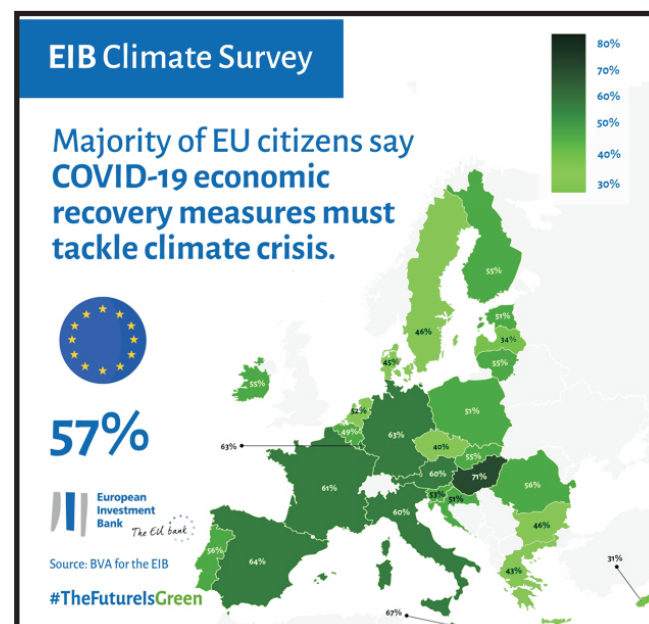
By Ambroise Fayolle

Now that the world's leading greenhouse-gas emitters are committed to achieving carbon-neutrality by mid-century or soon thereafter, it is time for policymakers to translate words into action. Though the task is enormous, new survey findings show that the public is on their side.

LUXEMBOURG - For many populists, the jury is still out on climate science, and global warming is a myth, a fabrication, or a hoax. But most citizens recognize that the scientific findings are sound, and that the threat of climate change is real. And as the European Investment Bank's new Climate Survey shows, people are demanding climate action.

In Europe, 75% of citizens say that climate change is already having an impact on their everyday lives. In China, the figure is 94%; and even in the United States, 72% of respondents report feeling the effects of climate change.

Of course, the elephant in the room is the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still taking a massive toll in human lives and livelihoods. The survey finds that while climate change was the highest priority for Europeans in 2019, it has since slipped behind



COVID-19 and the unemployment and financial crises the pandemic has caused.

This is understandable, given the immediacy and severity of the COVID-19 crisis. Nonetheless, the public and policymakers must not lose sight of the greatest long-term challenge humanity faces. We need to tackle COVID-19 and its social and economic consequences without adding to the climate crisis and other environmental problems in the process.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Sheikh Kouyateh congratulations Dillon -ahead of NEC results

By Ethel A Tweh

Montserrado County Independent Senatorial Candidate Sheikh Al-Mustapha Kouyateh has congratulated incumbent Senator Abraham Darius Dillon for his strong lead in

declared a winner, Sheikh Kouyateh conceded defeat and subsequently congratulated Dillon on social media. "We had a great fight and we won collectively, won as Liberia is the winner", he posted on Wednesday.

sponsored the confidence of the people of Montserrado County.

Sheikh Kouyate then thanked his supporters, saying, "As we climax these elections, I pray that we efface our differences, by writing a new page where, love, peace and unity can be read by all."

He had campaigned on the promise of empowerment for the people of Montserrado, especially the youth, noting that 60 percent of Liberians are young people and they need to be empowered.

He also pointed that Liberia is poor because of poor management and lack of accountability.

Preliminarily, incumbent Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has taken early lead in Montserrado County, topping most of the polling centers including the Keneja High school in Paynesville where President George Weah and First Lady Clar Weah voted.

Senator Dillon didn't perform well in District#16 but top in District#8 where incumbent Rep. Acarous Gray of the CDC is the current lawmaker.

While awaiting NEC results, some members from both the ruling party and the opposition have taken on the social to congratulate the incumbent Senator. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Sheikh Al-Mustapha Kouyateh

the special senatorial election held Tuesday, 8 December.

Though the National Elections Commission has neither released official results of the poll nor

Kouyate said he went into the senatorial race with a strong conviction he would had won as the next Senator of Montserrado County, but noted, the voice of the people is the voice of God.

He said Senator Dillon has

21 year old charged for armed robbery

By Ben P. Wesee

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has charged and sent to court a 21 - year - old man identified as Alvin Lewis, alias (Zakaloko) for allegedly armed robbing a resident in the Sinkor community. The accused has been to the Monrovia Central Prison for detention.

According to the Liberia National Police, defendant Lewis alias Zakaloko was arrested, acquainted with his constitutional rights and charged with the criminal offense of armed robbery which is in violation of Chapter 15 SubChapter C, Section 15.32 of the Revised Penal Code of the Republic of Liberia.

The police charge sheet details that victim WeemorKorhone filed a

complaint on Saturday, 28 November, narrating that she came from Calabash Entertainment center located in Congo Town Back Road and went

to her 3rd Street residence in Sinkor, behind the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) building and drove in her compound.



Moye Supporters Celebrate ahead of NEC Result

Supporters of the Collaborating Political Parties, (CPP) Candidate Prince Kermue Moye, are currently celebrating what they call "pre-victory" as they March through the principal streets of Gbarnga.

The CPP Candidate Supporters believed that Moye has already won the election; referencing provisional results posted at various Polling

successive elections in Bong Electoral District #2 including a speakership Election in 2018.

So far, Hon. Moye has won Bong County electoral Districts 4, 5, 1, and 6 according to unofficial provisional results posted at various polling places.

There is a tight competition between Rep. Moye and Incumbent Senator Yallah in Jourquelleh District #3, a portion of the political division



Prince Kermue Moye

places across Bong County.

According to the CPP Bong County Secretariat, Rep. Moye currently has 37,094 votes while the Coalition for Democratic Change and Incumbent Senator Henry Willie Yallah is second with a total of 23,856 votes.

Deputy Speaker and Senator Yallah were both elected in 2011 as Representative and Senator, Hon. Moye won two

that is represented by CDC Chairman Josiah Marvin Cole.

Supporters of Moye are both celebrating on Social Media and in Bong's capital Gbarnga.

However, Independent Candidate Menipakei Dumoe who campaigned on a "Free Taylor" message has conceded defeat, appreciating his supporters for their supports for him. **-By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan**

The LNP charge sheet continues that the victim explained that as soon as she got down from her vehicle, an unknown man placed her under gun point, hit her on her nose with the single barrel shotgun and made away with her properties.

The police investigation revealed that suspect Lewis upon being arrested voluntarily admitted to the commission of the crime and told the investigation that he was alone when he attacked the victim.

The police disclosed that their investigation has established that suspect Lewis was armed with a single barrel shotgun, he placed the victim under gun point, hit her on her Nose with the single barrel shotgun before making away

with properties.

The LNP investigators say they established that while victim WeemorKorhone was getting down from her vehicle in her compound, she was attacked by the suspect who hit her with a single barrel shot on her nose.

The police investigators' findings further explain that during the arrest of suspect Lewis, one lady's hand bag (Michael Kors), one lady spray, \$213. USD along with one single barrel shotgun, two live single barrel rounds that were used in the commission of the crime were retrieved from him.

Suspect Alvin Lewis has been remanded at the Monrovia Central Prison while awaiting court trial for the crime of armed robbery. **--Edited by Winston W. Parley**

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Chief Kawor warns Liberian youth

-as BRYF, MICAT, honor black American fashion designer

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Chairperson of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia (NACCCEL) Chief ZanzanKawor has warned youth of Liberia to desist from criminal activities and become productive.

He gave the warning recently at the Providence Island in Monrovia when the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICAT) in collaboration with the Bill Rogers Youth Foundation (BRYF) presented the Nelson Mandela Freedom Award 2020 under the Theme: "Peace,

striving to portray a positive image of Liberia.

Chief Kawor referenced Mr. Bill Rogers, a young Liberia who returned home with a trophy after he competed in an international track competition, bringing great pride and dignity not only to Liberia but Liberians generally.

He said the country needs more young people that are willing to learn and acquire professional skills that would prepare them for international competitions.

The Chief conferred on Mr. Quinton de' Alexander the traditional title of Quinton

She added that thereafter, Mr. Bill Rogers, who is resides in the United States, informed her that he would ensure the black American fashion designer come to Liberia.

Receiving the honor in a joyous mood, Quinton Tamba Tailor Alexander disclosed that prior to coming to here, he received negative information about Liberia, but despite these interruptions, he decided to visit the country to see things for himself.

Quinton noted that since his birth, Liberia is the first African country he has visited



(R-L) Mr. Quinton Tamba Taylor Alexander, Bill Rogers with head bow, Culture Ambassador Judi Endee, Chief ZanzanKawor, among others.

Reconciliation, Dignity and Equality" to the Ambassador of Creativity Fashion Project based in the United States of America (USA) Mr. Quinton de' Alexander.

Chief Kawor also gowned and certificated Mr. Alexander for his talent and hoped that young people engaged in stealing cell-phones and other ugly acts would change to become productive citizens.

He noted that while there were some young people with bad behavior in Liberia, there were equally good and productive youth, who are

Tamba Tailor Alexander of Liberia, in memory of late Chief Tamba Tailor of Lofa County.

The ceremony was graced by top government officials, including Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee, Deputy Information for Culture, Culture Ambassador Judi Endee and the President of the National Governor Council of Liberia Madam Musu K. Thompson, among others.

In remarks, Culture Ambassador Judi Endee said, she discovered Mr. Alexander two days prior to the program, while searching the social media.

because of his love for the country and its people, including his Liberian friend, Bill Rogers.

Mr. Bill Rogers, a Liberian athlete, said he met Mr. Alexander in the United States, while searching for a fashion designer and praised him for the bond of friendship they have established, which led him to invite the black American to Liberia.

He said through assistance to his foundation in Liberia, at least 125 young people are currently benefiting scholarships to pursue various professional disciplines.

What the People

Cont'd from page 5

In fact, these two issues are related. Both threats show that we need to build more resilience into the economic system. This realization is not lost on the public. The EIB survey finds that a majority of Europeans want a green recovery as we build back our economies.

Five years after it was concluded, the Paris climate agreement's emissions-reduction targets remain within reach. The EU, China, Japan, and South Korea have all pledged to become climate-neutral by mid-century or soon thereafter, and will be joined by the US under its new leadership. Together, these economies account for two-thirds of global GDP and over 50% of total greenhouse-gas emissions.

But pledging is not enough. We now need more countries, cities, businesses, and financial institutions to lead by example, not merely discussing concrete decarbonization plans, but actually implementing them. We also need to follow through on "greening" the global financial system by establishing common standards, definitions, and disclosure requirements to channel the power of finance toward a more sustainable future.

As a longtime climate leader, the EIB is the world's largest multilateral lender for climate action projects. Last month, our shareholders - the 27 European Union member states - unanimously approved the EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap for 2021-2025. This plan will guide our activities in the next five years and beyond.

Moreover, the unanimous decision sends another strong signal that the EU is serious about tackling climate change, and wants to pave the way for others to follow. And it reinforces the key role that the EIB Group intends to play to support the implementation of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) around the world.

The roadmap focuses on four areas. First, by the end of this decade, the EIB Group aims to support at least €1 trillion (\$1.2 trillion) in investment in climate action and environmental sustainability. By 2025, more than 50% of EIB financing will go to such projects, up from around 30% today. Our aim is to accelerate the "green transition" and to facilitate widespread participation from the private sector.

Second, we will support a "just transition" for the regions, communities, and businesses most vulnerable to the shift to a low-carbon economy and to the adverse effects of a changing climate.

Third, by the end of this year, we will be the world's first multilateral development bank to align all new operations with the objectives of the Paris agreement. Within the EU, this means that we will be aligned with a 1.5°C cap on global warming (relative to the preindustrial level) and a pathway to climate neutrality by 2050. For example, we will no longer support unabated fossil-fuel energy, carbon-intensive agricultural activities, or airport expansions.

In addition, the EIB will adhere to a shadow carbon price that will increase to €250 per ton by 2030, and to €800 per ton by 2050. This will strengthen the economic case for projects that save carbon and penalize those that increase emissions.

Fourth, as the pioneer of green bonds, we understand that transparency and accountability are key to mobilizing sustainable finance at scale. We will continue to help develop the EU taxonomy for green investments and the EU Green Bond Standard. By helping to prevent greenwashing, our work makes green finance more attractive to private investors.

The new Climate Bank Roadmap is a milestone for the EU and the wider world. It is highly encouraging that at the recent Finance in Common Summit, 450 development banks from around the world pledged to support the Paris agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Together, these banks invest around \$2.3 trillion - 10% of global public and private investment - annually.

But no institution or group of institutions can tackle climate change on its own. All of our partners must become global climate leaders. When it comes to charting a course to climate security, the more roadmaps the better.

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Français

L'Agence fiscale du Libéria récompense des contribuables exemplaires

Depuis 2017, la Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) a toujours apprécié et récompensé les contribuables exceptionnels du pays. Elle honore ces contribuables pour leur engagement quant au paiement de leurs impôts et au versement de leurs contributions.

« Au cours de la période 2018-2019, la LRA a collecté 525,9 millions de dollars contre 518,9 millions de dollars prévus », a révélé le

commissaire général Thomas Doe Nahlors d'une cérémonie organisée à la mairie de Paynesville le 3 décembre 2020. La cérémonie avait pour but de récompenser les « bons élèves ».

Le commissaire général Nah a reconnu les efforts considérables déployés par les contribuables. Il a rappelé que le gouvernement, pour répondre aux besoins de développement du pays, se tourne vers les contribuables qui honorent leurs obligations

fiscales. « Pour permettre au gouvernement de travailler, chacun doit payer son impôt », a-t-il indiqué.

La LRA a actuellement un programme ambitieux qui consiste à faire passer le recouvrement des recettes du pays d'environ 500 millions de dollars à un milliard de dollars américains. Et selon Nah, pour que cela soit possible, il faut que tous les citoyens paient leurs impôts.

« La LRA tente de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Le président de la Chambre des représentants Bhofa Chambers distribue de l'argent

Le président de la Chambre des représentants Bhofa Chambers a promis un million de dollars libériens supplémentaires pour subventionner les commerçants du district de PleeboSodoken, dans le comté de Maryland et trois cent mille (300 000 LRD) pour autonomiser les jeunes. Le

député du district n° 2 du comté de Maryland et membre de la Coalition au pouvoir a fait la promesse lors d'un meeting organisé dans le cadre de la campagne du candidat du parti au pouvoir, James Biney.

Le président Chambers avait initialement présenté 1 000 000 LRD aux commerçants de Pleebo en tant que fonds renouvelable

avant l'élection sénatoriale et le référendum national en plus d'une bourse d'études de 2 000 000 LRD.

S'adressant à ses électeurs ce week-end avant l'élection sénatoriale de mardi et du référendum national dans le comté du Maryland, le Président a également annoncé la disponibilité de plus de 15 pompes manuelles pour restaurer l'eau potable dans diverses communautés du district de PleeboSodoken.

Il a déclaré que « le geste qui suivra les élections démontrera l'amour du gouvernement pour le peuple », ajoutant : « Alors, lorsque vous vous présenterez au scrutin mardi, veuillez faire le bon choix pour faire avancer ce gouvernement afin que les objectifs du gouvernement soient atteints. » Chambers est arrivé dans son comté natal du Maryland au cours du week-end où il a voté et a été reçu par des commerçants en liesse, des motocyclistes, des jeunes, des anciens et des chefs traditionnels, entre



er Bhofa Chambers addresses supporters in Pleebo Sodoken Di

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Les Libériens attendent avec impatience les résultats après les votes

Les Libériens sont collés à leurs radios et à leurs pages sur les réseaux sociaux en attendant les résultats provisoires des élections sénatoriales et du référendum constitutionnel. Le scrutin s'est déroulé dans le calme dans les 15 comtés. Le référendum et les élections sénatoriales ont enfin eu lieu après des mois d'échanges houleux entre la mouvance présidentielle et l'opposition dans un environnement politique tendu.

Quelques jours avant les élections, de violents affrontements ont éclaté dans le comté de Grand Cape Mount, où le convoi du candidat de l'opposition Simeon Taylor aurait été attaqué et incendié, prétendument par des partisans du sénateur sortant de la Coalition au pouvoir, le sénateur Victor Watson, le samedi 5 décembre à Dambala Town, District de Porkpar. M. Taylor est le candidat de la plateforme de l'opposition. Il

à voter non pour les huit propositions, tandis que la Coalition pour le changement démocratique (CDC) au pouvoir faisait campagne pour un « oui » pour toutes les propositions. Certaines des controverses soulevées contre le référendum comprennent le manque de sensibilisation et d'éducation adéquates de la population et la crainte que le président sortant George Manneh Weah puisse suivre les pas de ses homologues de Guinée et de Côte d'Ivoire voisins pour briguer un troisième mandat.

Mais Weah a dit qu'il n'a pas l'intention de briguer un troisième mandat. En fait, l'article 93 de la Constitution libérienne indique très clairement que tout amendement ne profiterait pas au président sortant.

Animant un point de presse le mercredi 9 décembre, Mme Davidetta Lansana s'est félicitée du déroulement pacifique des élections sur toute l'étendue du territoire



aurait survécu aux attaques. Le président George Weah, dans une déclaration rendue immédiatement publique, a condamné la violence et ordonné qu'une enquête approfondie soit ouverte pour que les auteurs soient traduits en justice.

L'opposition a également publié une déclaration condamnant l'attaque contre son candidat et exhorté le gouvernement à renoncer à l'intimidation.

Bien avant la période de la campagne électorale qui a abouti à l'élection sénatoriale, une série de violences a été observée à Montserrado et dans quelques-uns des 15 comtés, mais la campagne elle-même et l'élection en tant telle ont été paisibles.

Déçue par le fait que le gouvernement ait combiné les sénatoriales et le référendum constitutionnel, la Collaboration des partis politiques de l'opposition (PPC) a exhorté ses partisans

national. Elle a cependant énuméré quelques incidents isolés le jour du scrutin dans un très petit nombre de bureaux de vote, et promis que des élections partielles auraient lieu dans ces localités. Quant à la compilation et le comptage des voix, elles ont commencé, à en croire la chef de la commission électorale.

Mme Lansana a fait savoir que la commission électorale a quinze jours pour annoncer les résultats définitifs des élections. « Mais avant ce délai », a-t-elle promis, « nous annoncerons progressivement des résultats provisoires ». Elle a appelé le peuple à la patience, tout en avertissant que seule la commission électorale a le droit d'annoncer les résultats officiels.

A noter que les résultats officieux qui circulent sur les réseaux sociaux et annoncés par les médias nationaux sont favorables à l'opposition.

Français

L'Agence fiscale du Libéria

numérise tout le system avec l'introduction de nouvelles technologies telles que les paiements en ligne, mobiles et par carte visa », a déclaré le Commissaire Général.

Pour sa part, le contrôleur et comptable général du Libéria, Janga A. Kowo, a remercié les lauréats pour leur engagement et leur contribution. Il a renouvelé l'assurance du gouvernement d'utiliser les impôts perçus pour soutenir les programmes de développement national.

« Améliorer la conformité fiscale grâce à l'utilisation de services électroniques », c'est le thème de la cérémonie de cette année. Le projet de collecte des recettes, de gouvernance et de croissance (RG3) financé par l'USAID a collaboré avec la LRA pour organiser l'événement. Quarante-quatre (44) entreprises, particuliers et organisations ont reçu des prix et des distinctions spéciales. Ils ont été sélectionnés en fonction de leur dossier de conformité fiscale totale ou du montant des contributions fiscales.

TOTAL Liberia Inc. a reçu le Gold Award en tant que le grand contributeur fiscal du pays, tandis qu'Arcelor Mittal-Liberia a remporté pour la deuxième fois le

Silver Award en tant que deuxième plus grand contributeur fiscal, suivie par Orange Liberia Inc. qui a reçu le Bronze Award.

Le prix du contribuable le plus en règle dans la grande division fiscale du pays a été remis à Metalum Inc. Firestone Natural Rubber Plantation a obtenu le prix du contribuable le plus en règle à l'échelle nationale dans le secteur de la fiscalité des ressources naturelles, tandis qu'Electro Shack Inc. a été nommée en tant que contribuable le plus en règle pour la division de taxe moyenne. Pour la Division des petites taxes, John Building Material Center a obtenu le prix du contribuable le plus en règle, tandis que Family Focus Petty Shop a été récompensé comme le contribuable le plus en règle dans la catégorie du petit commerce. Dans la catégorie Douane, West Oil Investment Liberia Limited a été nommée le plus gros contributeur de pétrole, le prix le plus élevé des régions frontalières a été décerné au comté de Ganta / Nimba, suivi de Bo-Waterside / Grand Cape Mount County. Le prix de l'importateur le plus conforme a été remporté par Eagle Electrical Corporation, suivi par Abi Jaoudi & Azar Trading Corp.

Le président de la Chambre

autres. Les Libériens se sont rendus aux urnes le mardi 8 décembre 2020 pour élire 15 sénateurs à travers le pays et se prononcer sur le référendum national contenant huit propositions qui visent à réduire le mandat présidentiel et le mandat des membres de la Chambre des représentants de six à cinq ans, les mandats du président du Sénat, du président et du vice-président de la Chambre des représentants de six à cinq ans, changer la date des élections et la double citoyenneté entre autres.

Le président Chambers a également tenu plusieurs réunions avec ses électeurs et a fait campagne pour le candidat du CDC James P. Biney.

Il a remercié ses militants et ses collègues de la Chambre des représentants, sans oublier le président George Manneh Weah pour lui avoir donné l'opportunité de

devenir président de la chambre des représentants. Selon Chambers, la meilleure façon de faire avancer le Maryland et le Libéria est d'être loyal au parti en élisant tous les candidats du CDC en lice et en votant oui pour les huit propositions du référendum. Plusieurs responsables locaux du comté ont assisté au forum, dont notamment le président de l'Université de Tubman, le Dr Elliott Wreh-Wilson, le surintendant du comté pour le développement, Robin Scott, le maire de la ville de Pleebo, Wellington Kyne, le surintendant du district de Pleebo Sodoken, Aloysius Williams et le responsable de l'éducation du district, Searis B. Doe, entre autres.

Le CDC se bat contre le sénateur sortant H. Dan Morias et le candidat de l'opposition Eric Wleagiko, entre autres pour le siège sénatorial dans le comté du Maryland.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Marcel Fratzscher

L'UE doit sortir de l'impasse du Brexit

BERLIN - Cette semaine, nous allons enfin savoir si un accord sur le Brexit est possible ou non. Quelle que soit la décision, elle aura des implications importantes à long terme pour l'Europe, puisque cela aura un effet non seulement en termes de commerce et de réglementation commune, mais également sur la place que l'Union européenne va tenir dans le monde. Pour être en mesure de défendre ses intérêts vis-à-vis de la Chine et des États-Unis, l'UE doit maintenir une relation solide avec le Royaume-Uni et prouver qu'elle peut s'adapter aux fluctuations de la dynamique mondiale.

L'importance des négociations actuelles sur le Brexit n'est que superficiellement liée aux coûts commerciaux de la sortie de l'UE du Royaume-Uni. Le pays doit en effet adhérer aux règles de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (bien que cela risque presque à coup sûr de faire de gros dégâts sur les chaînes d'approvisionnement dans les mois à venir). Les coûts politiques, sociaux et stratégiques à venir sont encore plus importants.

Après tout, un scénario de sortie du Brexit sans accord priverait l'Europe des fondations qui rendront possibles toutes les relations futures avec le Royaume-Uni. À peu près tout le monde s'accorde à dire que l'objectif doit consister à établir un partenariat fort à long terme qui respecte la souveraineté du Royaume-Uni et qui donne à chaque partie suffisamment de marge de manœuvre pour défendre ses intérêts. Cela est nécessaire même si, comme de nombreux membres au sein de l'UE ont coutume de le souligner, la souveraineté des États-nations est intrinsèquement limitée dans un monde globalisé.

Un Brexit sans accord serait dévastateur pour l'Europe, en termes du message implicite que cela sous-entend. Cela indiquerait que les autres grandes puissances n'ont pas à se soucier de respecter les vœux de l'Europe dans des domaines politiques essentiels. Dans le monde polarisé actuel, la Chine continue de prendre de l'assurance et d'affirmer sa position, à l'heure où les États-Unis sont préoccupés par leurs propres problèmes nationaux (ce qui sera probablement encore le cas sous l'administration du président élu Joe Biden). Il n'a jamais été aussi important pour l'Europe de mettre en commun ses ressources et son influence pour pouvoir s'exprimer d'une seule voix.

En outre, il est tout aussi important pour l'UE que pour le Royaume-Uni de bâtir une relation forte, qui permette de parvenir à une prospérité mutuelle. La Grande-Bretagne a beaucoup à offrir à l'Europe, précisément dans des domaines où cette dernière est démunie. Par exemple, en tant que seul centre financier mondial du continent, la City de Londres pourrait jouer un rôle déterminant dans le maintien du statut de l'Europe en tant que place boursière attractive pour les investissements internationaux et leader dans l'innovation financière, ainsi que comme plateforme sur laquelle renforcer le rôle international de l'euro.

Bien entendu, si aucun accord n'est finalement conclu, cela risque de menacer sérieusement le Royaume-Uni, dont l'intégrité nationale dépend en grande partie de l'Accord du Vendredi Saint de 1998 et de l'absence de frontière physique entre l'Irlande du Nord et la République d'Irlande. Mais comme le montrent les derniers défis internes de la Pologne et de la Hongrie, l'UE ne peut pas non plus considérer sa propre intégrité comme acquise. Nul n'est assez naïf pour croire que l'adoption d'une ligne dure face au Royaume-Uni va décourager ces gouvernements de jouer les trouble-fêtes, sans parler de faciliter leur mise en œuvre des réformes si nécessaires de l'UE à l'avenir.

La décision rationnelle est donc que tout le monde s'entende sur un accord cette semaine et passe à autre chose. L'UE a un certain avantage dans ces négociations. Elle sait que le Brexit ne va pas changer grand-chose en ce qui concerne son fonctionnement interne et que le Royaume-Uni est confronté à la tâche monumentale de reconstruire ses institutions et de fixer un nouveau cap politique à sa sortie de l'UE.

Dans le même temps, compte tenu de l'intérêt marqué de l'UE pour un Royaume-Uni prospère post-Brexit, elle devrait faire le premier pas vers la sortie de l'impasse actuelle, en adoptant une posture plus conciliante sur le maintien de l'équivalent des régimes existants d'aide d'État et de règlement des différends. Il est fort peu probable qu'un pays relativement important comme le Royaume-Uni puisse - ou même pourrait - se permettre de bénéficier du système de l'UE sans contrepartie comme le font certains petits pays. En outre, l'UE doit en finir avec son intransigeance sur les droits de pêche, qui sont économiquement peu importants mais politiquement puissants au sein du Royaume-Uni, à l'heure où ce dernier pays tente de faire preuve d'un certain degré de souveraineté.

La tâche la plus importante pour le reste des négociations consiste à élaborer un plan de reconstruction des relations UE-Royaume-Uni dans les mois et les années à venir. Dans un monde de plus en plus polarisé, les deux parties prenantes doivent s'entendre en principe sur des objectifs communs, afin de pouvoir coopérer sur le changement climatique, le virage numérique et d'autres défis communs.

Les détails de la future relation UE-Royaume-Uni ne seront pas tranchés lors de l'accord sur le Brexit. Ce processus va se prendre du temps et évoluer au cours des années à venir. Néanmoins les termes de la séparation qui se décident actuellement auront de profondes implications, aussi bien pour le développement futur des liens bilatéraux, que pour le rôle de l'Europe dans le monde.

Un accord à l'amiable, capable de servir de base solide à la prochaine phase d'engagement, est donc essentiel. La Commission européenne et les gouvernements allemand et français feraient bien d'adopter une perspective à plus long terme, car cela leur montrerait que la seule démarche raisonnable, pour l'heure, consiste à sortir de l'impasse.

US freezes Varney Sherman's assets

Liberia's renowned lawyer and senator, Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman may not be a happy man, as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions him for corruption and bribery, blocking his assets.

In a report issued Wednesday, 10 December in Washington, marking observance of International Anti-Corruption Day, the OFAC notes that Senator Sherman, who chairs the Liberian Senate Judiciary Committee, offered bribes to multiple judges associated with his trial for a 2010 bribery scheme, and he had an undisclosed conflict of interest with the judge who ultimately returned a not guilty verdict in July 2019.

"Sherman has routinely paid judges to decide cases in his favor, and he has allegedly facilitated payments to

all individuals accused of being involved in the bribery scheme, noting that Sherman's acts of bribery demonstrate a larger pattern of behavior to exercise influence over the Liberian judiciary and the Ministry of Justice.

"Sherman is designated for being a foreign person who is a current or former government official responsible for or complicit in, or directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery."

The report on Senator Sherman is part of a wider action taken by against several corrupt individuals in Africa and Asia, respectively with serious consequences for their activities.

The Treasury's Office of

There are currently 187 States parties to the UNCAC. In addition to sending a message against corrupt behavior, Treasury uses its tools to increase transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. With these designations, Treasury encourages all governments to implement anti-money laundering reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities."

SANCTIONS IMPLICATIONS

It says as a result of Wednesday's action, all property and interests in property of persons involved, including Senator Sherman that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. Besides, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked.

"Unless authorized by a general or specific license



Senator, Harry Varney Gboto-Nambi Sherman

Liberian politicians to support impeachment of a judge who has ruled against him", the report notes.

It continues that in the 2010 scheme that led to this trial, Senator Sherman was hired by a British mining company in an effort to obtain one of Liberia's last remaining mining assets, the Wologizi iron ore concession during which he advised the company that, in order to obtain the contract, they first had to get Liberia's procurement and concessions law changed by bribing senior officials.

The report also documents that in 2016, Sherman was indicted by the Liberian government, along with several other government officials, for their involvement in the USD 950,000 bribery scheme, and that three years later in 2019, the presiding judge acquitted

Foreign Assets Control is targeting corrupt actors and their networks across several countries in Africa and Asia. It says Wednesday's actions are taken pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13818, which builds upon and implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act that targets perpetrators of corruption and serious human rights abuse.

"On International Anti-Corruption Day, Treasury remains fully committed to imposing costs on those who facilitate corruption at the expense of the people," said Deputy Secretary Justin G. Muzinich.

"To raise public awareness for anti-corruption initiatives, International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annually on December 9 since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on October 31, 2003.

issued by OFAC, or otherwise exempt, OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all transactions by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons. The prohibitions include the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any blocked person or the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in a statement Wednesday, lamented that corruption drains resources from people who need them, undermines trust in institutions, exacerbates the vast inequalities exposed by the coronavirus, and hinders a strong recovery, saying, "We

Post-election violence

Starts from back page

Senator Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence took to the streets in a pre-victory celebrations as preliminary results blaring the air-ways tend to put her ahead of the CDC candidate former Foreign Minister Gbezongar Finley.

Our source said as the crowd of jubilant supporters ran along the main streets they sang songs with lyrics such as "Weah leave Bassa, we na want you here." Their jubilation was met by a countered reaction from supporters of the CDC thereby resulting to the throwing of stones and other missiles.

"Yes there was stone throwing," Police spokesman Moses Carter confirmed the incident to this paper on Wednesday.

He confirmed that there were countered jubilation

between supporters of the CPP who had earlier taken to the street and CDC supporters who also met with them on Tubman Street.

Mr. Carter also confirmed that several individuals were wounded in the process but the situation had not been assessed as at the time of the interview.

Efforts to contact both candidates on the behavior of their supporters proved futile, but the paper was informed by the police spokesman that calm had return to the city and that the Police managed to have separated the two sides pushing them back to their respective party headquarters.

Meanwhile, the National Elections Commission (NEC) is expected to begin announcing provisional results today.

-Writes Othello B. Garblah

NEC to release

Starts from back page

representatives, local and international observers and the media in each polling place were allowed to witness the sorting, reconciliation, and counting of votes at all polling places across the country.

According to her, results from each polling place were posted on the wall for public viewing, and copies were presented to the first two candidates who obtained highest votes gathered at every polling place.

She notes the commission has received no complaints regarding the elections, adding, "The NEC wishes to remind all parties that complaints regarding polling and counting or tallying irregularities should be filed

with the NEC Magistrates Offices in the 19 magisterial offices across the country."

However, the National Elections Commission reveals that two polling centers in Nimba County did not vote on Election Day, Tuesday, 8 December 2020, including centers in Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh counties, respectively due to challenges.

"This is a policy issue that will be determined by the Board of Commissioners as to when the voters in these two Centers will vote. But the Commission assures the voters in these two centers that they will be informed appropriately as to the time and date that they will be allowed to vote," Mrs. Lassanah says. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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cannot allow stimulus funds and vital emergency resources to be diverted."

Mr. Guterres says recovery from the pandemic must include measures to prevent and combat corruption and bribery. "We need broad partnerships to strengthen oversight, accountability and transparency, building on the global anti-corruption tools provided by the United Nations Conventions against Corruption."

He says action against corruption should be part of broader national and international reforms and

initiatives to strengthen good governance, tackle illicit financial flows and tax havens, and return stolen assets, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasizes, "We must take the opportunity for ambitious reforms and initiatives at the first-ever General Assembly special session against corruption next year."

Senator Sherman has not commented officially on the report that has dragged his public image and reputation into the mud. -Story by Jonathan Browne

Weah out of touch?

By Winston W. Parley

In giving his thoughts as to why unofficial provisional senatorial election results largely appear to be against the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) in “must win counties,” opposition Vision for Liberia Transformation Party (VOLT) political leader Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe says President George Manneh Weah is out of touch with the Liberian people.

“But this president is out of touch; he’s out of touch, he does not know how Liberian people feel. The only way he will know how Liberian people feel is to send a message to him like the way the voters have sent it to him these few days by denying him,” Dr. Whapoe said Wednesday, 9 December.

In an exclusive interview with this paper at his office in Sinko a day following the polls, Dr. Whapoe claims that Mr. Weah is not cognizant of the Liberian people’s problem and this is resulting in possible defeat of some candidates whom he supports in the election.

“The president is out of touch, he’s not cognizant of the Liberian people’s problem. He’s not seeing the people’s problem like the way they see it; he sees it in his own camera. He sees Liberian people’s problem as he sees to buy his yacht to write his name on it,” Dr. Whapoe continues.

He believes that the provisional senatorial election results are a message to the ruling CDC government that it is not the hirer, but the citizens do, noting that when the employer is tired of working with you, they fire you.

The National Elections Commission (NEC) has not announced provisional results, but the public appears to get updated unofficially by media houses that are reporting based on information posted by NEC workers at various voting precincts across the country.

So far these information appear to suggest unofficially that the opposition candidates in key vote - rich counties are leading, but the

NEC has to give the official provisional results.

The senatorial polls combined with the conduct of national referendum on Tuesday followed months of heated exchanges between the ruling establishment and the opposition in a tense political environment that had the vast majority of the population on its heels for unpredictable post-election events.

Anger over the government’s combination of the national referendum with the senatorial election has prompted the opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) to urge its supporters to vote no to all the

Constitution makes that very clear that any amendment would not benefit the incumbent president.

While expressing thanks to Liberians, Dr. Whapoe says Liberia is transforming towards a positive direction, noting that this is the first time for him to see Liberians to support campaign like the collection of over LD\$2m for opposition Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Montserrado County senatorial candidate Abraham Darius Dillon.

Judging from the citizens’ financial and moral support to Mr. Dillon, an incumbent

benefits.

Dr. Whapoe urges that all the political parties here come together so as to make democracy stronger and promote competition.

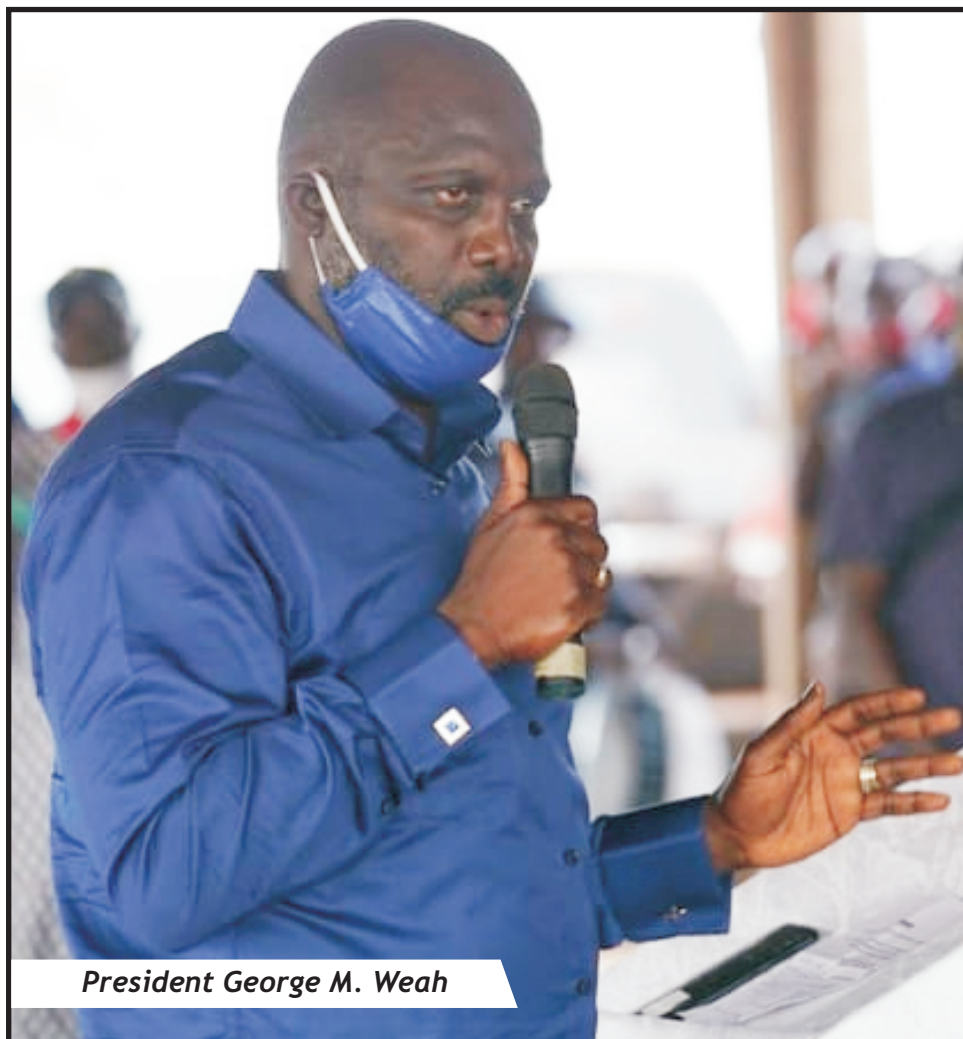
He agrees that the senatorial election and the referendum were peaceful in certain places, but the election was not peaceful in other places.

Giving instances, Dr. Whapoe raises questions as to why a candidate’s vehicle had to be burned in Grand Cape Mount County and somebody had to get wounded, and why a suspect had to carry a single barrel gun at a political rally of

political leader indicates that he is very impressed and proud of the Liberian people for proving that they can make wise decisions and that the country does not belong to certain people.

According to Dr. Wahpoe, the messages that the Liberian people are sending to President Weah ahead of the 2023 presidential election include the LD\$16bn “that was not used properly,” the US\$25m intended for mop up exercise, and the disappearances of prominent citizens without being protected by government, among others.

“And I strongly feel that that message will continue until 2023. I’m very pleased about the Liberian people’s decision. No matter how it turns... I think



President George M. Weah



Dr. Jeremiah Z. Whapoe

eight propositions contained in it, while the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) campaigned for a ‘yes vote’ to all propositions.

Some of the contentions raised against the referendum include lack of adequate awareness and education for the population and a fear that incumbent President George Manneh Weah could follow in the steps of his counterparts in neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast to seek third term once the presidential tenure is dropped from six to five years, among others.

But Weah insists that he has no interest in a third term bid. In fact, Article 93 of the Liberian

senator, Dr. Wahpoe thinks that Liberians have graduated from basing their decisions on demanding bags of rice, T-shirts and construction of roads from politicians, describing it as a plus for the citizens.

But Dr. Whapoe expresses hope that this same sentiment could be extended to the succeeding elections so that the essence of democracy can be known here.

“Democracy is not about buying votes, democracy is not about transporting people from one direction, from one precinct to another precinct just because the people that are in the precinct they do not admire your skill, they do not have aspiration for you, you transport people from one precinct to another precinct,” he adds.

According to the VOLT political leader, Liberians are becoming to vote with their conscience over voting under pressure or for economic

opposition candidate Abraham Darius Dillon.

Days before the election was held, there were violent clashes in Grand Cape Mount County that saw the convoy of opposition candidate Simeon Taylor reportedly attacked and set ablaze allegedly by supporters of ruling CDC candidate Senator Victor Watson on Saturday, 5 December in Dambala Town, Porkpar District.

Regarding the discovery of a gun being carried by a man at Dillon’s rally, Dr. Whapoe cast a doubt that the armed suspect was a CPP supporter, saying it doesn’t make sense.

“That’s what he was told to say and he said it. So therefore, we are not convinced that he was a supporter of ours because he went to cause havoc, and I think he was planted into the rally so he can cause havoc there, he was not a member,” Dr. Whapoe notes.

Meanwhile, the VOLT

Liberian people turned out in a resounding way to send a clear message to this government that democracy matters,” Dr. Whapoe says.

The VOLT political leader explains that four auditors died here and there’s allegedly no actual result to their deaths and that President Weah has allegedly asked Liberians to take their own security into their own hands.

He suggests that the senatorial election results tell that Liberians are tired and they know what they want. He furthers that the referendum might not pass due to the number of invalid votes cast by voters due to lack of education and ignorance.

“Everybody has to be informed, education was not done over the period. It might not pass, it will not pass. Even if George Weah forces it ... [if another] government comes we can nullify it. The provisions are there, the same way they’re doing it, we can nullify,” he says.

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Post-election violence clashes in Bassa -several reportedly wounded



Sen. Nyonblee Karngar Lawrence



Gbehzohngar Milton Findley

Reports reaching this paper from the Port City of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County say several persons have been injured in post-election violence clashes between supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and the

Collaborating Politic Parties (CPP) during a countered jubilation.

Liberians on Tuesday December 8, went to the poll to vote in a referendum, which coincided with the country's second post war senatorial mid-term elections. The process of voting was relatively peaceful

across the 15 counties except in few areas were like Gbapolu County where thugs hijacked two ballot boxes.

Sources in Buchanan told this paper Wednesday that it all started when supporters of the CPP candidate, incumbent

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NEC to release results

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Following Tuesday's special senatorial election and national referendum across the country, the National Elections Commission says official results are underway shortly.

Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, December 10th a day after the poll, NEC Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lassanah congratulated all 2.4 million

registered voters throughout the length and breadth of Liberia that turned out to vote in the combined Special Senatorial Election, Constitutional Referendum and the two Representative By-elections, for exhibiting patriotism and good deportment at the polls.

"We thanked the government for providing the funding required for the conduct of the elections. We are pleased to report that the 8 December



2020 elections were successfully implemented without any major incident," she said.

Madam Lassanah reports that polls opened in most places on time and counting of votes started immediately on Tuesday, at each polling place after the close of elections.

She says consistent with its transparency requirement, all political party agents, independent candidates,

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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