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TRULY INDEPENDENT

VOL.11 NO. 026

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Lawmakers in 'double dipping'

Liberia records more deaths



P10

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Continental News

Mass Covax vaccination rollouts begin in Africa

African countries are starting mass Covid inoculation drives using vaccines supplied through a scheme set up to share doses fairly with poorer nations.

Ivory Coast is one of the first to benefit from the UN-backed Covax distribution initiative, with injections beginning on Monday. Ghana and Nigeria are also launching vaccination drives this week.

Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo on Monday became the first to receive a coronavirus vaccine through the scheme. Mr Akufo-Addo urged people to get inoculated and not to believe conspiracy theories casting doubt on the programme, which will see some 600,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine rolled out nationwide on Tuesday. "It's important that I set the example that this vaccine is safe by being the first to have it, so that everybody in Ghana can feel comfortable about taking this vaccine," he said. The rollout will initially focus on the most

vulnerable - those aged over 60 or with serious underlying health issues - and essential workers, such as medical professionals, teachers, police and even some journalists.

But pregnant women and those under the age of 18 are not part of the vaccination campaign. Authorities have said they do not have enough data on the possible side effects of the

vaccines on such groups. Nana Akufo-Addo and his wife were vaccinated in a ceremony broadcast live on television to encourage other Ghanaians to get their jabs.

Some Ghanaians have expressed misgivings about the safety of the vaccines. While some believe it is a ploy by the government to reduce the country's population by making them infertile, others

think the vaccines might be fake. In a televised address to the nation on Sunday, the president stressed that the vaccines had been declared safe by the country's Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), and there was no reason to doubt their safety. "Taking the vaccines will not alter your DNA, it will not embed a tracking device in your body, neither will it cause infertility in women or men," he assured.

Ghana's FDA has also approved Russia's Sputnik V vaccines for emergency use, and the certification process is ongoing for other vaccines. The country is also exploring the possibility of getting some local manufacturers the needed licence to produce some of the existing vaccines, while Ghanaian scientists are working with their

counterparts on the continent to develop a vaccine.

In Ivory Coast, which has a similar rollout programme, people began to queue at vaccination centres early on Monday for their first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

Nigeria is due to take delivery of nearly four million doses of vaccine later this week.

Prof Gavin Yamey, who was involved in setting up the Covax programme, said there was a "huge need" to distribute vaccines worldwide. "It has been rather depressing watching rich nations essentially just clear the shelves," he said, adding: "It's been absolutely a kind of me first, me only vaccine grab, and that's not just incredibly unfair, it's also terrible public health." BBC



Ivory Coast's Culture Minister Raymonde Goudou Coffie receives a vaccination dose in Abidjan

Thousands Flee Rebel Violence in Central African Republic

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - Monique Moukidje fled her home in Central African Republic's town of Bangassou in January when rebels attacked with heavy weapons, the fighting killing more than a dozen people.

"I ran away because the bullets have no eyes," the 34-year-old said sitting in the shade while waiting for water

purification tablets, a tarp, and other supplies to help her in Mbangui-Ngoro, a village where she and hundreds of other displaced people are sheltering. She is among an estimated 240,000 people displaced in the country since mid-December, according to U.N. relief workers, when rebels calling themselves the Coalition of Patriots for Change launched attacks, first to

disrupt the Dec. 27 elections and then to destabilize the newly-elected government of President Faustin Archange Touadera. The rebels' fighting has enveloped the country and caused a humanitarian crisis in the already unstable nation. Hundreds of thousands of people are also left without basic food or health care, and with the main roads between Central African Republic and Cameroon closed for almost two months, prices have skyrocketed leaving families unable to afford food.

The rebels control nearly two-thirds of the country, making it difficult to deliver humanitarian aid. Aid delivery was stopped for nearly a month in some zones.

"The most pressing needs are on the axis (the main roads)," says Marco Doneda, project coordinator for Doctors Without Borders based in Bangassou, on the country's southeastern border with Congo. When rebels left Bangassou in mid-January, after an ultimatum from the United Nations peacekeeping



The President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo has become the world's first recipient of the coronavirus vaccine from Covax, a scheme to procure and distribute inoculations for poorer countries.

A wider Covax programme will begin in Ghana on Tuesday

but health workers in Ivory Coast are being vaccinated on Monday. Mr Akufo-Addo has urged people to get inoculated and not to believe conspiracy theories casting doubt on the programme. Nigeria is due to take delivery of nearly four million doses of vaccine later this week. BBC



Monique Moukidje, 34, left, poses for a picture with her two children Marienne and Odalvia

force, some established their bases in nearby towns, like in Niakari, about 17 kilometers (10 miles) from Bangassou. Doctors Without Borders has been trying to reach the populations there with mobile clinics since then, but they have been prevented by the possibility of military action or unpredictable fighting between the rebels and the army. Along the main supply road from Cameroon to Bangui, Central African

Republic's capital, and in Bambari and Bossangoa, the

EDITORIAL

Leave Brownie Samukai alone

WE DO NOT see the logic behind the Solicitor General of Liberia Cllr. Sayma Syrenius Cephus asking the National Elections Commission not to certificate Lofa County Senator-elect, J. Brownie Samukai after the court had convicted him and his accomplices and stipulated timeframe in which they should refund US\$1.4 million misapplied from a benefit scheme for soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia.

IN THE FIRST place, where was the Solicitor General during the candidate nomination process when the NEC qualified former Minister Defense Samukai to contest for the senate in the December 8, 2020 special senatorial election? Why the SG did not act there and then, but waited for Samukai to get elected Senator before going after him?

SHAMELESSLY, HERE IS the Justice Minister Frank Musa, trying to defend Cllr. Syrenius Cephus before the Liberian Senate on his letter to the NEC, asking the Commission not to certificate the Senator-elect, Samukai because he (Samukai) was convicted by the court.

AND SO LAST week, both the Solicitor General Cephus and the Attorney General Dean on one hand, and the Liberian Senate on the other, had been pulling and hauling over the certification of the Senator-elect with the Senate instructing the two officials to withdraw the communication sent to NEC.

THE SENATE IN plenary last Thursday argued that Solicitor General Cephus has no authority over election matters, particularly on who should be certificated winner or not, except the National Elections Commission.

WE JOIN THE leadership of the senate presided over by Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor in calling on Cllr. Cephus and Minister Dean to muster enough courage and withdraw the letter to NEC if they have not already done so, as they seem to be treading on strange grounds.

SAMUKAI AND HIS colleagues involved in tempering with soldiers' benefit scheme had their days in court, were convicted and told to restitute the US\$1.4 million within a timeframe. If the court had wanted, they would have been incarcerated until the money is paid. More so, the people of Lofa County are mobilizing funds to pay on behalf of their senator.

THE COURT THAT convicted Samukai and others is watching; if they failed to pay within the one year period provided, the judge would take the next course of action, not the Solicitor General, who seems to be moving with political emotions.

SOLICITOR GENERAL CEPHUS and Attorney General Dean should be told in no uncertain terms that going after perceived political enemies, as was in the case of impeached Associate Justice Kabinah Ja'neh is counterproductive and should not be encouraged.

WE HAIL SENATE presiding officer, Vice President Jewel Howard Taylor and the entire leadership of the Liberian Senate for standing up for justice and coming to the defense of their colleague Senator-elect Samukai.

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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garblah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

By Jeffrey D. Sachs

Why the US Should Pursue Cooperation with China

NEW YORK - American foreign policy since World War II has been based on a simple idea, perhaps best expressed by President George W. Bush after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks: Either you are with us or against us. America should lead, allies should follow, and woe be to countries that oppose its primacy.

The idea was both simple and simplistic. And now it is antiquated: The United States faces no implacable foes, no longer leads an overpowering alliance, and has far more to gain from cooperation with China and other countries than from confrontation.

Former President Donald Trump was a grotesque caricature of US leadership. He hurled insults, threats, unilateral tariffs, and financial sanctions to try to force other countries to submit to his policies. He ripped up the multilateral rulebook. Yet Trump's foreign policy faced remarkably little pushback inside the US. There was more consensus than opposition to Trump's anti-China policies, and little resistance to his sanctions on Iran and Venezuela, despite their catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

President Joe Biden's foreign policy is a godsend in comparison. Already, the US has rejoined the Paris climate agreement and the World Health Organization, is seeking to return to the United Nations Human Rights Council, and promises to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. These are hugely positive and admirable steps. Yet Biden's early foreign policy pronouncements vis-à-vis China and US leadership are problematic.

Biden's recent address to the Munich Security Conference is a good window into his administration's thinking in these early days. There are three causes for concern.

First, there is the rather naive idea that "America is back" as world leader. The US is only now returning to multilateralism, has utterly botched the COVID-19 pandemic, and until January 20 was actively working against the mitigation of climate change. It still must heal the many deep wounds left by Trump, not least the insurrection of January 6, and address why 75 million Americans voted for him last November. That means reckoning with the hefty dose of white supremacist culture animating much of today's Republican Party.

Second, "The partnership between Europe and the United States," Biden declared, "is and must remain the cornerstone of all that we hope to accomplish in the twenty-first century, just as we did in the twentieth century." Really? I am a Europhile and strong supporter of the European Union, but the US and the EU account for just 10% of humanity (NATO members account for 12%).

The transatlantic alliance cannot and should not be the cornerstone "for all we hope to accomplish" this century; it is but one important and positive building block. We need shared global stewardship by all parts of the world, not by the North Atlantic or any other region alone. For much of the world, the

North Atlantic has an enduring association with racism and imperialism, an association stirred by Trump.

Third, Biden claims the world is engaged in a great ideological struggle between democracy and autocracy. "We're at an inflection point between those who argue that, given all the challenges we face - from the fourth industrial revolution to a global pandemic - that autocracy is the best way forward...and those who understand that democracy is essential...to meeting those challenges."

Given this alleged ideological battle between democracy and autocracy, Biden declared that "we must prepare together for a long-term strategic competition with China," adding that this competition is "welcome, because I believe in the global system Europe and the United States, together with our allies in the Indo-Pacific, worked so hard to build over the last 70 years."

The US may view itself as being in a long-term ideological struggle with China, but the feeling is not mutual. American conservatives' insistence that China is out to rule the world has come to underpin a bipartisan consensus in Washington. But China's goal is neither to prove that autocracy outperforms democracy, nor to "erode American security and prosperity," as the 2017 US National Security Strategy asserts.

Consider Chinese President Xi Jinping's speech at the World Economic Forum in January. Xi did not talk about the advantages of autocracy, or the failures of democracy, or the great struggle between political systems. Instead, Xi conveyed a message based on multilateralism to address shared global challenges, identifying "four major tasks."

Xi called on the world's leaders to "step up macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly promote strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth of the world economy." He also urged them "to abandon ideological prejudice and jointly follow a path of peaceful coexistence, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation." Third, they must "close the divide between developed and developing countries and jointly bring about growth and prosperity for all." Lastly, they should "come together against global challenges and jointly create a better future for humanity."

Xi stated that the path to global cooperation requires remaining "committed to openness and inclusiveness," as well as "to international law and international rules" and "to consultation and cooperation." He declared the importance of "keeping up with the times instead of rejecting change."

Biden's foreign policy with China should begin with a search for cooperation rather than a presumption of conflict. Xi has pledged that China will "take an active part in international cooperation on COVID-19," continue to open up to the world, and promote sustainable development and "a new type of international relations." US diplomacy would be wise to aim for engagement with China in these areas. Today's hostile rhetoric risks creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)
EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT
IFB No. MPW/G/ICB/001/20/21



The Ministry of Public Works with support from the National Road Fund Office of Liberia has received funding from the Government of Liberia and intends to secure the services of qualified service provide to Supply and Deliver Earth Moving Equipment as indicated below:

Contract Package	Detailed Description
Earth Moving Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUM TRUCK-----20 • BULLDOZER-----6 • WHEEL LOADER/FRONT-END-LOADER-----5 • COMPACTORS/ROAD ROLLER-----6 • Excavators 320/325bls-----3 • Lowbed & trailer heads-----2 • Water browser trucks-----3 • Fuel tankers-----3 • Mechanic service mini trucks-----3 • Pickups utility-----5 • Asphalts pave -----2 • Front End Loader-----2 • Bitumen Sprayer-----2

The Ministry therefore invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the implementation of the project. The Ministry will apply the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA)) to procure the Earth Moving Equipment which is opened to all qualified bidders meeting criteria set in the Bidding Documents.

All interested bidders may obtain further information from the **Procurement Division of the Ministry of Public Works South Lynch Street, Monrovia, Liberia** through the following contact: 0778779161 or Email: tmaxsr@yahoo.com and inspect the Bidding Documents from **February 22,2021 to March 21, 2021 beginning from 8:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

Qualification requirements include:

- ❖ Past Experience as prime service provider of goods of similar value, and nature in the last five years; Provide After Sales warranty of Two (2) years
- ❖ The offered goods/equipment shall be latest and in current production for a minimum of 2 years. If the offered model is new, the Manufacturer must have experience in producing the similar model for a minimum of 2 years.
- ❖ Average annual turnover amount of goods/equipment supplied in the last five years of at least US \$1,000,000.00

Detailed qualification requirements are stipulated in the bidding documents.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Hundred Fifty United States Dollars (USD\$250)** to the National Road Fund Office (account specified below) and can be obtained from the Ministry Of Public Works Procurement Unit.

Account Title: **National Road Fund**
 Account Name: **National Road Fund Maintenance Account**
 Account No: **6100063662**
 Bank Name: **Eco Bank Liberia Ltd.**

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below on or before **Friday March 26, 2021 at 02:00pm**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on **Friday March 26, 2021 at 02:10 pm at the Large Conference room of the Ministry.**

All bids shall be accompanied by the following:

- Current Business Registration
- Current Tax Clearance
- Articles of Incorporation
- **Bid Security of 2% of the Contractor's Price**

The address referred to above is:

Max T. Jardiah
 Director
 Procurement Division
 Ministry of Public Works
 Monrovia, Liberia

Signed: _____

Head of Procurement Unit



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)
ROAD PAVEMENT UPGRADE
MPW/ICB/SP/W/002/20/21



The Ministry of Public Works with funding support from the Government of Liberia seeks qualify contractors who are able and willing to pre-finance the upgrade and pavement of roads corridors in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Rivercess and Sinoe counties.

The works to be implemented are stated into lots below:

Lot No.	Roads	Kilometer (km)
Lot 1	Madina to Robertsport	41.3Km
Lot 2	Tubmanbrug to Bopolu	52Km
Lot 3	Buchanan to Cestos City	85Km
Lot 4	Cestos City Junction to Greenville	141Km

The Ministry therefore invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the implementation of the project. The Ministry will apply the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** procedures approved by the **Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC)** specified in the **amended and restated Public Procurement and Concessions Act of 2010** to procure the works which is opened to all qualified bidders meeting criteria set in the Bidding Documents.

The Ministry will hold a pre- bid meeting on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 in the Large Conference Room.**

Qualification requirements include:

- ❖ Experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two works of similar value, nature, and complexity in the last five years;
- ❖ Average annual turnover amount of construction works performed within the last five (5) years is US\$2,000,000.0(2million United States Dollars) either with a firm or in case of Joint Venture.
- ❖ The Bidder must demonstrate access to, or availability of financial resources such as lines of credit in the amount of US\$50million for each lot.

All interested bidders may obtain further information from the **Procurement Division of the Ministry of Public Works South Lynch Street, Monrovia, Liberia** through the following

contact: 0778779161 or Email: tmaxsr@yahoo.com and inspect the Bidding Documents from **February 17,2021 to March 22, 2021 beginning from 8:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

The Ministry will hold a bidder's meeting on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 in the Large Conference Room.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Three Hundred United States Dollars (USD\$300)** to the National Road Fund Office (account specified below) and the Bank receipt be brought to the Procurement Division at the Ministry of Public Works to obtained the document.

Account Title: **National Road Fund**
 Account Name: **National Road Fund Maintenance Account**
 Account No: **6100063662**
 Bank Name: **Eco Bank Liberia Ltd.**

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below on or before **Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 2:00pm**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on **Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 2:10 pm at the Large Conference room of the Ministry.**

All bids shall be accompanied by the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate where applicable
- Current Tax Clearance where applicable
- Articles of Incorporation

The address referred to above is:

Max T. Jardiah
 Director
 Procurement Division
 Ministry of Public Works
 South Lynch Street
 Monrovia, Liberia

Signed: _____

Head of Procurement Unit



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS

IFB No. MPW/SP/W/ICB/03/20/21



The Ministry of Public Works with support from the National Road Fund Office of Liberia has received funding from the Government of Liberia and intend to secure the services of qualified Contractors to carryout Supply and Installation of Street Lights as indicated in three lots below:

Lot No.	Locations
Lot 1	AB Tolbert Road, Arch Bishop Michael Francis Road, Congo Town Back Road, SKD Boulevard Road and Police Academy Road
Lot 2	Jallah Town Road, Doe Community Road, Logan Town/Mombie Town Road, New Kru Town Community Road, Clara Town Road and UN Drive Road to Zulu Duma Bridge
Lot 3	Cardwell Road, Barnesville Road and Pipe Line Road

The Ministry therefore invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the implementation of the project. The Ministry will apply the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures approved by the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC) specified in the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA)) to procure the works which is opened to all qualified bidders meeting criteria set in the Bidding Documents.

All interested bidders may obtain further information from the **Procurement Division of the Ministry of Public Works South Lynch Street, Monrovia, Liberia** through the following contact: 0778779161 or Email: tmaxsr@yahoo.com and inspect the Bidding Documents from **February 17, 2021 to March 22, 2021 beginning from 8:00 PM to 4:00 PM.**

The Ministry will hold a bidder's meeting on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 11:00 in the Large Conference Room.**

Qualification requirements include:

- ❖ Experience as prime contractor in the construction of at least two works of similar value, nature, and complexity in the last five years;
- ❖ Average annual turnover amount of construction works performed during the last five years of at least US \$250,000.00

Detailed qualification requirements are stipulated in the bidding documents.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Hundred United States Dollars (USD\$250)** to the National Road Fund Office (account specified below) and can be obtained from the Ministry Of Public Works Procurement Unit.

Account Title: **National Road Fund**
 Account Name: **National Road Fund Maintenance Account**
 Account No: **0011134701659634**
 Bank Name: **Eco Bank Liberia Ltd.**

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to the address below on or before Wednesday **March 25, 2021 at 02:00pm**. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person on **Wednesday March 25, 2021 at 02:10 pm at the Large Conference room of the Ministry.**

All bids shall be accompanied by the following:

- Current Business Registration Certificate
- Current Tax Clearance
- Articles of Incorporation
- **Bid Security of 2% of the Contractor's Price**

The address referred to above is:

Max T. Jardiah
 Director
 Procurement Division
 Ministry of Public Works
 South Lynch Street
 Monrovia, Liberia

Signed: _____

Head of Procurement Unit

2-Day Consultative

Starts from back page

some of you will remember, in 2016/2017, this collaboration

unchanged, pirates' actions and behaviour in terms of typology of attacks and modes of operations have evolved. Pirates often have deep knowledge of the profile of the targeted vessel, including its movements, crew make-up and other critical information. This proves that pirates' activities are not random or opportunistic. Their actions, strategies and tactics are well-thought-out to ensure successful outcomes."

According g to him, they can never over emphasize the effects of these maritime crimes on their individual states and the entire Gulf of Guinea region. In addition to depriving the coastal regions of socioeconomic and infrastructural development opportunities, they also discourage economic investments from both private sector companies and other countries because of the region's reputation as high-risk maritime zone.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this dialogue meeting does not come at a better time than this, where we have the opportunity to interrogate the preparedness of our individual states and the entire Gulf of Guinea states to combat the growing maritime security threats in the region. I hope that these two days will offer the platform for robust engagements to explore strategies to promote understanding and cooperation among the different stakeholders gathered here and beyond. We all know that failure to explore options for inter-state cooperation to contain this threat will have grave repercussions for the stability of the region and consequent implications on global maritime security. I therefore urge you to be open, share your relevant ideas, experiences, and establish networks that will help in future collaborations and exchange of information."

At this juncture, he expressed their profound gratitude to the Government of Japan and the UNDP for their support and contributions in making this consultative dialogue on Combating Maritime Crimes in the Gulf of Guinea: Challenges and Prospects possible, stating that, "Let me also thank our Liberian partners for hosting us and facilitating this meeting in Monrovia".

On behalf of the KAIPTC, he also extended a warm welcome to all, adding: "let's have fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay here, in Monrovia".

Meanwhile, following this consultative dialogue meeting, a report of the deliberations will be published and shared with all relevant stakeholders.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

UNFPA gives to Ivorian refugees in Liberia

As part of its commitment to reduce maternal mortality and ensure a safer motherhood, the United Nations Population Fund or UNFPA, has supplied health facilities in communities

new arrivals among Ivorian refugees in Liberia.

The agency says in a press release the supplies procured at a cost of about 350 thousand United States Dollars include individual delivery kits, assisted

across the four counties to ensure the availability of skilled providers to assist pregnant women among the refugees and host communities during childbirth.

"Even under normal conditions, reproductive health issues are among the leading causes of death and illness among women of childbearing age. When a crisis strikes, skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care often become unavailable, exacerbating the vulnerability of pregnant women," says UNFPA Representative, Dr. BannetNdyanabangi.

"We want to ensure that the refugees and host communities have access to quality sexual reproductive health and rights services and adequate support for survivors of gender-based violence", Dr. Ndyanabangi adds.

Liberia has one of the highest maternal mortality in the world (1072/100,000) lives birth. It is estimated that 4 women die every day in pregnancy or as a result of pregnancy-related causes. -

Press Release



hosting Ivorian refugees in Nimba, Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties, respectively with reproductive health and dignity kits.

According to UNFPA, there are more than 27 thousand

delivery kits, rape treatment kits, STI treatment kits, emergency contraceptives, and blood transfusion kits, among others.

UNFPA has also supported the training and deployment of 24 midwives at health facilities

Lofa County launches US\$150, 000 rally -for electricity

By Lewis S. Teh

As a means of complementing government efforts to harnessing national development across the country, officials of Lofa County have embarked on a US\$150,000 campaign rally titled "Light Lofa Campaign Citizen Dollar Rally" aimed at providing electricity to all five electoral districts in the county.

"Electricity is key, and since President Weah has demonstrated patriotism by donating the first 25 solar lights to Lofa, we thought to compliment his efforts by launching a dollar rally campaign for citizens of the county to contribute to lightening up the county", says secretary general of the campaign SekouKorleh.

Addressing a news conference late over the weekend Mr. Korleh said the Light Lofa campaign is a citizen's initiative where sons and daughters of Lofa will contribute to taking their county out of darkness.

The Light Lofa project is reportedly chaired by defeated Montserrado

senatorial candidate and electoral district 5 Representative Thomas P. Fallah, and co-chaired by national Chairman of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Mulbah K. Morlu.

campaign.

According to Mr. Korleh, a 21-member committee has been setup, including citizens' dollar rally. He told the gathering that initial cost of the project is US\$150,000.



Sekou B. Korleh, a prominent son of lofa, who also heads the secretariat of the project, called on sons and daughters of the county and partners to join hands for the successful implementation of the

Mr. Korleh hailed President Weah for a donation of 25 solar lights which he says has provided light to some parts of Voinjama and Zorzor. Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson TambaKojee, Korto

Govt. quarantines damaged rice at Freeport

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announces that it has quarantined a consignment of rice at the Freeport of Monrovia after verification that water entered a shipping vessel.

A quarantine is a restriction on the movement of people, animals and goods which is intended to prevent the

March 2, 2021, at the Wei Town disposal site in Paynesville, commencing at 8 O' clock in the morning.

The Commerce Ministry says it is working all line ministries and agencies to ensure proper disposal of the damaged commodity.

"We commend all stakeholders and businesses for



spread of disease or pests, according to Wekepedia.

However, the Ministry in a press release says the public can be assured that no such unwholesome commodity will enter the market of Liberia.

It says therefore, official disposal of the consignment will begin today, Tuesday,

their cooperation and will continue to ensure the safety of all commodities consumed by the Liberian people", the release notes.

Meanwhile, the Ministry has promised to provide further updates throughout and at the conclusion of the disposal exercise. -**Press Release**

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Harris, Mayoress of Voinjama; Cecelia T. Hallie, Mayoress of Foya, and YamahTabolo, Mayoress of Salayea, among others attended the news conference.

Also speaking the mayors of Voinjama and Zorzor extolled leaders of Lofa County for coming up with such a brilliant idea aimed at transforming the county.

They added that it's about time that sons and daughters of Lofa unite to support the dollar rally campaign for development.

Speaking earlier Mayor Kojee noted, "We are initiating the Light Lofa Campaign at the Monrovia City Hall. This comes at a time when we have already commenced the first 25 solar lights for Voinjama and Zorzor to help make our Lofa one of the most enviable counties in the country.

"I'm always elated to say, thanks to President George Weah who picked me from nowhere to a noble height and God who keeps keeping me"

He thanked Representative Thomas Fallah, Chairman Morlu and SekouKorleh for championing a worthy endeavor and called on citizens of Lofa County to see the project as something that will transformed the county, encouraging them to contribute towards it.

"Chairman MulbahMorlu, Representative Thomas Fallah and SekouKorleh are the champions of this endeavor and we like to thank them for what will be a hundred a fifty thousand United States dollars (US\$150,000) project. Don't hesitate to drop in your dollar and take credit for an initiative beyond expectation that will be praised for generations unborn.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Lonestar Cell MTN donates cell phones to the Ministry of Transport

Monrovia, Liberia (March 1, 2021) Lonestar Cell MTN has donated cellular phones complete with registered Sim cards to the Ministry of Transport. The Ministry of Transport seeks to provide its customers with a first-class service that rivals that of the telecommunication

said that the phones will facilitate the customer relations.

Cummings-Smith said, "This an important way we are improving our service to customers." She believes this is another crucial step in modeling the Ministry's Customer Service

as the Director of Customer Service, to keep the customer happy, whether that meant answering any questions they have or resolving issues with a positive attitude.

Deputy Minister for Administration, Sirleaf R. Tyler said that the phones will have a positive impact on their customer's experiences. "Customers now can call us instantly and get direct feedback from one of our agents," he said.

The phone donation is a part of a wider customer service effort. Deputy Minister Tyler said, "We are in the process of increasing customer's access to the Ministry's services by adding customer service points in the Ministerial Complex and at the National Port Authority."

He added that the Ministry is working to expand customer convenience with the use of Mobile Money. "Soon," he said, "customers will be able to make payments using their cell phone."

Jeremie Monger, Direct Sales and Distribution Manager said, "We are excited about this new partnership with the Ministry of Transport as we all work together towards making our customer's lives brighter."

The hotline numbers are 0888 960 960 and 0888 961 961. Customer Service desks are open from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.



companies.

Marilyn Cummings-Smith is the Director of Customer Service at the Ministry. With some 500 customers a day coming into the Ministry to register vehicles, obtain eligibility certificates, insurance stickers or driver's licenses, Cummings-Smith

after Lonestar Cell MTN.

Cummings-Smith, an MTN Prestige customer, said, "When I heard voice over the phone saying, 'Lonestar Cell MTN, Can I help you?' for the first time, I said, 'Oh, wow, that's customer service.'"

From that point on she decided to go above and beyond

Bong Asst. Commissioner of Police Alarms over Interference in Cases

By: Joseph Titus Yekeryan
in Bong County

Assistant Commissioner of Police Fredrick Nepay has alarmed over the frequent interference of cases in Bong County, describing it as a major factor undermining the County's justice system.

Speaking to NewDawn recently in Gbarnga, Mr. Nepay said the interference in cases is currently challenging the workings of the Police, adding that it puts the police under too much pressure when carrying on an investigation.

He said on so many occasions when Police are investigating a case, there will always be interference from all sectors of the County; with some people even

threatening the police.

Nepay named the case involving Satabinda, a sixteen year old girl who was killed in Gbartala, Yelequellah District, Bong County and the case involving the death of Journalist Chris David as cases that have experienced interferences.

He said while some people will be calling on the Police to quickly come up with reports of investigations, there are also people on the other hand pushing for therelease of some defendants even when their crimes are not billable.

Commissioner Nepay said for access to justice to be met in Bong and Liberia, there is a serious need for people to give chance to the Police to do their jobs.

Although he did not name anyone who has been interfering in legal matters but said those

involved need to understand that investigation is not an event but a process and such, those responsible need much time to establish the fact.

According to him, the justice systems serve as key pillars to safeguard rights and guarantee that the legal needs of citizens are met, maintaining that only those who understand legal matters need to be involved.

"The effective and fair justice system requires consideration of the full continuum of services, ranging from accessibility of legal information and legal assistance to formal (such as courts) and alternative dispute resolution, and their enforcement mechanisms" Asst. Commissioner Nepay adds.

GOL declares war on intellectual property theft

The Government of Liberia through the Liberia Intellectual Property Office (LIPO) and its secretariat, the Copyright Society of Liberia (COSOL) has begun inspecting businesses trading in audio and audio-visual contents to remove pirated "copyright materials" from the stream of Liberia's commerce.

According to LIPO, piracy is costing the country approximately US\$2 million yearly -- an amount that would lead to massive economic growth in the struggling entertainment industry.

The release says as a result of such losses, government in partnership with the National Collective Societies is now applying all efforts to crack down on illegal content distributions.

"Pirate copies of artistic

2016 Intellectual Property Law that forbids all forms of piracy including 10-in-one disc.

It also focuses on enforcing the hologram stamps law, as well as, mandates that prohibit contents distributors from stockpiling their stores and warehouses with more than 40% of foreign contents and 60% of Liberians-owned.

Piracy, Mr. Robertson noted has a far-reaching negative economic impact on the creative industries, as a result, reducing the flow of rich and entertaining artistic content.

"The dramatic decline in revenues for content creators is the direct result of piracy and the government is not taking this threat likely. Piracy put innovation, creativity, and investment at risk much to the detriment of the content creators," he said.



workers threaten artists and authors' livelihoods by robbing them of their due percentage of profits and royalties," said Clifford B. Robinson, LIPO Deputy Director-General for Copyright.

"By working in partnership with the National Collective Societies of Liberia, the government is driving anti-piracy efforts through intelligence gatherings, and education to combat the illegal trade of piracy from further flourishing, while protecting the creative industries", he added.

The release notes further that the ongoing exercise which began on Feb. 17, 2021, is geared towards ensuring that businesses trading in-copyright materials are in compliance with policies and laws governing artistic works, particularly the country's

Mr. Robertson explained that government is reframing its anti-piracy strategy and stepping up efforts to protect the long-term economic interests of the country's talents and copyright holders to create an enabling environment for their creativity to strive.

The new strategy, according to him, focuses on combating and suppressing the trade-in pirated goods by increasing inspection and enforcement exercise, and enforcing the country's Intellectual Property law--at the same time, building respect for IP rights through a public awareness campaign.

"Pirated goods will be destroyed and the penalties for trading in forged commodities will be implemented according to the 2016 Liberia Intellectual Property Acts."

Français

Le Ministre Tweah nommé ministre africain des Finances de l'année

Le Ministre Libérien des finances et de la planification du développement, Samuel Tweah, a été nommé Ministre africain de l'année par le magazine African Leadership.

Il a été nommé parmi plusieurs autres récipiendaires dans plusieurs catégories le vendredi 26 février.

Le comité des prix de la personne de l'année a

également nommé le Directeur général de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, le Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Africain de l'année 2020 ; Le président du Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo, comme leader politique africain de l'année 2020 ; Graca Michel comme Championne Africaine du Climat de l'année 2020, aux côtés de 10 autres Africains distingués dans un sondage vivement contesté.

Le sondage a attiré plus de

120 000 votes sur le site Web de l'ALM ; plus de 7 millions d'engagement actif en ligne pendant la période de vote ; et plus de 5000 votes par e-mail, selon le magazine.

Les lauréats ont été décorés et présentés le vendredi 26 février 2021, lors de la cérémonie annuelle de remise des prix des personnes de l'année du magazine African Leadership.

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Il n'y a pas d'Ebola au Libéria

Il n'y a aucun signe de l'hémorragie à virus Ebola au Libéria. Les huit suspects ont tous été testés négatifs au virus Ebola. C'est le ministre libérien de la Santé qui a annoncé la bonne nouvelle après plusieurs jours d'attente impatiente du

résultat des tests réalisé sur huit suspects. Un ouf de soulagement !!

« Au jour d'aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire ce 26 février 2021, il y avait 8 suspects, et tous ont été testés négatifs. Au moment où nous vous parlons, il n'y a aucun signe de la maladie à virus Ebola

ici au Libéria », a dit la ministre de la Santé.

Le briefing de la Ministre de la Santé soulage ainsi les Libériens qui avaient subi de graves pertes lorsque l'Ebola a frappé le Libéria pour la première fois en 2013-2014. Tout le système de santé du pays avait été mis à l'épreuve pendant ces années.

Des milliers de Libériens et de ressortissants étrangers étaient morts pendant la crise d'Ebola à l'époque, et les récentes alertes concernant une réémergence présumée depuis la Guinée ont de nouveau suscité des craintes dans le pays qui essayait toujours de se remettre de la pandémie de la COVID-19 qui continue de secouer le monde entier.

Lors d'une conférence de presse spéciale tenue au Ministère de l'Information, des Affaires Culturelles et du Tourisme (MICAT) sur la colline du Capitole ce week-end, la ministre Jallah a souligné qu'aucun cas du virus



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Éditorial

La tolérance politique est la clé de la paix et de la stabilité

Dans son message de départ du comté de Grand Gedeh le samedi 20 février 2021, le président George Manneh Weah a souligné la nécessité d'une tolérance politique dans le comté afin de sauvegarder la paix sociale et relancer l'économie. Il a exhorté les habitants de Grands Gedeh qui ont voté massivement pour lui lors des élections de 2017 à tolérer les opinions de l'opposition et favoriser la culture démocratique.

L'appel fait directement référence à la violence qui avait éclaté dans la ville de Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, le jeudi 30 juillet 2020, lorsque des centaines de voyous s'étaient mis à lapider le leader de l'Alternative National Congress et ancien président de la coalition des principaux partis de l'opposition. Ce jour-là, Alexander B. Cummings et le représentant du district n° 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, n'ont pas pu s'adresser à leurs partisans dans le comté, en ayant été empêchés.

Ce jour fatidique du 30 juillet était pour la délégation de l'opposition qui s'était rendue dans cette partie du pays un véritable cauchemar. Des jeunes en colère, armés de pierres, de gourdins et de machettes avaient pris d'assaut et barricadé le Motel où la délégation (M. Cummings, le représentant Kolubah et d'autres) avait élu domicile, au cœur de la ville de Zwedru. Ils menaçaient de lyncher le représentant Kolubah à qui on reprochait d'avoir l'habitude d'injurier le président George Manneh Weah.

Cet incident a été condamné par le caucus législatif du comté de Grand Gedeh et la communauté internationale qui a appelé à une enquête rapide pour traduire les auteurs en justice. Les conclusions de l'enquête du gouvernement n'ont pas encore été rendues publiques.

Mais le président Weah a été très catégorique samedi lorsqu'il a déclaré aux citoyens du comté que malgré leur soutien à son administration, ils devraient tolérer les politiciens de l'opposition comme le garantit la Constitution.

Nous pensons que la déclaration du président est non seulement remarquable, mais elle est aussi indispensable à la tolérance politique et à la promotion de la diversité des opinions, comme l'exige la liberté d'expression. M. Weah a en outre souligné que sans paix, il n'y aurait pas de développement dans tout le Libéria, encore moins dans le comté de Grand Gedeh. D'où la nécessité de promouvoir encore une fois la tolérance politique et de chérir et de sauvegarder la paix dont nous jouissons.

Nous nous joignons ainsi au Président pour appeler les citoyens de ce comté à chérir la tolérance et la paix au nom de l'unité nationale et du progrès économique. Il ne peut y avoir de développement et de prospérité dans le chaos.

De plus, il faut rappeler aux Grand Gedeans en des termes clairs que le Libéria n'appartient pas à un président ou à une administration. Au contraire, l'espace démocratique, à travers la Constitution, permet à une personne d'être élue aux urnes pour gouverner l'État pour un mandat spécifique.

Peu importe qui est élu président, cette personne devient automatiquement le chef de toute la République, qui comprend à la fois ses propres partisans et l'opposition. Il peut être aimé ou haï de certains citoyens, mais la tolérance exige que des opinions critiques ou contraires soient exprimées sans menaces pour ceux qui expriment de telles opinions.

En fait, les opinions critiques renforcent la démocratie et le gouvernement au pouvoir pour bien gouverner dans l'intérêt de tous les citoyens, y compris l'opposition. Si un président réussit dans son administration, c'est le Libéria qui en a le mérite.

C'est le message que le président Weah a bien voulu livrer aux habitants du comté de Grand Gedeh. Certes, il apprécie tellement le fait qu'il est si aimé par ces habitants, comme en témoigne les résultats des urnes, mais s'en prendre à ceux qui expriment des opinions contraires sur son leadership ne serait pas de son goût. Il est convaincu que les partisans n'ont pas le droit de s'en prendre à ceux qui critiquent son gouvernement. L'histoire a prouvé à maintes reprises que cela était contre-productif.

Français

Le Ministre Tweah nommé ministre

L'événement a eu lieu virtuellement et a accueilli des Africains influents dans les affaires, la politique et toutes les sphères du spectre du leadership africain.

Les gagnants ont été dévoilés par l'éditeur du magazine, le Dr Ken Giami, au siège social britannique du groupe. L'annonce des gagnants a été précédée par le comité des prix qui a travaillé avec l'équipe éditoriale pour rassembler les votes et les soumissions en ligne et hors ligne de la base de plus d'un million d'abonnés / suiveurs de la publication.

Le prix des personnes de l'année du magazine du

leadership africain, qui est devenu le principal soutien de tiers basé sur le vote sur le continent, a enregistré une augmentation de plus de 50% des voix par rapport à l'année précédente, principalement des Africains de la diaspora.

L'éditeur, le Dr Giami, a soutenu que 2020 avait été une année très mouvementée, la pandémie COVID-19 ayant tiré les systèmes de santé fragiles de l'Afrique et exacerbé la pauvreté sur le continent. Cependant, il a souligné que certains Africains ont contribué à minimiser l'impact de la pandémie sur le continent et ont contribué à inspirer l'espoir pour l'avenir.

Il n'y a pas

Ebola n'a été enregistré.

Elle a toutefois mis en garde que la Covid-19 continue de faire ravage dans le monde. Selon elle, le Libéria a enregistré un nouveau cas le vendredi 26 février, portant le total des cas à 2 010 cas confirmés dans le pays.

La ministre Jallaha indiqué que pour mettre fin à cette pandémie, il est nécessaire que les pays travaillent ensemble, tout en appelant les Libériens à ne pas refuser de prendre les vaccins du Covid-19 qui sont attendus dans le pays.

Pour sa part, le directeur du programme national de vaccination au ministère de la Santé, M. Adolphus T. Clarke, a déclaré que les vaccins du Covid-19 sont attendus au Libéria cette semaine, révélant qu'il existe une

catégorie de personnes répertoriées pour prendre les vaccins.

Selon lui, le port d'un masque facial et le lavage des mains ne sont pas la solution miracle qui empêchera les gens de contracter la Covid-19 ou d'autres maladies. Il est donc nécessaire, d'après lui, d'instituer plusieurs mesures de santé qui permettront d'enrayer la maladie.

Il a révélé que le Libéria recevrait 384 000 doses qui seront administrées aux personnes répertoriées. Il s'agit des travailleurs de la santé, des personnes âgées de soixante ans et plus et des personnes qui ne peuvent pas se distancer socialement et physiquement des autres en raison de leur travail, c'est-à-dire l'armée, les enseignants et les commerçants.

Côte d'Ivoire : les paroles du premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko aux Ivoiriens

Évacué il y a peu, pour des soucis de santé, le premier ministre Hamed Bakayoko semble recouvrer la santé. Ce 1er mars 2021, le chef du gouvernement depuis la France, s'est adressé via sa page Facebook officielle, à ses concitoyens ivoiriens.

Chers tous,

Le mois de Mars est un mois spécial pour moi.

Je vous le souhaite excellent et vous invite à toujours garder vos valeurs ainsi que votre foi en Dieu, le Tout Puissant.

Pour les élections législatives du 6 mars, J'encourage tous les

candidats à œuvrer pour une campagne et des élections apaisées>>, s'est-il exprimé. Cette sortie du Ministre de la défense en dépit de sa situation, est perçue par beaucoup d'internautes, comme une preuve de la bonne santé de Hamed Bakayoko. En moins de 10mn, plus de 2000 personnes ont réagi à cette publication. Si tout se passe bien, le premier ministre ivoirien devrait regagner Abidjan dans le courant de ce mois de mars. Pour rappel, l'évacuation annoncé du maire de la commune d'Abobo avait attristé de nombreux ivoiriens qui continuent de prier pour lui.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

Pourquoi l'Amérique devrait coopérer avec la Chine

NEW YORK - Depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, la politique étrangère américaine repose sur une idée simple, exprimée notamment par le président George W. Bush après les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre : soit vous êtes avec nous, soit vous êtes contre nous. L'Amérique mène la danse, les alliés doivent suivre, et malheur aux pays qui s'opposent à cette suprématie.

Cette idée simple mais surtout simpliste est aujourd'hui également obsolète : aucun ennemi implacable ne s'oppose aux États-Unis, qui ne sont plus à la tête d'une alliance écrasante, et qui ont tout à gagner d'une coopération - plutôt que d'une confrontation - avec la Chine et d'autres pays.

L'ancien président Donald Trump était une caricature grotesque du leadership américain, usant d'insultes, de menaces, de droits de douanes unilatéraux, et de sanctions financières pour tenter de contraindre les autres États à se soumettre à ses politiques. Trump a littéralement déchiré le manuel du multilatéralisme. Or, la politique étrangère de Trump n'a étrangement suscité qu'une très faible opposition à l'intérieur des États-Unis. Le consensus l'emportait largement sur le rejet des politiques anti-Chine du président américain, de même que ses sanctions contre l'Iran et le Venezuela n'ont rencontré quasiment aucune résistance, malgré leurs conséquences humanitaires désastreuses.

Par opposition, la politique étrangère de Joe Biden apparaît comme une bénédiction. D'ores et déjà, les États-Unis ont rejoint l'accord de Paris sur le climat et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, œuvrent pour un retour au sein du Conseil des droits de l'homme des Nations Unies, et ont promis de rejoindre l'accord de 2015 sur le nucléaire iranien. Autant d'étapes admirables et immensément positives. Néanmoins, les premières annonces de Biden concernant sa politique étrangère vis-à-vis de la Chine et du leadership américaine apparaissent problématiques.

Le récent discours de Biden dans le cadre de la Conférence de sécurité de Munich offre un bon aperçu de l'état d'esprit de son administration dans ses premières œuvres. Trois sources de préoccupation se démarquent.

Intervient premièrement l'idée quelque peu naïve d'une Amérique « de retour » au statut de leader mondial. Naïve parce que les États-Unis viennent à peine de renouer avec le multilatéralisme, parce qu'ils échouent face à la pandémie de COVID-19, parce que jusqu'au 20 janvier dernier, ils travaillaient encore activement contre l'atténuation du changement climatique. Le pays doit encore panser les nombreuses plaies profondes laissées par Trump, notamment l'insurrection du 6 janvier, et comprendre pourquoi 75 millions d'électeurs américains ont voté pour lui en novembre - ce qui exigera d'appréhender l'importante culture suprématiste blanche qui anime aujourd'hui un pan majeur du Parti républicain.

Deuxièmement, « Le partenariat entre l'Europe et les États-Unis », a déclaré Biden, « constitue et doit demeurer la pierre angulaire de tout ce que nous espérons accomplir au XXIe siècle, comme nous l'avons fait au XXe ». Vraiment ? Bien que je sois personnellement un europhile et fervent partisan de l'Union européenne, rappelons tout de même que les États-Unis et l'UE représentent seulement 10 % de l'humanité (et les membres de l'OTAN seulement 12 %).

L'alliance transatlantique ne peut et ne doit pas constituer la pierre angulaire de « tout ce que nous espérons accomplir » au cours de ce siècle ; elle en est seulement l'un des piliers importants et souhaitable. Une démarche mondiale commune est

nécessaire de la part de toutes les régions de la planète, pas uniquement de l'alliance Atlantique nord ou de quelque autre région dans son individualité. Pour une bonne partie du monde, cette alliance n'est qu'une organisation qui perdure, caractérisée par le racisme, l'impérialisme, et plongée dans la zizanie par Trump.

Troisièmement, Biden considère que le monde est engagé dans une lutte idéologique majeure entre la démocratie et l'autocratie. « Nous nous situons à un point d'inflexion entre d'un côté ceux qui estiment que compte tenu des défis actuels - de la quatrième révolution industrielle à la pandémie mondiale - l'autocratie constituerait la meilleure voie [...] et de l'autre ceux qui comprennent que la démocratie est essentielle [...] pour surmonter ces défis ».

Dans cette conception autour d'une bataille idéologique entre démocratie et autocratie, Biden a déclaré « Nous devons nous préparer ensemble à une compétition stratégique de long terme avec la Chine », ajoutant que cette compétition était « nécessaire, car je crois au système mondial pour la construction duquel l'Europe et les États-Unis, ainsi que leurs alliés dans la région indopacifique, ont fourni tant d'efforts ces 70 dernières années ».

Les États-Unis se considèrent peut-être engagés dans une lutte idéologique à long terme vis-à-vis de la Chine, mais ce sentiment n'est pas réciproque. L'insistance des conservateurs américains autour d'une Chine qui entendrait dominer le monde est allée jusqu'à susciter un consensus bipartisan à Washington. Or, la Chine n'entend ni prouver quelque supériorité de l'autocratie sur la démocratie, ni « éroder la sécurité et prospérité de l'Amérique », comme l'affirme la stratégie nationale de sécurité américaine de 2017.

Songez au discours formulé par le président chinois Xi Jinping devant le Forum économique mondial au mois de janvier. Xi n'y évoque ni les bienfaits de l'autocratie, ni les défaillances de la démocratie, ni une lutte majeure entre différents systèmes politiques. Xi exprime dans son discours un message fondé sur le multilatéralisme, afin de répondre aux défis mondiaux communs, et identifie « quatre tâches majeures ».

Xi appelle les dirigeants mondiaux à « renforcer la coordination des politiques macroéconomiques, ainsi qu'à promouvoir ensemble une croissance forte, durable, équilibrée et inclusive pour l'économie mondiale ». Il les invite également à « s'affranchir des préjugés idéologiques, ainsi qu'à suivre ensemble la voie d'une coexistence pacifique, d'avantages mutuels, et d'une coopération gagnant-gagnant ». Troisièmement, il souhaite que ces dirigeants « réduisent la fracture entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement, et agissent ensemble pour la croissance et la prospérité pour tous ». Enfin, il invite les dirigeants mondiaux à « s'unir face aux défis planétaires, et créer ensemble un avenir meilleur pour l'humanité ».

Xi déclare dans son discours que la coopération mondiale exige de demeurer « engagés pour l'ouverture et l'inclusion », pour « le droit international et les règles internationales », ainsi que pour « la consultation et la coopération ». Il insiste sur l'importance de « vivre avec son temps plutôt que rejeter le changement ».

La politique étrangère de Biden vis-à-vis de la Chine doit débiter par la recherche d'une coopération plutôt que sur la présomption d'un conflit. Xi s'est engagé à ce que la Chine « joue un rôle actif dans la coopération internationale contre le COVID-19 », à ce qu'elle s'ouvre au monde, tout en promouvant un développement durable ainsi qu'un « nouveau type de relations internationales ». La diplomatie américaine doit faire preuve d'intelligence en s'engageant aux côtés de la Chine dans ces différents domaines. L'actuel discours hostile risque tout simplement d'engendrer une prophétie autoréalisatrice.

Liberia records more deaths

By Winston W. Parley

Days after eight persons got killed reportedly by carbon monoxide poisoning in Paynesville, at least two more deaths have been recorded here so far, one involving victim Florence Massaquoi and the other, an unidentified man mobbed by a crowd in Paynesville, outside Monrovia.

A huge crowd gathered in shock around the corpse of the late Florence in the S.K.D. Boulevard, 772nd Community of Payneville on Monday morning, 1 March. The body of the lady could be seen on the sidewalk, covered under a banana leaf.

A man identifying himself to journalists as Siaffah Kanneh from New Matadi, Sinkor, says the late Florence is his son's mother, narrating that he was the one who had rented a place she was

them to live apart from each other based on religious differences, saying he is a Muslim while she was a Christian.

"So I told her the way we're living it's not good. So let us live separately for now until we decide if you will come join my religion," he explains.

He says normally every Sunday, Florence would go to his place in Matadi, sleep there and go back later.

"And Saturday, she and I talked, and she [was] supposed to come to me. Normally every Sunday she can come to my place in Matadi, spend the whole day, sleep and go back," he says.

But according to him, on Saturday, Florence told him that she was going to help her friend to prepare some program food.

"So the whole of Saturday she was there. Later on, in the afternoon [around] four, five,

He says he had no idea if she had any conflict with anyone, adding that "she [doesn't] drink [alcohol], she [doesn't] club."

Later on Monday afternoon, the Spokesman of the Liberia National Police (LNP) Moses Carter told journalists that the unconscious body of a 46 year - old woman identified as Florence Massaquoi was found in the S.K.D. Boulevard Community, 772nd, in Paynesville.

"This morning, we were alerted of a sad, or you may say, a tragic incident where one of our citizens was found lying unconscious in the ... [S.K.D.] Boulevard, 77and Community. Specifically, this citizen was a resident of the Rock Hill, GSA Community," Mr. Carter says.

According to Carter, police investigators were alerted about the situation by



dwelling. According to him, the deceased lived in the Rock Hill Community.

"Papay I in trouble ooo, my son ma, my son mother left the house Saturday evening, she went out, only to come see her body lying down," Mr. Kanneh was heard saying as he placed his phone to his ear, apparently having conversation with someone via mobile.

Kanneh narrates to live media broadcast from the scene where the corpse was found, that Florence was still his woman, but they were not living together.

"We [have] been together, we were loving and she was stopping [at a] different place, and I was stopping [at a] different place," he says.

Kanneh narrates that he and Florence have been together for nine years, but the main reason he found place for her was to enable

she said she was rushing Redlight to buy her food for Sunday, so we talked," he says.

According to Kanneh, after he closed his business place and went home, Florence called him by about 8 pm on Saturday evening, informing him that her phone had just six percent current, so she was sending it on charge.

After that, he says Florence did not call him again because the place she intended charging her phone was closed.

"So according to her son now, when she dropped the line with me, another person called her. So she told the son I'm coming," Kanneh narrates.

He details that Florence left instruction with her son to carry the food items to her friend's place for preparation if he did not see her.

"That's how she left, according to him. I never heard from her again since yesterday," Mr. Kanneh adds.

community residents following which the police's forensic and homicide teams moved in.

"We managed to make contact with the family of the Liberian female; and agreement was made. Madam Massaquoi, peace be to her ashes, was pronounced dead by nurses at our police clinic at ... our Police Academy, in the same 772nd Community," he explains.

The police spokesman mentions that through a unanimous agreement between the police and the family, the remains of victim Massaquoi was taken to Mauren Capehart Funeral home in Caldwell where "forensic examination is being conducted to establish whether there was foul play or not."

"Family members are witnessing the examination, and if there is any foul play

GOL declares war

Starts from page 7



Meanwhile, COSOL Executive Director Prince E. Decker has disclosed that the anti-piracy exercise begins with the completion of new administrative Policies and Regulations governing the inspections and enforcement in complying with internationally accepted standards.

As part of the new process, Mr. Decker said the training was conducted for forty plus volunteers nominated by the leadership of the various creative unions to serve on the copyright taskforce.

"In view thereof, the Administration of LIPO, as a matter of policy, has committed to invest more in awareness and sensitization programs and activities to bring the public on board in the fight against piracy," he

said. "We have a duty under the 2016 Intellectual Property Laws and the BERNE Convention to protect the creative content of all creators, be it Liberian work or foreign work."

According to him, the ongoing exercise is the first, second, or third activities undertaken by LIPO and COSOL to discourage the rise of piracy and infringement on Copyright Materials.

"This institution is on record of engaging in activities and acts to promote anti-piracy; activities and programs to discourage the growth of markets for pirated products and promote the use of hologram stamps as a means of identifying illegal Copyright Materials on blank tapes from the Legal ones," Mr. Decker added.

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they will be alerted, the public will be informed and investigation will be conducted in making sure that those connected, any way any how, to the death of this citizen of our country will be made to face the full weight of the law," Carter says.

The police are appealing to the public to provide any useful information that will lead police to ensure that this matter reaches its logical conclusion where perpetrators will be made to face the full weight of the law.

In another development, Carter discloses that police have neutralized a tension that erupted in the Zayzay Community of Paynesville following the killing of a man by a mob.

"Our attention has been

drawn to the death of another citizen who was allegedly beaten to death by [an] angry crowd within the Zazay Community, Paynesville, on February 27, 2021 at about 2300hrs. The victim is yet to be identified," he says.

According to Carter, police are working to ensure that those responsible are made to face the full weight of the law.

Last week, a gathering of families, friends and well wishers following their relative Nancy Miller's graduation on Wednesday, 24 February from the University of Liberia (UL), had a tragic end when the graduate and seven others were reportedly killed by suffocation resulting from carbon monoxide which is toxic to humans. The eight victims were discovered Thursday morning, 25 February.

Lawmakers in 'double dipping'

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Information from the corridors of the Capitol Building indicates members of the House of Representatives who won senatorial seats in the December 08, 2020 Special Senatorial elections are receiving salaries both for the House and the Liberian Senate.

Despite the December election, Bong County newly elected Senator Prince Moye, formerly a representative and deputy speaker, has received both salary and allowance for January for his previous posts, and later received salary and allowance for the same period from the Liberian Senate.

When contacted via mobile phone, Senator Moye defended that in accordance with the Labour Law of Liberia, if one worked for 15 days at a place, he or she is entitled to full month salary.

He explains that having

In December, four incumbent members of the House of Representatives won senatorial seats in their respective counties, namely; Bomi County Representative Edwin Melvin Snowe, former deputy speaker and Bong County Representative Prince Moye, Nimba County Representative Jeremiah Koung and Grand Gedeh County Representative Zoe Emmanuel Pennue, respectively.

While Snowe, Pennue and Koung faced both the Board of Commissioners of the National Elections Commission and the Supreme Court on electoral disputes before they were finally declared winners, Senator Moye won straightly from the counting of ballots.

For the rest of the newly elected senators Snowe and Pennue reportedly received both salaries and allowances from the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate, despite the duo were certificated by the National Elections Commission

matter is resolved then the money is given to the official winner for January of that year.

Since both Zoe Emmanuel Pennue and Edwin Melvin Snowe were facing legal separate battles and allegations of fraud at the level of the National Elections Commission but were still sitting lawmakers in the House of Representatives, they were ultimately given two separate salaries and allowances.

However, when Senator Pennue was contacted via mobile Monday, March 01, he reluctantly said 'no', meaning he does not know anything of financial transaction from the senate end.

Pennue had earlier admitted during an informal discussion of receiving both salaries and allowances from the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate.

But when Senator Snowe



Bong County Senator Prince Moyes

worked for 15 days in January as Representative of Bong County before his ascendancy to the senate, he is entitled to full salary and allowance for the period he served.

He argues that in accordance with the 1986 Constitution, the 54th Liberian Legislature resumes work the second working Monday each year, which means, he (Moye) assumed his senatorial seat the second working Monday, January 15, 2021.

The former deputy speaker continues that, similarly, taking up his seat in the senate on the same January 15, 2021 puts him in a comfortable legal position to also receive salary and allowance as Senator.

Article 32, (a) of the Constitution states, the Legislature shall assemble in regular session once a year on the second working Monday in January.

last week and they took the oath of office last Thursday.

Both chairpersons of the House of Representatives and the Liberian Senate Rep. Thomas Fallah and Senator Morris Saytumah are tightlipped on the matter.

But it is a known fact that after national elections, salaries and allowances are allotted for seats that are contested for while salaries and allowances for seats that are contested in electoral in disputes are kept, until the

was contacted via mobile over the weekend, his phone rang endlessly and he's yet to response to SMS and What'App message sent to him.

It has becoming more glaring that the Government of Liberia spent more money on salaries after elections by paying both outgoing and incoming lawmakers in a country where majority of the citizens live on less than a Dollar a day. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Indian woman fakes

Cont'd from page 5

"Why did the past government ignore this matter so much so as if there was a hidden agenda? Why did the entire enforcement apparatus of the Liberian government resort to total paralysis whenever this matter was brought to the public," the author further wondered.

The article also expressed concern that the Indian authorities assigned to Monrovia, have not taken any relevant action against Madam Dhaliwal who is in gross violation of the laws of Liberia, India and the United States, asking, "Why has the authorities failed to protect the laws of India and Liberia?"

"It was under the Consulship of the Consul General that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal was able to obtain an Overseas Citizenship of India (O.C.I.) designation, knowing fully well she had also claimed Liberian Citizenship by stating under oath that she is a natural born citizen of Liberia," the article disclosed.

The writer wondered, "Why didn't he bring such a critical issue to the attention of the Indian authorities, that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal had obtained and was in possession of Fake Liberian Citizenship through Fraudulent means?"

It appears that the Indian Consul General condoned this violation of law, as evidenced by the issuance of INDIAN PASSPORT NO- B 0250370 in favor of Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal; who was born on November 1, 1971 at NEW ABADI, JULLUNDER, PUNJAB INDIA, the disclosed further.

The author of the article further wondered why have these critical facts and sensitive information which been repeatedly ignored by both the Government of India and Liberia, asking as to whether Madam Dhaliwal is above the laws of Liberia and India, to which the author answered - "We say No!"

The article said the author has received such reliable information from multiple sources that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal is an imposter currently in possession of fraudulently obtained Liberian Citizenship documents that she has used to enjoy the benefits and privileges exclusively reserved for Liberians under the Liberianization policy, and has also consistent being tax evader as a fake Liberian citizen.

The article chronicled a timeline of Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal Criminal offenses and failure to comply with required Immigration rules, which is a threat to National Security and sanctity

of the Rule of Law and Constitution of Liberia, including firstly claimed that Marpu, the alleged imposter, was born to an Indian Father and an Indian Mother, Mohinder Pal Singh Dhaliwal and mother Rajminder Kaur Dhaliwal, and that her real name is Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal and not Marpu Dhaliwal.

Marpu, was said to have been born in India November 1, 1971, grew up in India and was educated in India until she arrived in Liberia in the 1980s. She cannot reference any academic institution in Liberia that she attended or identify persons who were her school or classmates in the country, according to the article.

The writer furthered that Marpu, never ever met her so called Liberian Mother Madam JannieZipporahFlemming Ward, because Ms. Jaine died of cancer in the early 1970s long before Paramjit/Marpu ever came to Liberia. Her Legal Children have also confirmed in a News Article that they never knew Marpu as their mother's child.

"Keep in mind JannieFlemming was suffering from breast cancer through the late 1960's and had a mastectomy in the United States of America, after which she returned to Liberia but unfortunately still died of cancer in the early 1970's. She cannot be the mother of Paramjit/Marpu Dhaliwal," the writer warned in the article. The author said if the blood test and DNA of Marpu the imposter is scrutinized properly, the results will confirm that she has only one brother who currently lives in the United States who and Paramjit are both of the same Indian parents and were born in India.

During the mid-1990s when there was war and chaos in Liberia and Liberians were selling everything for pennies, Marpu the imposter was able to bribe and obtain a Liberian Passport using a fake birth certificate, the article revealed, says Marpu, the imposter, then traveled to the United States and applied for political Asylum claiming to be a natural born Liberian citizen.

American authorities, being more thorough and honest in their investigation, discovered that she was not a Liberian therefore issued summons for her Deportation, the article divulged details of the reported criminal indulgence of Marpu,, saying that when Marpu, the imposter, learned that she was about to be deported, she fled the United States and returned to Liberia as the United States government would not allow Marpu the imposter to abuse the American system and make a fool of their laws which now India and Liberia to also do.

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Indian woman fakes Liberian citizenship?



An Indian national, Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal, has surfaced in the country. Madam Dhaliwal is reported to have obtained an Overseas Citizenship of India (O.C.I.) designation, knowing fully well she had also claimed Liberian Citizenship by stating under oath that she is a natural born citizen of Liberia.

The report amidst reports

of nationality theft involving former Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Chair Nigerian -NbudisiNwabudike.

An article authored by an Indian national claimed that the issue of Madam Dhaliwal has been to the knowledge of the Indian Consul General and other relevant authorities are said to have been aiding an Indian national who fraudulently claimed Liberian nationality and has been carrying two passports.

The article authored by a fellow Indian claimed that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal was able to obtain an Overseas Citizenship of India (O.C.I.) designation, knowing fully well she had also claimed Liberian Citizenship by stating under oath that she is a natural born citizen of Liberia.

The author wondered why the Consul general had failed to bring such a critical issue to the attention of the Indian authorities, that Madam Paramjit Kaur Dhaliwal aka Marpu Pearl Dhaliwal had obtained and was in possession of Fake Liberian Citizenship through Fraudulent means.

According to the author, this report though urgent, is not new to the news media but is consistently swept under the rug by those in authority who are charged with the responsibility to deal with such matters, but have opted to ignore the issue.

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2-Day Consultative Dialogue Kicks Off in Monrovia

A two-day consultative dialogue meeting on combating maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea: challenges and prospects, officially kicked off on Monday, March 1, 2021 at the Royal Grand Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia, with calls for stronger international action plans to halt the increasing maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea(GOG).

The Dialogue, which brings together several participants and stakeholders from

Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Nigeria, is organized by the Kofi Anna International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), with support from the Government of Japan, through the UNDP.

The Gulf of Guinea, which serves as a strategic route for regional and international commerce, has contributed in facilitating the growth of the blue economies globally, and has in recent times garnered an ill-repute of a focal point for maritime crimes.

However, the two-day



Participants and stakeholders pose for a group photo

consultative Dialogue Meeting is primarily aimed at finding a lasting solution to the growing menace.

In his welcome remarks, Major/General Francis Ofori, Commandant, Kofi Anna International Peacekeeping

Training Center (KAIPTC), said this event is occurring in the framework of the long-standing relationship among the KAIPTC, the UNDP and the Government of Japan.

"These three allies have worked together since 2008 to address security sector capacity gaps in the West Africa sub-region. However, the focus of these collaborative efforts have always been tailored to reflect the changing security threats in West Africa. For example, as

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