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-Weah tells lawmakers



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Continental News

Rival Somali armed units fight in Mogadishu

Fighting has broken out in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, between different sections of the security forces.

Heavy weapons have been used and there are reports of mortar fire near the presidential palace.

Some of the military units support President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed while others are opposed to him.

Last week Mr Mohamed - known as Farmajo - controversially approved a two-year extension of his term in office. His mandate officially ended in February.

The move was strongly criticised by the international community including the UN and the African Union. Reports from Mogadishu on Sunday said what started as localised clashes spread to other parts of the city including central areas. Local media said the fighting was between pro-government forces and military units that support the opposition, but some

former warlords and clan leaders are also involved in the clashes. It was not clear if there were casualties.

Caasimada Online, a privately owned website, said anti-government protesters were burning tyres and parts of north Mogadishu were under the control of rebel soldiers.

The protesters reportedly chanted: "We do not want a

term extension. We do not want Farmajo. We do not want dictatorship."

In a post on Twitter, former Somali president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said soldiers had attacked his residence.

Later on Sunday, Somali security minister Hassan Hundubey Jimale accused unnamed foreign countries of being behind the violence.

In a televised statement, he said organised militia groups had been sent to Mogadishu to create chaos, and that security forces had now dealt with them.

"People who do not care for their people and country have organised militias, refused to listen to peace overtures and attacked Mogadishu today," the minister said. "Security forces ended the militia attack [by force] after attempts to defuse the situation peacefully failed."

Somalia has been torn by conflict for decades but had been moving towards stability since 2012 when a new internationally backed government was installed.

However, delayed

elections following the end of President Mohamed's mandate in February have thrown the country into renewed chaos. Some international donors have also pulled out, causing a cash crunch for the government.

Somali elections are conducted under a complex indirect system where clan elders select MPs, who in turn choose the president.

But this time there have been regional squabbles over how power is distributed - and a row over a new election commission. The UN Security Council said on Friday that the political deadlock was diverting attention from serious problems including the pandemic, a locust invasion and Islamist militancy. BBC



Anti-government protesters cheered breakaway factions of the military

African Union urges end to military rule in Chad

The African Union has called for an end to military rule in Chad, whose president was killed by rebels.

The army immediately announced that Idriss Déby's son would head a military council for 18 months before elections were held. Former colonial power France, which has a large military base in Chad, appeared to back the takeover for "stability" amid "exceptional circumstances".

Opposition parties have

also condemned what they called a "dynastic coup".

Trade union have called for a general strike, while rebel group Fact said Chad was "not a monarchy". The African Union's Peace and Security Council voiced "grave concern" about the military takeover which put 37-year-old Gen Mahamat Déby Itno in charge and saw parliament dissolved.

The AU's 15-member security body discussed the situation on Thursday but waited until after

Déby's funeral on Friday to issue its statement. It said power should be restored to civilian authorities "expeditiously".

According to the constitution, the speaker of parliament should take over in the event of the president's death, and organise new elections.

Déby, 68, had just been elected for a sixth term in office when the army announced on Tuesday that he had been fatally wounded in a clash with rebel Fact fighters in the northern region of Kanem.

He was a key ally of France in the fight against jihadist groups across West Africa and French President Emmanuel Macron was among the foreign leaders and thousands of Chadians who paid their respects at his funeral. Standing beside Déby's coffin, Mr Macron said: "You lived as a soldier, you died as a soldier with weapons in hand. You gave your life for Chad in defence of its citizens."

While he was in Chad, Mr Macron held talks with Gen

Child killed as Zimbabwe military helicopter crashes



Zimbabwe's government has complained that it has not been able to acquire new spare parts due to Western sanctions

A Zimbabwean military helicopter has crashed into a house killing a child and all three crew members.

An air force statement said the accident took place on Friday in the village of Acturus 30km (20 miles) east of the capital, Harare.

The child's mother and another young girl were taken

to hospital with burn injuries.

The air force said it was deeply saddened by the loss of lives and said the cause of the crash would be investigated.

The Zimbabwean government has in the past complained that it has not been able to acquire new aircraft and spare parts due to sanctions imposed by Western countries over rights violations. BBC



Chad's army is central to the fight against Islamist militants in West Africa

EDITORIAL

Weah's challenge to officials

OFFICIALS OF THE Weah administration seem to be living deceitful lives with their people, disappointing the President each time he tours the country. Recently in Grand Cape County President Weah frowned at Senator Varney Sherman and other lawmakers of the county for not having a home or a place to host official delegation in the county they represent.

NOW IN GRAND Bassa County, President Weah was not just disappointed but physically upset with county officials, including superintendent and lawmakers, who were elegantly attired, for hosting him in an unkept town hall during a meeting with citizens. The President faced the unpleasant experience as he ended the third leg of his nationwide tour.

MR. WEAH: "LOOK at this, look at this, look at this, look around you, look at this and look at us, look at us (describing how splendidly dressed up they were as compared to the infrastructure they were sitting in and the environment). Sometimes, we should have conscience and be ashamed of ourselves. This place doesn't represent anything. You can't be representing people and bring the President and the entire government here. It is not possible."

MOVING HIS EYES around the hall in which the town hall meeting was being held, he lamented that the place was not fit for such gathering and that even their own dress code contradicted everything.

OFFICIALS OUGHT TO know that reality always contradicts pretense or false life. The fact of the matter is that the Presidents's nationwide did not come as a surprise. It had been planned for 2020, but was postponed because of COVID-19 and other official engagements.

EVEN PRIOR TO the start of the exercise this year, it was formally announced. So we are also surprised that county superintendents and their lawmakers would not prepared adequately to host the President and his entourage. Are Grand Bassa County Superintendent Janjay Vakpah, Senator Nyonblee Kangar Lawrence and her colleague lawmakers from the county saying they couldn't find paint in Buchanan, the provincial capital to give the town hall a facelift for President Weah's meeting with citizens? Quiet disappointing!

LAWMAKERS SHOULD NOT only focus on personal projects in their constituents but also the county they represent, especially, when the President is paying an official visit. He should be received and hosted in line with the esteem ascribes to the Presidency.

LEADERS SHOULD DESIST from dressing up and parading themselves in public shamelessly while the towns, villages, counties and people they represent remain in appalling conditions. This is not leadership but sheer hypocrisy!

FROM RIVER GEE, Grand Cape Mount to Grand Bassa, the story is the same: Neglect and poorly managed infrastructure that does not properly portray the places they represent as leaders. Nevertheless, members of the Liberian Legislature preside over the national budget every year and apportion the national cake, even allotting themselves bigger shares.

IT'S TIME THEY change their leader style by placing the people and places they represent above personal interest to demonstrate the true leadership they ought to be.

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COMMENTARY

By Anita Bhatia

Why We Need Gender-Responsive Central Banking

NEW YORK - The coronavirus pandemic has hit women especially hard, particularly where they are most vulnerable: their incomes, health, and safety. Women make up the majority of workers in many of the sectors of our economies that came to a standstill last year. Making matters worse for women, health systems have cut or delayed sexual and reproductive health services to streamline treatment for COVID-19. And lockdowns and curfews have coincided with a spike in domestic violence.

These problems foretell a protracted reduction in women's capacity to join the labor force, repay loans, post collateral, or start businesses. Worse, these threats to national economies could become permanent, unless policymakers act swiftly. That includes central banks, which have a number of tools for combating the pandemic's worst effects on women.

The problem, of course, is that central banks are notoriously male-dominated institutions. Historically, they have never made gender a priority in the design and execution of policies affecting monetary positions, bank regulation, deposit insurance, or bond issuance. Changing this pattern will require four shifts in the policymaking process.

First, we need gender-responsive stimulus packages. Governments responded to the crisis with fiscal and monetary packages meant to stabilize aggregate demand. These included tax cuts, loan guarantees, wage protections, discounted utility bills, suspension of social security contributions, and direct cash transfers. Central banks, for their part, expanded their balance sheets to unprecedented levels and at staggering speed, printing money to buy not just government bonds but also corporate financial assets. In many countries, particularly advanced economies, the overall response was massive, because it had to be.

But data gathered through UN Women's COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker show that only a handful of countries tailored their policies to account for women's specific needs. The result has been a slower recovery for everyone. As the world prepares for another wave of stimulus spending and investment in reconstruction, it is crucial that these interventions be designed not just with women in mind, but with women in the room.

Second, women need loans, and central banks have an important role to play in how credit is directed to specific sectors. Accordingly, it is important to ensure that financing makes it to sectors where the majority of women work. As more women lose or are displaced from jobs - even in the informal economy - banks will have to reassess and possibly reclassify the segments of their loan portfolios that cater to female

borrowers.

These segments - spanning hospitality, food, retail, tourism, domestic services, garment, and other industries where women form a majority of the labor force - are generally conceived to be "lighter on collateral." But before the pandemic, they had been growing fast in emerging and developing economies, especially among local banks. That growth was driven as much by a commitment to equality as by the commercial potential of a previously ignored client cohort. If the recovery fails women, banks' profitability will suffer.

Third, governments need new sources of finance, because fiscal balances were decimated by the pandemic. Public debts have grown exponentially and will need to be rolled over in the next few years, with sovereigns competing for funding in international bond markets. Looking for an edge in that competition, many will resort to thematic bonds earmarked to address environmental and social development issues.

The demand for such securities is large and growing, now that more than 3,000 investment houses (with a combined \$100 trillion under management) have signed on to the UN-sponsored Principles of Responsible Investment. But while many private corporations and state-owned enterprises have issued "gender bonds," no sovereign has yet done so. That must change, and when it does, central banks should be a part of the process.

Finally, we need better forecasting. Central-bank models, and the policies that derive from them, may be biased and incomplete, because they are based on assumptions that ignore the realities of how households consume, save, invest, borrow, and work. For example, most models treat female workforce participation as a binary choice between labor and leisure, rather than a trinary choice also comprising unpaid labor such as childcare.

Similarly, projections of growth - and thus of money demand and interest-rate transmission - are built on systems of national accounts that do not properly measure the care economy, a fast-growing but mostly nonmarket sector where women make up most of the workforce. The pandemic, which has led to an explosion of demand for care, has turned that weakness into a major gap.

To their credit, central banks have been quick to recognize the challenges posed by climate change; and some are already arguing for solutions and leading initial reform efforts. But even though gender disparities are an equally systemic challenge, central banks have yet to forge similar partnerships with gender advocates. Such partnerships are urgently needed to inform the design and implementation of global and country-level reforms. The benefits - both for women and men - would be enormous.

OPINION

By Stephen S. Roach

My Worst Forecasting Mistake

NEW HAVEN - I have been in the economic forecasting business for close to 50 years. I got my start in the early 1970s, on the research staff at the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, before taking my crystal ball to Wall Street for over 30 years. For more than a decade, it has been the ivory tower at Yale - still dabbling in forecasting from time to time but mainly teaching, writing, and speaking.

Over that long stretch, my forecasting record has been mixed. There were a couple of memorable calls at the Fed, where I warned of a sharp recession in the mid-1970s and intractable inflation later in the decade. But I look back with the greatest pride on my collaboration with Larry Slifman in building the Fed's first "black box" forecasting model that I believe is still largely in use today. We worked around the clock for several weeks to program linked computer-based spreadsheets (unheard of back then) as a replacement for the single-iteration monthly exercise previously done manually on a Monroe calculator. Our so-called judgmental approach was the point-counterpoint to the Fed's renowned large-scale econometric model.

My Wall Street efforts were more thematic. I continued to forecast but focused more on big-picture developments such as corporate debt and restructuring in the late 1980s, the productivity debate of the 1990s, global healing of a post-crisis world in the early 2000s, and then my sweet spot, China and its impact on the global economy. My Wall Street forecasting record was good enough to maintain job security at Morgan Stanley, although there were several close calls.

Attempting to predict interest rates was my least favorite part of the job. With good reason. I remember walking into the old Morgan Stanley investment banking meeting room and seeing a chart of my predecessor's bond market forecast sitting upside down on the floor. I was determined to avoid that fate. When my favorite bond trader started calling me "dart man," I made an executive decision to disengage and hire an interest-rate strategist. Survival of the fittest, I guess.

I should have known better when I came off the bench as a retired forecaster last summer and penned a piece with the now memorable title of "America's Coming Double Dip." I argued that the post-pandemic rebound - a record 33% annualized pop in GDP in the third quarter of 2020 following an equally sharp 31% contraction in the second period - was nothing more than an arithmetic yo-yo.

But that brilliant insight wasn't really the point. I went on to stress that the nascent recovery was likely to be aborted by a relapse, as had occurred in eight of the preceding 11 recessions since the end of World War II. A few months later, taking comfort from some economic indicators that had broken my way, I committed the most egregious forecasting sin of all: giving a date. I actually wrote that the coming double-dip was likely to occur by mid-2021.

The worst forecasting mistake of my career? It sure seems that way. Rather than the relapse that I was looking for, there is now widespread talk of an open-ended boom. My well-trained successor team at Morgan Stanley, which has been aggressive and right with their forecast of a V-shaped snapback from the COVID-19 shock, is now calling for a nearly 10% annualized increase in US economic growth in the first half of 2021. That's not exactly the dip that I, their former team leader, was expecting. Had I still been in that chair, the cold sweats of my job-security nightmares undoubtedly would have returned.

Wall Street forecasters quickly learn the rules of culpability. Like bond and stock traders, the "mark-to-market" mindset forces intellectual accountability on economists and, sometimes, even on market strategists. That's when it pays to have a cogent analytical framework that tells you what went wrong and why.

The double-dip call was premised on three considerations: historical precedent, lingering vulnerability, and the likelihood of another shock. The history of earlier business cycles was on my side. And with employment and real output remaining well below pre-pandemic peaks - especially for face-to-face activity in the all-important services sector - there appeared to be a compelling argument for lingering vulnerability. Lastly, with a new surge of COVID infections in November, December, and early January triggering partial lockdowns in about three-fourths of all US states, the case for another shock seemed reasonable. Putting it together, I concluded that it was only a matter of time before another dip would occur.

So, what happened?

Basically, the shock turned out to be short-lived - also for three reasons: vaccines, human nature, and Bidenomics. Just as Americans signed up for shots, COVID infection rates plunged to just 26% of their early January peaks. That development, together with a sharply accelerated vaccination trajectory, pointed to sooner-than-expected herd immunity and a prompt end to the pandemic. Second, dismissing worrisome new COVID variants, impatient Americans and their compliant political leaders are breaking with recommended public health restrictions. And, third, the fiscal floodgates have been opened as never before: the \$900 billion package of late 2020, followed by the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan in March, and now a proposed \$2 trillion-plus of additional stimulus for infrastructure writ large dubbed the American Jobs Plan.

With the end of COVID in sight, all this has turned into a powerful pro-cyclical fiscal stimulus, which, together with ongoing unprecedented monetary accommodation, has made the boom a one-way bet. And those ever-fickle economic indicators that were heading down late last year have now broken to the upside with a vengeance.

In the end, the confluence of science, politics, and the indomitable human spirit left my out-of-consensus double-dip call in tatters. It wasn't my first forecasting mistake, but it is probably the most glaring. Mea culpa is an understatement. Back to the ivory tower.

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O-P-E-D

By Joschka Fischer

Darkness Over Kabul

BERLIN - The Afghan drama is nearing its end, at least as far as Western militaries are concerned. Exactly two decades after al-Qaeda's attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, the last Western troops are, if US President Joe Biden sticks to his timetable, scheduled to leave Afghanistan on September 11, 2021. The war had to end at some point. But after so much blood and treasure spent, many will be wondering what, if anything, has been achieved.

Though al-Qaeda's terror network was weakened by the war, it was not destroyed. The United States tracked down and killed the group's leader, Osama bin Laden, and expelled the Taliban from Kabul. But outside of the capital and a few other areas, the Taliban is stronger than ever - and poised to reclaim power once Western troops leave.

Radical Islamist terrorism has not been defeated, either militarily or ideologically, and remains a constant threat to the West. After all these years, Afghanistan still lacks stable governing structures capable of policing domestic terrorism, corruption, and the drug trade, let alone offering Afghan society the prospect of a more peaceful, prosperous future. Regional stability will probably be more fragile after the Western withdrawal than it is today.

We should harbor no illusions. The West's troop drawdown amounts to a defeat, the humanitarian consequences of which will be dramatic. For the Afghan people, the war will continue. The probable return of the Taliban and their stone-age Islamism will again force women and girls under the burqa and deprive them of their human rights. Legions of well-educated, urban Afghans will try to flee to the West. Those who remain will face a dismal fate, along with most ethnic and religious minorities.

One wonders if the European Union and NATO are really prepared for what comes next. Militarily, the withdrawal makes sense: the West has nothing to gain in Afghanistan. Yet in humanitarian and moral terms, it is flirting with a foreseeable disaster. The EU, in particular, should expect a large flood of refugees, reminiscent of the Vietnamese "boat people" who sought shelter in the West after the US withdrawal from Vietnam.

The geopolitical price will also be high. How will Islamist extremist groups interpret the West's acceptance of defeat? Will Afghanistan really not become a terrorist safe haven again, as it did after the end of the Cold War and the withdrawal of the erstwhile Red Army? And, beyond Central Asia, might not Russia and China respond to the West's perceived weakness with increased aggression toward Ukraine and Taiwan, respectively?

Biden's inaugural message was that "America is back." But the loss of US credibility after Donald Trump's presidency cannot be reversed so easily. The process of restoring America's place in the world will take time and could lead to dangerous miscalculations by its foes and rivals.

In Afghanistan, the end of the West's long presence will create a power vacuum that competing regional powers will seek to fill. The last 20 years were not just about America and its war against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. For Pakistan, the war has always been about safeguarding its hinterland against its archenemy, India. Islamist terrorism is a key tool in Pakistan's effort, which is why its policy toward the US has been so ambiguous. On one hand, Pakistan allowed the US to use its harbors and territory to provision US forces in Afghanistan. On the other hand, it provided a safe haven for Islamist terrorists, including bin Laden and much of the Taliban leadership.

Meanwhile, the Iranian regime has long sought to protect the Afghan Shia population and its own eastern border by maintaining a presence in western Afghanistan. And the region's largest, most expansive power, China, has significant natural-resource and geopolitical interests in the country. In addition to being a potential entrepôt for China's Belt and Road Initiative, Afghanistan's close relationship to Pakistan could become more salient now that China has rekindled its Himalayan border conflict with India.

Just as the West's presence in Afghanistan has helped to contain these conflicts, so will its withdrawal likely have the opposite effect. China will increasingly try to assert itself as America's successor as regional hegemon. Whether it can handle this powder keg better than the Soviets and the Americans did is another matter. There are good reasons to doubt that it can.

The tragedy of Afghanistan, at least since the nineteenth century, is that it has constantly been the focus of great-power interests. Early on, it was a major bone of contention between the British and Russian Empires in their scramble for Central and South Asia. Then in the twentieth century, it got caught in the crossfire of the Cold War, when the Soviets invaded in 1979.

After the Soviets withdrew in 1989, the country descended into civil war, becoming a base for groups like al-Qaeda when the Taliban consolidated control. And, after September 11, 2001, the US and its Western allies swooped in. All told, the country has been at war for a half-century, and there is no reason to think that its misery will end anytime soon.

There is no stable alternative to a Western military presence in Afghanistan. September 12, 2021 will not bring a safer, better world. On the contrary, the Western withdrawal inevitably will result in humanitarian catastrophe. The Afghan people will be the first to suffer, but they will almost certainly not be the last.

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Mr. Upjit Singh Sachedeva honored as Knight Grand Commander of Humane Order of African Redemption



Weah tours Rivercess County



Weah tours Rivercess County



Français

«Ayez des rêves et prenez des risques» Upjit Singh Sachdeva aux diplômés de l'AMEZU

L'ancien consul général honoraire de l'Inde au Libéria, M. Upjit Singh Sachdeva (Jetty) a exhorté la 30e promotion de l'Université épiscopale méthodiste africaine (AMEZU) à être sans peur et à prendre des risques afin de faire de leurs rêves une réalité, affirmant que certains grands hommes ont dû prendre des risques pour arriver là où ils sont.

«N'oubliez pas que les personnes que vous admirez aujourd'hui pour leur succès ont pris des risques pour arriver là où elles sont, alors n'ayez pas peur. Je vous encourage à prendre des risques intrépides», a déclaré l'homme d'affaires indien le jeudi 22 avril lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture de l'AMEZU sur le campus principal de l'université à Rivière Po, Vincent Town, dans le comté de Bomli.

Dans son discours d'ouverture qu'il a construit autour de deux règles d'or - Risque et Imagination, M. Sachdeva a expliqué que le risque vous rend également plus sage et vous permet d'être vraiment satisfait

puisque vous suivez votre cœur et faites ce que vous aimez faire.

« En prenant des risques, j'ai appris des choses que je n'aurais peut-être pas apprises. Cela m'a fait découvrir ma personnalité - que j'avais un esprit d'entreprise et des compétences que je ne soupçonnais pas », a-t-il dit.

Après le discours d'ouverture, AMEZU a décerné à M. Sachdeva un doctorat honorifique en sciences

humaines.

M. Sachdeva pense que lorsqu'il a abandonné sa peur et pris le risque de quitter l'université pour une opportunité commerciale au Libéria, il a été libéré mentalement et il lui a fallu plein de courage et de zèle pour construire sa vie d'homme d'affaires prospère.

« Si j'avais refusé de

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva

L'ANC exige un procès rapide dans l'affaire du meurtre du Maryland

Il y a deux semaines, 34 personnes ont été arrêtées et transférées à la maison correctionnelle de Zwedru dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, dans le cadre d'un meurtre rituel perpétré dans le Maryland et des actes de vandalisme, pillage des biens ainsi que d'incendie criminel du domicile du président de

la chambre des Représentants, c'était le lundi 19 avril 2021.

Le Congrès national alternatif (opposition) appelle le ministère de la Justice à mettre officiellement en accusation et à renvoyer devant les tribunaux les 34 suspects. L'ANC estime que cela est nécessaire pour restaurer les droits des personnes innocentes

qui seraient parmi les suspects, comme le garantit la Constitution du Libéria.

Dans un communiqué de presse publié le lundi 19 avril 2021, le président régional du parti, Augustine Kraah, a déclaré que l'ANC condamne le meurtre du motocycliste Nyemah et regrette la situation, y compris le rôle des citoyens dans leur quête d'attirer l'attention du gouvernement.

Il a souligné que le parti ne peut tolérer en aucun cas des actes illégaux pour corriger un tort, exhortant ainsi les citoyens à toujours transmettre leurs griefs aux autorités.

Il s'agit du troisième cas de meurtre qui a déclenché des tensions et des manifestations dans le comté du Maryland. Pour le président régional de l'ANC, bien que le parti décourage les actes de violence, il faut une attention sérieuse de la part du gouvernement.

Il a rappelé qu'une situation similaire s'était

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

Le registre national d'identification devrait redoubler d'efforts

Le gouvernement du Libéria veut que l'ensemble de la population obtienne des cartes d'identité nationales, surtout les fonctionnaires, mais il se peut que le registre national d'identification, l'organisme d'État chargé de délivrer ce papier n'ait manifestement pas de moyen, au point que les citoyens font la queue pendant des semaines ou des mois pour avoir leurs cartes d'identité.

Le plus dégoûtant encore, c'est que le gouvernement a fait de la possession de la carte une condition sine qua non pour chaque fonctionnaire d'avoir accès à son salaire. En plus, les utilisateurs de téléphones portables sont harcelés pour mettre à jour l'enregistrement de leur numéro en se servant de leur carte d'identité nationale. Pourtant, il faut environ deux à trois mois aux demandeurs pour obtenir une carte d'identité, car le système du registre national est défaillant.

Le groupe de travail national chargé du nettoyage de la masse salariale de l'état a publié une circulaire, avertissant qu'à compter du mois d'avril 2021, les fonctionnaires qui ne disposent pas de carte d'identité nationale ne recevront pas de salaire. Mais concernant le dysfonctionnement des prestations de services au niveau du registre national, aucune mesure n'a été prise.

Il est important que le gouvernement prévoie des mesures d'accompagnement pour chaque politique mise en place, sinon les résultats escomptés pourraient être désastreux. En réalité, tout processus aléatoire finit par créer des inconvénients aux personnes qui devraient en bénéficier.

Compte tenu de la ruée actuelle vers les cartes d'identité et de l'incapacité du Registre national à répondre à la demande, l'on assiste à de sérieux compromis qui pourraient entraîner des conséquences imprévues et inattendues que la nation pourrait regretter ultérieurement.

Nous nous félicitons certes de la délivrance d'une pièce d'identité nationale appropriée à chaque Libérien, mais encore faut-il que le processus soit correctement soutenu tant sur le plan financier que technique. À quoi sert l'annonce d'une politique qui manque de planification appropriée. Cela n'a aucun sens.

Nous appelons les autorités du registre national d'identification à redoubler d'efforts pour répondre à la demande. Il ne suffit pas de forcer les gens à se faire délivrer des cartes d'identité. Il faut prévoir un service efficace.

Le Libéria ne dispose pas d'un système biométrique synchronisé qui améliorerait l'accès facile et réduirait les coûts sur les dépenses nationales, selon la Commission de la gouvernance, un groupe de réflexion gouvernemental.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, presque tous les services, y compris les passeports, les banques, les admissions universitaires et les services mobiles, entre autres, sont pré-conditionnés par des cartes d'identité nationales.

Nous semblons mettre la charrue avant les bœufs, en tant que nation qui n'a pas contribué à faire avancer le Libéria. Comme l'a dit le président, il est temps de calibrer pour garantir un pays meilleur.

Français

«Ayez des rêves et prenez des risques»

prendre des risques à l'époque à cause de la peur, je n'aurais peut-être jamais trouvé la détermination de réussir dans le domaine auquel j'appartenais vraiment - les affaires », a-t-il poursuivi.

Il a indiqué que tout le monde a des objectifs et des peurs, mais la façon dont vous gérez ces peurs détermine la rapidité avec laquelle vous atteignez vos objectifs.

Dans le même temps, M. Sachdeva a mis en garde que tous les risques ne finissent pas par être un succès, et que lorsqu'on ne réussit pas, il faut tirer les leçons des erreurs commises et prendre les mesures correctives nécessaires et essayer encore.

Pour faire connaître aux diplômés ce que certains grands hommes de pensée, de leadership, de commerce, d'innovation, de science, de technologie et d'industrie avaient à dire sur les questions de risque et de succès, M. Sachdeva a déclaré que le cofondateur de Facebook Mark Zuckerberg a déclaré que « le plus gros risque est de ne pas prendre de risque. »

Il a ajouté qu'Arianna Huffington, co-fondatrice et rédactrice en chef du Huffington Post a dit que : « Si vous n'êtes pas en contact avec votre intuition, vous ne pouvez pas réussir. Les données sont excellentes. Mais parfois, même lorsque vous avez toutes les données du monde, si vous ne suivez pas votre instinct, vous ne découvrirez pas le véritable potentiel et ne serez pas en mesure de reconnaître les opportunités critiques. »

Concernant la deuxième règle d'or, à savoir le rêve, M. Sachdeva dit qu'il faut prendre le risque et suivre le rêve, ajoutant qu'on ne prend pas de risque simplement parce qu'on le

veut.

« Le risque doit être soutenu par le rêve. Dans mon cas, j'avais le rêve de devenir un magnat des affaires, et j'ai pris le risque de mettre en œuvre une telle solution », a-t-il dit.

Selon lui, les diplômés confèrent un statut et des responsabilités uniques, mais c'est le rêve qui établit la distinction.

« Le rêve est le plus grand cadeau de l'humanité, alors ne l'ignorez pas et agissez comme beaucoup qui ne l'exercent pas du tout », déclare M. Sachdeva.

Selon lui, il y a beaucoup de diplômés universitaires comme ceux de AMEZU - intelligents et intelligentes - mais ils ne sont nulle part dans la société parce qu'ils choisissent de rester confortablement dans leurs limites, et ne se soucient pas de ce que cela ferait d'être né autrement.

Ces personnes, estime M. Sachdeva, étranglent leur rêve et ferment leur esprit et leur cœur, ajoutant qu'elles ne se rendent pas compte que dans le rêve, les gens ont tout le pouvoir de changer le monde et leur vie.

M. Sachdeva averti les diplômés que le monde dans lequel ils sont est passionnant, parfois chaotique et toujours sujet à des problèmes, il y a des obstacles, des difficultés, des déceptions et de la malchance. Cependant il est ouvert à quiconque est prêt à tracer sa propre voie pour réussir ou échouer. Il faut donc garder la tête haute et relever les plus grands défis pour atteindre son apogée académique.

« Utilisez vos compétences, vos connaissances et tout ce que vous avez appris pour apporter des changements réels et significatifs avec eux - et résoudre vos problèmes », a-t-il dit. Selon M. Sachdeva, peut-être, on ne peut pas résoudre tous ses problèmes, mais on peut sûrement en résoudre certains parce qu'on s'est donné des moyens grâce à l'éducation.

L'ANC exige un procès

produite récemment le long de la route Harper-littleWlebo et de la route Pleebo-Boniken, mais l'enquête n'a abouti à aucun résultat.

Cependant, il a remercié Dieu que les principaux

suspects dans ce dernier meurtre ont été appréhendés. Le Congrès national alternatif et ses dirigeants régionaux veulent une décision en temps opportun pour amener les auteurs à répondre de leurs crimes odieux.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Anita Bhatia

Les banques centrales doivent intégrer l'égalité des sexes

NEW YORK - La pandémie de coronavirus frappe particulièrement durement les femmes, notamment les plus vulnérables, impactant leurs revenus, leur santé et leur sécurité. Les femmes représentent la majorité des travailleurs des secteurs de l'économie qui ont connu un coup d'arrêt l'an dernier. Pire encore pour les femmes, les systèmes de santé ont réduit ou reporté les services de santé sexuelle et reproductive, pour se concentrer sur la lutte contre le COVID-19. Les confinements et couvre-feux ont par ailleurs coïncidé avec une montée des violences domestiques.

Cette réalité annonce des difficultés prolongées dans la capacité des femmes à rejoindre le marché du travail, à rembourser leurs prêts, ou à créer une entreprise. Pire, ces menaces pour nos économies nationales risquent de devenir permanentes, à moins que les décideurs politiques n'agissent rapidement, notamment les banques centrales, qui disposent d'un certain nombre d'outils pour combattre les plus graves effets de la pandémie sur les femmes.

Le problème, comme chacun le sait, c'est que les banques centrales sont des institutions à domination masculine. Historiquement, elles n'ont jamais fait de l'égalité des sexes une priorité dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des politiques relatives aux positions monétaires, à la régulation bancaire, à la garantie des dépôts, ou encore à l'émission d'obligations. Pour en finir avec cette situation, quatre changements doivent intervenir dans le processus d'élaboration des politiques.

Premièrement, nous avons besoin de programmes de relance qui intègrent la dimension de l'égalité des sexes. Les gouvernements ont répondu à la crise via des plans budgétaires et monétaires destinés à stabiliser la demande globale, faisant intervenir réductions d'impôts, garanties de prêts, protection des salaires, remises sur les factures d'énergie, suspension des cotisations de sécurité sociale, et transferts directs d'argent. De leur côté, les banques centrales ont augmenté leurs bilans jusqu'à des niveaux sans précédent et à une vitesse spectaculaire, imprimant des billets pour acheter non seulement des obligations d'État, mais également des actifs financiers d'entreprise. Dans de nombreux pays, notamment au sein des économies développées, la réponse s'est dans l'ensemble révélée massive, parce qu'il le fallait.

Or, les données rassemblées via l'outil COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, mis en place par ONU Femmes, révèlent que seuls quelques pays ont façonné leurs politiques de manière à prendre en compte les besoins spécifiques des femmes, ce qui résulte en une reprise plus lente pour tout le monde. À l'heure où la planète se prépare à une nouvelle vague de dépenses de relance et d'investissement dans la reconstruction, il est indispensable que ces interventions soient conçues non seulement dans le souci des femmes, mais tout simplement en présence de femmes dans la pièce.

Deuxièmement, les femmes ont besoin de prêts, et les banques centrales ont un rôle essentiel à jouer dans l'orientation du crédit vers des secteurs spécifiques. Il est important de veiller à ce que les financements arrivent jusqu'aux secteurs dans lesquels travaille une majorité de femmes. De plus en plus de femmes perdent leur emploi ou se retrouvent déplacées - même dans l'économie informelle - les banques vont devoir réévaluer voire recatégoriser les segments de leurs portefeuilles de prêts répondant aux emprunteurs féminins.

Ces segments - hôtellerie, alimentaire, vente au détail, tourisme, services ménagers, textile, et autres industries composées en majorité de travailleuses - sont généralement conçus pour nécessiter des garanties moindres. Or, avant la pandémie, ils ont enregistré une croissance rapide dans les économies émergentes et en voie de développement, notamment au sein des banques locales. Cette croissance a reposé autant sur l'engagement pour l'égalité que sur le potentiel commercial d'une catégorie de clients auparavant ignorée. Si la reprise laisse les femmes sur la touche, la rentabilité des banques en souffrira.

Troisièmement, les gouvernements ont besoin de nouvelles sources de finances, dans la mesure où les soldes budgétaires ont été décimés par la pandémie. Les dettes publiques se sont creusées de manière exponentielle, et devront être refinancées au cours des prochaines années, les entités souveraines se concurrençant par ailleurs pour obtenir des fonds sur les marchés obligataires internationaux. En quête d'un avantage dans cette concurrence, beaucoup recourent à des obligations spécifiques dédiées aux problématiques de développement social et environnemental.

La demande relative à ces titres est importante et croissante, plus de 3 000 sociétés d'investissement (représentant ensemble 100 000 milliards \$ sous gestion) ayant désormais adopté les Principes pour l'investissement responsable mis en avant par l'ONU. Mais si de nombreuses sociétés privées et publiques ont émis des obligations axées sur l'égalité des sexes, aucune entité souveraine ne l'a fait à ce jour. Cela doit changer, et lorsque les choses changeront, les banques centrales devront participer au processus.

Enfin, nous avons besoin de meilleures projections. Les modèles des banques centrales, et les politiques qui en résultent, peuvent se révéler biaisés et incomplets, car fondés sur des hypothèses qui ignorent la manière réelle dont les ménages consomment, épargnent, investissent, empruntent, et travaillent. La plupart des modèles considèrent par exemple la participation des femmes au monde du travail comme un choix binaire entre activité professionnelle et temps libre, plutôt que sous un angle ternaire impliquant un travail non rémunéré tel que la garde des enfants.

De même, les projections de croissance - qui concernent par conséquent également la demande monétaire et la transmission des taux d'intérêt - reposent sur des systèmes de comptes nationaux qui ne mesurent pas réellement l'économie domestique, un secteur rapidement croissant mais pour l'essentiel extérieur au marché, et dont les femmes composent l'essentiel des rangs. La pandémie, qui a conduit à une explosion de la demande en soins domestiques, a transformé cette lacune en fossé majeur.

Reconnaissons aux banques centrales leur réactivité dans la prise en considération des défis que représente le changement climatique, certaines d'entre elles promouvant d'ores et déjà des solutions, et menant de premiers efforts de réforme. Pour autant, alors même que les inégalités de sexes constituent un défi tout aussi systémique, il reste encore aux banques centrales à nouer des partenariats comparables auprès des défenseurs de l'égalité des sexes. Ces partenariats sont nécessaires d'urgence pour éclairer l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de réformes au niveau mondial comme à l'échelle des États. Car leurs bienfaits pourraient se révéler immenses - pour les femmes comme pour les hommes.

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Pres. Weah declares today World Malaria Day

President George Manneh Weah has by Proclamation declared Sunday, April 25, 2021 as "World Malaria Day," and is to be observed on Monday, April 26, 2021 throughout the country as a Working Holiday. According to a Foreign Ministry release, this year's World Malaria Day will be celebrated under the global

programs to make the occasion meaningful. The release says Liberia as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), will join other global health partners in supporting all health programs to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The Proclamation also stated that in Africa, malaria deaths have been cut by one third within the last decade and

indicated that continued investment in malaria control will propel malaria-endemic countries along the path to achieving the targets of Global Malaria Technical Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those relating to improving child survival and maternal health, eradicating extreme poverty and expanding access to education.

The release stressed that member countries being Cognizant of the harmful effect and burden malaria poses on the human race, particularly in Africa adopted a Resolution declaring April 25 of each year as Africa Malaria Day, which was amended as World Malaria Day, at the Summit of African Heads of State and Government held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1997.

The Resolution urges Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), to initiate and implement Plans of Actions that would curtail malaria and malaria-related mortality in Africa.

According to the Proclamation, the Government of the Republic of Liberia, realizing the significance of protecting the well-being of its citizens and foreign residents, has since ratified the Convention on the Right of the Child to good health and nutrition.

outside of Africa, 35 out of the 53 countries where access to malaria control interventions have reduced cases by 50 percent, and in the same period, countries where access to malaria control interventions have improved most significantly, overall child mortality rates have fallen by approximately 20 percent.

The Proclamation further



theme: "Zero Malaria-Draw Line against Malaria," with the national slogan "Sleep under the Net to Prevent Malaria."

The Proclamation further calls on the Ministry of Health and other Government Agencies, as well as International Organizations concerned to initiate and execute Appropriate

Sachedeva receives

Starts from back page

the Diplomatic Corps for the purpose of strengthening cooperation and deepening partnerships, adding that this is the first since his incumbency.

He indicates that the Diplomatic Community is vital to the effective and favorable promotion of Liberia's image abroad, adding that this is crucial to how forthcoming partners may be in providing assistance and to encouraging investors to tap into Liberia's vast resources on favorable terms.

India's Ambassador to Y.K. Sailas Thangal says Mr. Jeety's magnanimous selfless service extended to all Covid - 19 patients admitted in the Covid-19 designated hospital and also providing home-cooked meals to thousands less fortunate people are simply unparalleled and praiseworthy in the service towards humanity.

"During my short tenure as Ambassador, Mr. Jeety has become not only a colleague but a bosom friend and brother and he truly symbolized a bridge between People of India and Liberia. I wish him long healthy life to continue his noble works," says Amb. Thangal.

Mr. Sachedeva who is also called Mr. Jeety, is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Jeety Trading Corporation. He is a distinguished foreign personality that has been conferred distinction by Liberia's former President Ellen Johnson - Sirleaf and earlier admitted into the Humane Order of African Redemption and conferred the grade of Knight Grand Commander at Liberia's 164th Independence Anniversary held in Voinjama City, Lofa County on July 26, 2011.

Mr. Sachedeva became the first Indian in African history to have been awarded the highest award by a sitting Liberian president since Liberia declared its independence on July 26, 1847.

His efforts in forging friendship, cordiality, peace and love between Liberia and India and enormous contributions to the growth of Liberia's commercial sector has been recognized by both the past and current government.

Now a private businessman, he consistently pledges to continue his humanitarian and philanthropist works even having ended his tour of duty as India's honorary consul general in Liberia.

Mr. Sachedeva says the ending of his tour of duty in Liberia is occasioned invariably by the decision of the Government of India to

open an Embassy with a resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Monrovia.

"In fact, the Indian Government's decision to open a resident Embassy in Liberia is perhaps the greatest achievement of my incumbency as Honorary Consul General of India in Liberia," he says.

Mr. Sachedeva extends profound thanks and appreciation to Liberian Foreign Minister Kemayah along with his able lieutenants for a very thoughtful and commendable gesture for honoring him.

"I am exceedingly grateful and feel highly honored for the recognition," he says.

Mr. Sachedeva recalls that during his diplomatic sojourn in Liberia, he was privileged to work with great and very many Foreign Ministers, including Gabriel Baccus Mathews; Momolu V. Sirleaf; Monie R. Captan; Thomas Yayah Nimley; and Ambassador George W. Wallace, Jr.

He also notes that he worked with Foreign Ministers Olubanke King Akerele; Dr. Gayweah Toga McIntosh; Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan; Madam Marjon Kamara; Gbezohngah Findley; and until recently, Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah.

"Moreover, in those interactions, we made good friends and also cultivated good relations. I recall first meeting the late Foreign Minister G. Baccus Mathews at his office at Mamba Point where the Foreign Ministry was then located," Mr. Sachedeva explains.

"As for Amb. George W. Wallace Jr., I first met him when he was serving as Senior Ambassador-at-Large, and he soon turned out to be my mentor, whom I would often turn to for guidance and advices. Ambassador Wallace I am grateful for all that you have done for me," Mr. Sachedeva continues.

According to him, former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's era witnessed a dramatic surge in India-Liberia bilateral relations, as well as appreciable rise in the level of the economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries, as evidenced by the exchange of high level official visits to each other's countries.

He notes that it started with the official visit to Liberia of the Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, from 16-19 September 2009.

Sachedeva says Dr Tharoor's visit to Liberia occasioned the outright donation of US\$2 million as grant-in-aid for projects in the education and health sectors, the supply of 25 transport buses, spare parts and training of mechanics and drivers to augment the public transportation facilities of the National Transit Authority, and the setting up of two "Hole-in-the-wall" computer education center.

"We don't want to threaten anybody"

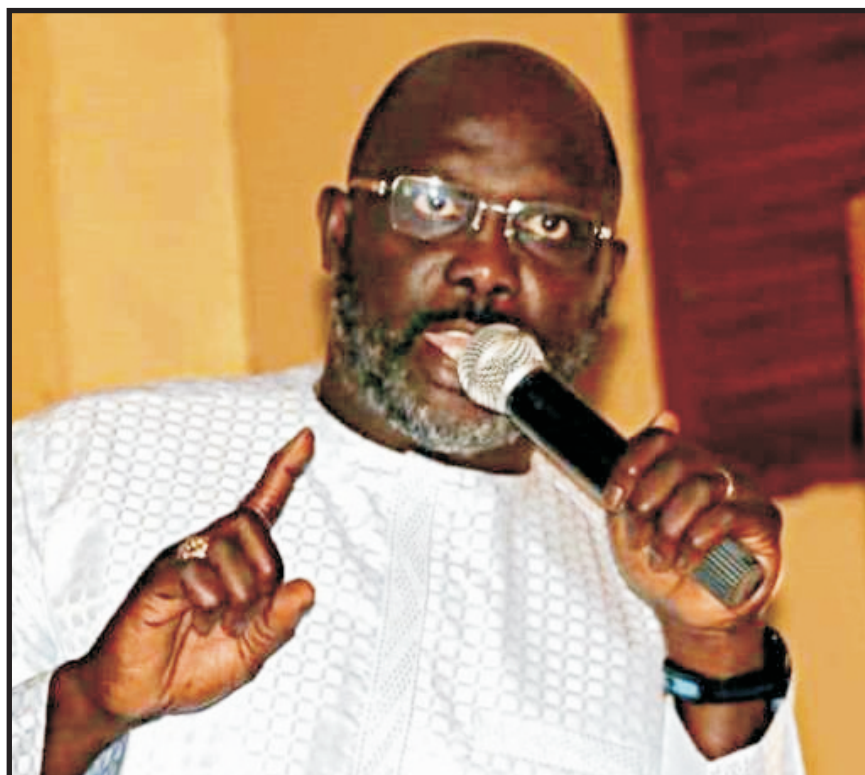
-Weah cautions

By Othello B. Garblah

Civil Compound #3, Grand Bassa County- Responding to an appeal from Grand Bassa County Electoral District #4 Representative Vincent Willie to rectify the current Liberia Agriculture Company (LAC) concession agreement, President Weah said his administration don't want to threaten anybody.

"The companies, they are our partners, they are working with our people. We don't want to threaten anybody, because our people also need them," President Weah explained as he responded to citizens' requests.

"So, we need to sit on the table and find a common ground that will help our people that will help them. They are business people, they have their own interest and we too have our own interest," he stated.



Rep. Willie had informed the President during a citizen interaction at the Civil Compound #3 as part of his tour of Grand Bassa of the need to rectify the LAC agreement to make it mandatory for the

company to pay royalty to the community in which it operates.

Rep. Willie asserted that LAC is the only company operating

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Change the paradigm

By Othello B. Garblah

Buchanan, Grand Bassa County President George M. Weah has told lawmakers in Grand Bassa County that it is time to change the paradigm of how government work to make an impact in the lives of its citizens.

“We have been working for our people differently, and it has yielded no fruit. We need to change the paradigm of how we work,” President Weah said as he wrapped up his tour of Grand Bassa County on Civil Compound #4, as part of his third leg of county tour.

Mr. Weah asserted that leaders should sometimes have conscience and be ashamed of themselves when their living conditions are far

anything. You can't be representing people and bring the President and the entire government here. It is not possible.”

“We have to go back to the drawing board and make sure that every village, every sitting place or Town Hall be well designed. It should be well modelled,” the President stated, as someone pointed an artist impression of the proposed Civil Compound #4 design to him. “Let me see this. This is what we should be doing.”

“The people talked about road connectivity, they talked about technical colleges... This year during the budgetary exercise all of you (lawmakers) should join me to make sure that everywhere road need to be fixed, let us allocate that-

“People wake up in the morning to go to the polls to vote, and when they vote, they have nothing: People risk their lives to protect their own votes and the least we can do is to develop their places,” the President said. He said his resolution this year is to go to the lawmakers to ensure that everything that the people have requested for on these trips are provided for in the budget.

Earlier, the Electoral District #5 Representative Thomas A. Gosuah had asked the President to help them in their developmental needs in the area.

He had before then extended an apology to the President if there were any reason for which his district was not benefiting from any of his developmental packages.

He also informed the President that Grand Bassa as a county was not an opposition to the government and that it could be seen through the 74.4% of votes the president obtained during the election from the county.

Rep. Gosuah, also mentioned the condition of the roads leading to the district capital and asked the president for his intervention as well. He also called for help in the education and health sectors.

But President Weah said most of the things being requested for was within the powers of the lawmakers to do them because they do the budgetary allotments. He said when they make the allotments and bring them, he will sign it.

Mr. Weah said doing so was easy because the budget derive from the Legislature and he could not understand why they should be asking him to do the things they have the power to do.

However, he asked them to join him because this year he has his own resolution and that is to ensure that the citizens requests are captured in the budget.

Weah: “This year my resolution is to go to the lawmakers that this trip we are on what our people want will have to be in the budget.”



better than the people that voted them into office.

Moving his eyes around the hall in which the town hall meeting was being held, he lamented that the place was not fit for such gathering and that even their own dress code contradicted everything.

Weah:

“Look at this, look at this, look at this, look around you, look at this and look at us, look at us (describing how splendidly dressed up they were as compared to the infrastructure they were sitting in and the environment). Sometimes, we should have conscience and be ashamed of ourselves. This place doesn't represent

everywhere light need to be let us allocate it so our people can be happy.”

The president said if the two branches of government can work together and agreed to fix roads this year and erect street lights the next year, then “the following year you can bluff and put your coatsuit and tie on. And when you are coming the people can say yes, that man fixed our roads, he fixed our street lights.”

Mr. Weah asserted that it was not easy for people to wake up early morning to form long queues just to go to the polls to cast votes for elected officials and risk their lives to protect those votes and have nothing in return.

Cont'd from page 10

“We don't want to

remove myself from there. Mr. President, as we speak LAC only work with us at their will. (But) when their agreement is reviewed their contribution to the community will be mandatory.”

“Mr. President since 1959, there are poor housing facilities, safe drinking water is a problem. Pit

latrine is a problem. While, we are pushing them to make some frantic effort, Mr. President we are also appealing to you,” Rep. Willie noted.

But President Weah explained that it is important that others did not take their responsibilities and jurisdictions and pass it on to

others, suggesting that the power to rectify an agreement rests with the Legislature.

Weah: “I know that the LAC Concession Agreement he asked me to rectify, but I think it is an oversight and I want to correct it. Sir with all due respect, my office cannot rectify anything. It comes from the Parliament

NEC certifies Senator Chea

The National Elections Commission, (NEC) has certificated Mr. Augustine S. Chea of the Coalition for Democratic Change, CDC, as winner of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections in Sinoe County.

The certification of election to Senator Elect Augustine S. Chea preceded the reading of the mandate from the Supreme Court of Liberia affirming the decision of the Board of Commissioners of NEC, declaring Augustine Chea as winner of the Sinoe County Special Senatorial Election, conducted on 8

Lansanah also commended all poll workers, security forces and NEC Staff for ensuring the successful conduct of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Elections.

In remarks, Senator Augustine S. Chea said the 2020 Special Senatorial Elections were one hundred percent conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner. Senator Chea said the biggest message from the 2020 election is that the issue of electoral Laws Reforms cannot be overly emphasized. The Sinoe Senator vows to join other Law Makers to ensure electoral law reforms were instituted.



NEC Boss, Madam Browne Lansanah presents Election Certificate to Senator Chea/CDC/Sinoe County.

December 2020.

The Chairperson of NEC, Davidetta Browne Lansanah presenting the election certificate commended the Liberian government for providing the funds to conduct the 8 December 2020 SSE. However, the NEC Boss reminded the government, that the Commission is still anticipating the speedy disbursement of the demeaning funds to pay Vendors who rendered services to the Commission for the conduct of these elections. Chairperson

In a related development, the Supreme Court of Liberia has reversed the decision of the Board of Commissioners of NEC, declaring Simeon Taylor of the Collaborating Political Parties, CPP as winner of the Special Senatorial Election in Grand Cape Mount County. The Supreme Court in its mandate instructed the NEC to take full jurisdiction of the matter and investigate the issues of elections irregularities, including double registration and driving away of poll workers.

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others, suggesting that the power to rectify an agreement rests with the Legislature.

Weah: “I know that the LAC Concession Agreement he asked me to rectify, but I think it is an oversight and I want to correct it. Sir with all due respect, my office cannot rectify anything. It comes from the Parliament

(Legislature) to rectify everything-even us we have to go to them.

Sachedeva receives Liberia's high honor



By Winston W. Parley

Former Indian honorary consul general in Liberia and philanthropist Mr. Upjit Singh Sachedeva has been honored and decorated by Liberians authorities with the rank of Knight Grand Commander of Humane Order of African Redemption during a cocktail reception held in honor of members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps here.

The event Friday, 23 April in the C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed the end of Mr. Sachedeva's tour of duty in February 2021 after serving in the role for more than two decades.

In a citation read by Liberia's Chief of Protocol Amb. Jervis A. Witherspoon, the government recognizes Mr. Sachedeva as a businessman, philanthropist, humanitarian and an active contributor to the socio-

economic development of the Republic of Liberia.

"You have distinguished yourself before God and humanity because of your many contributions towards uplifting the people of Liberia," the citation reads.

Liberia's Foreign Minister Dee - Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr. says Mr. Sachedeva's service in Liberia spans over two decades.

On behalf of the government, staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in his own name, Mr. Kemayah proffered a toast to the good health, prosperity and future endeavours of Mr. Sachedeva.

The Liberian Foreign Minister also expresses hope that the toast proffered to Mr. Sachedeva will be an extension to the private sector of which Mr. Sachedeva is a part, describing it as the engine of growth.

Mr. Kemayah says traditionally, the Minister of Foreign Affairs hosts a reception for the members of

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Guardiola: It's easier to win trophies at big clubs

Manchester City head coach Pep Guardiola played down yet another piece of silverware after clinching the Carabao Cup, saying it's been easier for him to win due to managing big clubs.

Guardiola won the 25th major trophy of his coaching career on Sunday as Aymeric Laporte's late winner clinched a 1-0 win for City over Tottenham at Wembley.

The Spaniard has experienced major success



across his managerial career, which has spanned from Barcelona to Bayern Munich to Man City.

"It's good. I was in big clubs: Barcelona, Bayern Munich, here. That's why it's easier to do," Guardiola told Sky Sports after being asked about his growing list of managerial accomplishments.

Guardiola became the first manager to win the League Cup in four consecutive seasons on Sunday, while no manager has lifted the trophy

more times than the Spaniard (four - level with Brian Clough, Sir Alex Ferguson and Jose Mourinho).

There will almost certainly be one more trophy added this season and potentially two, as City close in on the Premier League title with a 10-point lead over second-place Manchester United.

Should City win the Premier League, it would be Guardiola's third English league title to go along with three each from Spain and Germany.

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