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Continental News

South Africa court to hear Zuma's jailing appeal

South Africa's highest court has agreed to hear former President Jacob Zuma's application to have a 15-month jail sentence rescinded.

On Tuesday the Constitutional Court found him guilty of contempt for defying its order to appear at an inquiry into corruption. Mr Zuma was given until midnight Sunday to hand himself in or face arrest.

Despite his appeal, Mr Zuma remains at risk of arrest if he does not meet the Sunday deadline, analysts say.

Hundreds of the former president's supporters have gathered outside his homestead in Nkandla, vowing to form a human shield to prevent the country's police service from effecting his arrest.

And the BBC's Nomsa Maseko, outside Mr Zuma's home, says his legal team is working around the clock to keep Mr Zuma out of prison. The Constitutional Court said it would consider

Mr Zuma's the case on 12 July, and in the meantime, an appeal against the arrest order is expected to be heard by the high court of KwaZulu-Natal province on Tuesday. Speaking to supporters, Mr Zuma warned of "a messy confrontation" if police tried to arrest him. He alleges the courts are being used to settle political scores.

"The fact that I'll be spending

the night at my home means my lawyers are defending democracy," he added.

The 79-year-old political veteran was ousted in 2018 after nine years in power, amid corruption allegations. Businessmen were accused of conspiring with politicians to influence the decision-making process.

But Mr Zuma has

repeatedly said that he is the victim of a political conspiracy. He has also refused to co-operate with investigations into wrongdoing during his tenure.

The former president testified only once at the inquiry into what has become known as "state capture" but then refused to appear subsequently.

In a separate legal matter, Mr Zuma pleaded not guilty last month in a corruption trial involving a \$5bn (£3bn) arms deal from the 1990s. "A messy confrontation would've ensued if police dared to arrest me", said Jacob Zuma to hundreds of his supporters who erupted in loud cheers and whistling.

His supporters dressed in Zulu traditional outfits, others

in ANC T-shirts with his face on them, have been camping outside his home in Nkandla to form a human shield to prevent him from being arrested ever since the courts ruled Mr Zuma should be jailed.

The gathering by his supporters is actually illegal under the country's level 4 regulations aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19.

But there are no police officers in sight to disperse the gathering, leading many to say that the former president is above the law and that justice is not seen to be done when it comes to powerful politicians.

Mr Zuma has repeatedly told his supporters that he doesn't fear imprisonment, but behind the scenes his legal team is working around the clock to keep him out. BBC



Former President Zuma has denied the corruption charges against him, saying they're politically motivated

UN warns 400,000 suffering famine in Ethiopia

Recent fighting in the Tigray region of Ethiopia has resulted in a famine that is now affecting more than 400,000 people, UN officials say. In its first public meeting on the crisis, members of the UN Security Council warned that as many as 33,000 children were severely malnourished.

Officials said that a further 1.8m people were on the brink of famine as a result of

the eight-month conflict.

They also warned of further clashes despite the declaration of a ceasefire. The Ethiopian government, which has been fighting regional forces in Tigray, declared a unilateral ceasefire on Monday. However, rebels vowed to drive their "enemies" from the region and there have been reports of sporadic clashes as pressure builds internationally for all sides in the conflict to pull back. The fighting

between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and government forces has already left thousands of people dead and more than two million people have been displaced.

All sides in the conflict have been accused of carrying out mass killings and human rights violations.

On Friday, several thousand captured Ethiopian soldiers were paraded through the streets of the Tigrayan regional capital Mekelle. On Friday, the UN's acting humanitarian aid chief told members of the Security Council at a meeting in New York that the situation in Tigray had deteriorated dramatically in recent weeks.

The region was experiencing "the worst famine situation we have seen in decades", Ramesh Rajasingham said.

"Close to 5.2 million people still require humanitarian assistance - the great majority of them women and children," he added.

The Ethiopian government has denied allegations that it is blocking aid after Tigrayan rebels took control of much of the northern

Migrant boat sinks off Tunisia drowning 43

Forty-three migrants have drowned after their boat sank off Tunisia, the Tunisian Red Crescent says.

The migrants had set off from the Libyan port of Zuwara and were attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. A further 84 were rescued by the Tunisian navy, said the head of Tunisia's Red Crescent head Mongi Slim.

Summer weather has seen an increase in migrants trying to reach Europe from north Africa.

The boat, which set sail on Monday night, was carrying people from Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Bangladesh, the Red Crescent said. The vessel capsized after its engine broke down.

Those rescued, off the Tunisian fishing port of Zarzis, were aged between three and



40, according to Tunisia's defence ministry. The Tunisian Red Crescent gave them food and drink while looking for space to house them for the required Covid isolation period, local media radio reported. Libya has been a key transit point for migrants from many countries trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean.

But Tunisia has also become a major hub and has called on the European Union to deal with migration by helping fight poverty in Africa. BBC



Fighting between the Ethiopian government and forces in its northern Tigray region has thrown the country into turmoil

region earlier this week.

The UN political affairs chief, Rosemary DiCarlo, told the meeting that further clashes were likely between Tigrayan forces, the Tigray Defence Forces (TDF), and Ethiopian troops, supported by Eritrean soldiers and Amhara regional forces. "There is potential for more confrontations and a swift deterioration in the security situation which is extremely concerning," she

said, adding: "We urge the TDF to endorse the ceasefire immediately and completely." The fighting began last November, when rebels rejected political reforms and captured army bases. Government forces captured Mekelle later that month.

Following a rapid offensive, rebels retook Mekelle and earlier this week entered the town of Shire, about 140km (90 miles) to the north-west, according to UN officials. BBC

EDITORIAL

Going from bad to worse

ALL IS NOT well in Liberia, as the daily confirmed cases of the corona virus among the population are nearly 200 and death keeps increasing. Funeral homes are overwhelmed by dead bodies, while caskets are in short supply.

ALREADY, LIBERIA HAS been placed at Level 4 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States for being a country with very high COVID-19 confirmed cases. The country gradually seems to be at the brink of succumbing to the pandemic, if concerted effort is not taken immediately.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN the country keep assuring the public that they are up to the task, having announced protocol and preventive measures. However, the reality on the ground with fresh surging cases and deaths point to the contrary. It is a fact that soldiers fighting at the frontline would never give up until the last combatant dies but the people of Liberia don't want to be decapitated or led to the slaughterhouse.

WE BELIEVE STRONGLY that rapid testing is the surest way to reverse the current trend than to wait for infected patients to be taken to Star Base for oxygen that is scarcely available. Liberia cannot contain the resurgence of the coronavirus unless massive rapid testing campaign is launched across the entire country.

IN THIS FIGHT, we need all hands on deck, including experts that are not presently in government. This is not a fight for the Minister of Health Doctor Wilehmina S. Jallah and her staff at NPHIL or the Incident Management System. All Liberians should join the fight to defeat COVID-19.

IT IS IN this light that we welcome the US\$150,000 commitment from the Cummings Africa Foundation towards our health crisis, joining the Government of Liberia to reach out to hospitals and health centers particularly and the citizenry generally.

AS MR. ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS, founder of the Foundation and leader of the opposition Alternative National Congress (ANC) said last week while announcing the gesture, Liberia is under serious threat right now, and unless we join hands to do our very best for one another, all of us will continue to be at risk, even if we hide ourselves in the homes.

BESIDES, THOSE LEADING the fight from the government side should move away from lip-service and demonstrate political will. We demand vigilance at the Roberts International Airport, seaports and land borders to curtailing the resurgence.

BY DOING SO, we will get ahead of the curve and erect relevant checkpoints that could halt the spread, particularly in the counties. The health system lacks capacity to respond to any overwhelming situation outside Montserrado County, when even the seat of government itself is seriously challenged.

LET THIS NOT be misconstrued that we are being pessimistic here. This is an honest attempt to present the grim reality so that all Liberians would wake up from their slumber, state of denial and face the danger ahead of us as a people. We need to wear our masks properly, observe social distance, wash our hands regularly and avoid mass gathering or crowded places, among others, to halt the spread.

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COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

Under the Latin American Volcano

CAMBRIDGE - The current disconnect between market calm and underlying social tensions is perhaps nowhere more acute than in Latin America. The question is how much longer this glaring dissonance can continue.

For now, the region's economic data keep improving, and debt markets remain eerily unperturbed. But seething anger is spilling out into the streets, particularly (but not only) in Colombia. And with the rate of new daily COVID-19 cases in Latin America already four times higher than the emerging-market median, even as a third wave of the pandemic sets in, the region's 650 million people face an unfolding humanitarian disaster.

As political uncertainty rises, capital investment has stalled in a region already beset by low productivity growth. Even worse, a generation of Latin America's children have lost nearly a year and a half of schooling, further undermining hopes of achieving educational catchup with Asia, much less the United States.

For Cuba, Russia, and China, which already have a beachhead in Venezuela, the pandemic presents an opportunity to make further inroads. Markets seem relieved that the apparent winner of Peru's presidential election, Pedro Castillo, a Marxist, appears to have at least a couple of mainstream economic advisers, but it remains to be seen what real influence they will have.

Moreover, Latin American economic data so far this year are good only in the sense that they are not as awful as in 2020, when output fell by 7%. In April, the International Monetary Fund forecast that the region's GDP would grow by 4.6% in 2021; more recent estimates are closer to 6%. But in per capita terms - now understood as a better way to measure recovery from deep economic crises - most Latin American economies will not return to pre-pandemic levels until well into 2022, or beyond.

Worryingly, much of the region's real growth this year stems from rising commodity prices fueled by recovery elsewhere, not from genuine productivity improvements that will sustain income through the commodity cycle. To make matters worse, low-income households have been hit especially hard by the pandemic and the associated economic downturn.

To understand Latin America's policy challenges, we need only look at its two largest economies, Brazil and Mexico, which together account for more than half of the region's output. Superficially, they are governed by polar opposites: Brazil by right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, and Mexico by left-wing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (widely known as AMLO). But the two men are similar in important ways.

While AMLO's political instincts are rooted in the radical worldview of the 1970s, and Bolsonaro seems nostalgic for Brazil's era of military rule, both are erratic autocrats. Moreover, both remain reasonably popular despite their catastrophic mishandling of the

pandemic and a rash of other ill-advised economic decisions. AMLO canceled Mexico City's badly needed new airport project soon after taking office in late 2018, despite the fact that it was well underway. And although he campaigned on a promise of rapid economic growth, Mexico's GDP was shrinking even before the pandemic - by 0.1% in 2019.

Bolsonaro, when he is not threatening to raze the Amazon, has continued to be successful in blaming Brazil's problems on the left-wing opposition Workers' Party (PT) that governed the country until 2016. Several of the PT's leaders, including former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, were jailed for corruption.

Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that, in a few years' time, Brazil will again have a left-wing president - perhaps Lula, whose convictions were overturned in March - while Mexico is back in the hands of a centrist. The two countries' future policy course is thus hard to predict.

Why aren't debt markets spooked by all this uncertainty? In part, it is because both countries have remained fairly conservative in their debt management. True, Brazil's government debt is projected to reach nearly 100% of GDP this year. But it is mostly denominated in local currency, and domestic residents hold as much as 90% of the total, up from 80% five years ago. Even corporate foreign borrowing has been contained, with the country's external debt still only around 40% of GDP.

Mexico's public debt is lower than Brazil's, at 60% of GDP. For all his radicalism, AMLO has so far been a fiscal conservative, much as Lula was in Brazil. The lesson that debt crises can derail a populist revolution has been well learned.

True, governments across the region have mounted a surprisingly robust macroeconomic response to the pandemic. But they have far less scope than the US to continue using deficit finance. To raise spending and tackle inequality on a sustainable basis, Latin American countries must also find a way to increase budget revenues. Ironically, the protests in Colombia began not in response to benefit cuts, but because the government tried to raise taxes on the middle class to provide more and better pandemic relief to the country's poorest citizens. Governments seeking to redistribute income need to raise taxes on better-off citizens rather than temporarily paper over problems with additional debt.

In recent decades, the US has been reluctant to become deeply engaged in resolving Latin America's problems, but perhaps this will change. For starters, the region needs massive vaccine assistance in order to get back on its feet. America can also help by strengthening trade - especially by addressing pandemic-induced bottlenecks and removing lingering Trump-era protectionist measures.

Most of Latin America is still far from the horrific conditions prevailing in Venezuela, where output has fallen by a staggering 75% since 2013. But, given the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe there, and the specter of political instability elsewhere, investors should not take a sustained economic recovery for granted.

OPINION

By Giulio Boccaletti

The Environmental Republic

LONDON - President Joe Biden's administration is working hard to reclaim America's role as a global leader in sustainable development. But success will depend on whether it can lay the political foundation for a new relationship between society and the environment.

Activists and policymakers alike are demanding more investment in technologies to reduce the environmental footprint of economic activities, limit extraction of finite resources, and curb pollution. There is a long list of "solutions" on offer - from new energy sources and carbon capture and sequestration to the oldest technology of all: trees. But the biggest challenge is not the technology; it is political institutions.

Despite its flaws, America is still the most successful example of self-government in recorded history. But as a model republic, it faces the challenge of accommodating and reconciling the wide diversity of its citizens' imagined futures. Finding common ground between the poles of progressive techno-utopianism and reactionary rural romanticism will not be easy. The key is to produce a synthesis that can sustain a civic contract strong enough to survive both another industrial revolution and environmental changes on a scale beyond anything human civilizations have experienced since becoming sedentary 10,000 years ago.

In this quest for a new settlement, our relationship with water offers a useful guide. Ever since the shift from hunter-gatherer societies to agricultural settlements - when people effectively chose to stand still in a world of moving water - human institutions have evolved in a dialectical relationship with the environment. While nature brought floods, storms, and droughts, we devised ways to weather those conditions, extracting surpluses from parched landscapes and harnessing rivers for transportation and power.

The modern republican project emerged from this older dialectic between human civilization and nature. It has been mediated by medieval jurists, re-interpreted by early-modern humanists, and disrupted by generations of radicals - from the eighteenth-century revolutionaries to the twentieth-century anti-imperialists - demanding enfranchisement.

As Thomas Paine observed, a central concern of the newly independent American republic was always going to be its unique territory and physical landscape. Bestriding an entire continent, the United States has had to learn to manage a wide array of geographic conditions, all while striking a balance between individual liberty and collective agency.

In 1784, for example, George Washington incorporated the Potomac Company to pursue inland navigation beyond the Appalachians, thereby preventing those territories from becoming too dependent on the port of Spanish-controlled New Orleans. But this response to a geographical problem created a political one. Shipping on the Potomac routed commerce across state lines, and thus required freedom of navigation. But the deeply libertarian Articles of Confederation contained no provision to arbitrate commercial disputes.

To settle the matter, Washington convened a meeting at his estate on the banks of the Potomac, where those in attendance produced the eponymous Mount Vernon Compact. Then, James Madison organized a similar conference of all the states in Annapolis, where delegates concluded that a constitutional convention should be held in Philadelphia. A problem of navigation had turned into one of governance and, ultimately, of constitutional settlement.

Over time, and through judicial review, inland navigation became a fully federal matter, especially as the young country began to wrestle with its physical features to sustain its economic development. In the early nineteenth century, countless canal companies emerged along the Eastern Seaboard. Most did not have the capital to maintain the hundreds of locks needed to overcome steep gradients. But because they connected the country, they were too important to lose, and thus came to be financed with state bonds.

By the 1830s, these canal and river works accounted for over half of states' debt. And when the panic of 1837 hit, many of these companies went bankrupt, dragging state treasuries with them (a precursor to the "doom loops" witnessed in more recent financial crises).

Following these earlier experiments, the US federal government's role in regulating, financing, and developing large water infrastructure grew substantially, especially during the twentieth century. In the Progressive Era, and then under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, a new modernist republic evolved, featuring a greatly expanded role for the state. Rivers became blueprints for electrification and economic development more broadly, offering a counterpoint to the centrally managed industrialization of the Soviet Union.

In the event, America's model looked so successful that it convinced most of the rest of the world also to build thousands of dams, reservoirs, and canals, ultimately replumbing the global landscape. As a result, most of us in wealthy industrialized countries have been able to forget that the planet is subject to extraordinary climate variability.

After all, our daily experience is almost entirely artificial, the product of republican institutions that underwrote a vast stock of water infrastructure designed to control nature and bend it to our needs. Contemporary, urbanized, technological life would be impossible if people still had to worry about flooding or finding the next bucket of water (concerns that still burden billions of people).

The twentieth-century conquest of nature is the legacy of a republican project that adapted to the conditions of industrial modernity. What corresponding political project will the age of climate change bring? At a time of resurgent authoritarianism around the world, it is crucial to show why a democratic republic is still the best vehicle to balance individual agency and collective action in confronting existential challenges.

Much will depend on whether the US is capable of another "constitutional moment," defined by the Yale law professor Bruce Ackerman as a historical event that elicits elevated and sustained popular attention to the role of the state in a country's economic and social life. Biden's efforts to transform America in pursuit of a net-zero economy may well become a constitutional moment. But the task calls for more than supporting new technologies and drawing up clever plans. Biden must shepherd through a new civic contract that reflects a representative synthesis of the commonwealth's diverse aspirations and values.

The stakes could not be higher. America's great challenge - and its opportunity - is to usher in the first environmental republic.

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OP-ED

By Shashi Tharoor

India Looks West

NEW DELHI - Recent conciliatory moves by India's nationalist government on its western flank have rightly aroused global interest. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's calculus appears relatively simple. Faced with continued Chinese aggression on India's northern frontier and a likely Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan, improving relations on the country's western flank, with Pakistan, seems prudent.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of secret back-channel talks between Indian and Pakistani security officials - facilitated by the United Arab Emirates - aimed at easing bilateral tensions. A February 2021 ceasefire along the Line of Control separating Indian and Pakistani forces in the disputed Kashmir region has so far held, permitting an atmosphere of near-normalcy in the area.

India has also been talking to the Taliban, which it long derided as surrogates for the Pakistani army, reflecting the increasing likelihood that the mullahs will reclaim power in Kabul following the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan in September. Furthermore, India has kept two of its consulates in Afghanistan closed since last year, a long-standing Pakistani demand that it had resisted for two decades.

And in late June, Modi's government held surprisingly amicable talks in New Delhi with 14 mainstream Kashmiri political leaders. Almost all of them had been arrested during the government's crackdown in the state of Jammu and Kashmir that began in August 2019, and had been demonized by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party since then.

All of this points to a policy shift by a government conscious of the pressures on India's northern frontier. Chinese troops have failed to disengage since the spring of 2020, when they advanced across disputed territory in the Ladakh region and later provoked a military encounter that took the lives of 20 Indian soldiers. With China doggedly refusing to withdraw, despite 11 rounds of talks, India's insistence on restoring the status quo ante looks increasingly forlorn.

Hostility with China is likely to endure, in which case India cannot afford escalating tensions to its west. Indian-Pakistani relations are at their lowest level in recent times, owing to a series of incidents, beginning with the terrorist attack on Mumbai in November 2008 and culminating in the 2019 Indian air strike on Balakot in Pakistan. And the Indian government outraged Pakistan with its August 2019 decision to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its constitutionally guaranteed autonomy and reduce its status to a "union territory," directly administered from Delhi. The Pakistani government subsequently mounted a worldwide campaign, working especially with Islamic countries but also at the United Nations, to censure India and force it to rescind the move.

Modi had remained implacable until recently, so the three-and-a-half-hour meeting with Kashmiri leaders was a surprise development. The leaders, who included four former chief ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, spanned the spectrum of the region's main political parties. The Modi government had previously denounced some of them as corrupt dynasts, accusing them of milking the state for their own benefit. But now they were welcomed with sweet words and deferential protocol by Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah (India's second most powerful politician), and other senior officials.

The government's crackdown in Jammu and Kashmir has not achieved any of its proclaimed objectives - namely, to inaugurate a new era of peace and development, eliminate terrorism, break the political grip of a few families, and hasten the region's integration with the rest of the country. But it would be wrong to see the government's recent talks with the Kashmiri leaders as an admission of defeat.

The discussions focused on three issues. One was an agreement to carry out, with the Kashmiri parties' cooperation, a new demarcation of the state's political constituencies, which will likely enhance the Jammu region's representation in the state assembly. The other agenda items were elections across Jammu and Kashmir, and restoration of its statehood.

Rather than a defeat for the Indian government, therefore, the talks seem to have shifted the goalposts. The earth-shattering news in August 2019 was the abolition of Article 370 of India's constitution, which guaranteed Jammu and Kashmir's special autonomous status. But that matter was not even discussed, because it was deemed to be sub judice (petitions on the matter are pending before the Supreme Court). Instead, the main issue was restoration of statehood, which the government had in any case promised "at an appropriate time."

This could lead to a politically viable trade-off, whereby the central government gives Jammu and Kashmir statehood if state leaders agree to go quiet on Article 370 and leave the matter to the judiciary. If that happens, as seems likely, Kashmiris will have the illusion of wresting a concession while the Modi government's real victory - the revocation of autonomy two years ago - goes unchallenged by the Kashmiri parties.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's global campaign against India to restore the state's autonomy has gone nowhere. Pakistan's leaders have their own reasons for wanting to resume dialogue with India, but they needed to see some movement from Modi's government to justify it. Talks with Kashmiri leaders leading to something like the restoration of statehood may constitute enough progress to warrant further discussions. The Indian government will thus chalk up another win if it enters new bilateral talks without making any real concession on the preconditions that Pakistan has been loudly declaiming for two years.

These recent developments are early moves in a slowly unfolding regional chess game. The situation in Afghanistan, the implications of China's close economic ties with Pakistan through the Belt and Road Initiative, and the evolution of the insurgencies led by both the Afghan Taliban and its Pakistani equivalent, have yet to play themselves out. Simmering Kashmiri militancy could boil over, while Pakistan - if it is unable or unwilling to stem terror attacks from its territory on Indian targets - could again prove duplicitous in its peace overtures.

There are too many unknowns for any side to have victory in sight. But for now, at least, India appears to be making the right moves.

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FEATURE

ARTICLE

MRU takes awareness on Land and water resources management to Western Liberia

By Mark Dahn

About 20 participants who took part in the training say they are now aware of some harms that do to the environment while farming and mining [photo: Mark Dahn/LPR]

The Mano River Secretariat has concluded a day-long engagement dialogue increasing the understanding of local Liberia and Sierra Leone

local farmer in Grand Cape Mount.

Blama added that he like many other farmers were not aware of the many harms that they were posing to the forest while doing their farming business but vowed to utilize the knowledge acquired and share such to other farmers.

Mr. Kromah hopes that with the new knowledge he might become a successful small skill miner while avoiding land degradation and pollution of the environment

Pollution blames on lack of knowledge

Meanwhile a local authority in Grand Cape Mount County said the lack of constant awareness is responsible for harms being created to the environment resulting from small scale mining.

Madam Jamiatu K. Watson, Paramount Chief of Porkpa District said routine awareness as was done by the Mano River Union Secretariat is key to make residents aware of the danger they pose to the environment during mining, farming and fishing.

She stressed the need for refilling of mining pits and random burning of forest for farming purposes in order to avoid land degradation in the MRU basin.

Paramount chief Watson was buttressed by Mano River Kongo Township commissioner Gegbay Seituah who admonished his compatriots to work together in safeguarding the environment.

Adoulaye Doumba BRIDGE Project coordinator urged residents in the MRU basin to maintain their environment for the future generation

Commissioner Seituah however admitted that pollution is a serious problem near the Mano River as local miners continue to mine without regard to environmental safeguard.

The day long awareness is part of activities of the MRU new project named and styled Building River Dialogue and Governance (BRIDGE) project that is focus on sustainable water resource management and land degradation in the region.

About 20 participants from Porkpa District in Grand Cape Mount County converged in the



citizens living along the Mano River on sustainable fisheries, farming and mining practices.

The awareness was intended to educate people living along the Mano River which borders Liberia and Sierra Leone to promote cross border water resource management to mitigate practices leading to climate change.

The awareness was also centered of promoting sustainable land use practice. Along the Mano River there is a huge concentration of unregulated and illicit small scale mining activities which are negatively impacting the soil.

The Coordinator of the Mano River Union Building River Dialogue and Governance-BRIDGE Project in Liberia and Sierra Leone Abdoulaye Doumba said the essence of the project is to ensure that the Mano River ecosystem remain on track.

Mr. Doumba recognized the willingness of the locals in Grand Cape on the Liberian side of the River for the resolve to safeguard their environment in the interest of the sub-region.

He, however, encouraged communities along the Mano River to help protect the environment for today and future generation.

Residents around this area are mainly involved with subsistence farming, fishing and small scale mining in support of their livelihood.

The Residents, mainly farmers, say they were unaware of some of the things coming out of the awareness but said with the MRU awareness, they will now engage into practices that will improve on the environment.

“Thank God that we have now realized our mistakes, because many of us didn’t know that we’re doing the wrong thing”, said Blama Dagar, a

Residents along the Mano River Union basin are mostly farmers and miners

“We think we were using the correct method, but from the training today, I can say we will do the right thing from now on”, Blama further added.

Locals in Grand Cape Mount County near the Sierra



Leone -Liberia border make their living by farming, mining and fish harvesting at small skill level.

New mining knowledge

Alhaji Kromah, who make living through mining, described the MRU awareness workshop in Mano River Kongo, as an ‘added advantage’ to do his business the better and safer way that will pose no harm to the environment.

Bordering town of Mano River Kongo to participate in the one day awareness activities.

The MRU countries consists of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast working together for the common good. Source -Liberia public radio

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Pregnant woman and 3 children escape death

A pregnant woman and her three children have narrowly escaped death after a tree slopping over Crown Hill community fell on their two bedrooms house in Slipway community airstrip, destroying the premises on Saturday, July 3, 2021 around

were completely destroyed. According to her, nothing happened to her and the children, but they are currently displaced. She appealed to Representative Moses Acarous Gray who represents Montserrado County District#8

She laments that they cannot afford to rent a place or to be displaced during this rainy season. Meanwhile, one of the community elders, Jeremiah Brown said, the incident poses serious threat to residents of the Slipway community.

Elder Brown notes that Madam Dweh and her three children are now displaced, so central government and the District #8 lawmaker should intervene to resettle them.

He recalls that successive governments had promised to relocate residents of the Slipway airstrip community, but this is has not been realized yet.

He says there is need for government to build houses to relocate residents of the airport area in the community, noting that every rainy season such disaster happens.

For his part, the Chairman of the Slipway and Crown Hill communities, Engineer Isaac Krah, called on government for help to prevent such calamity in the future.

Engineer Krah said a temporary place has been made available for Madam Dweh and her children, but they need help. *-Editing by Jonathan Browne*



2:00 a.m. Madam Decontee Dweh narrates the tree fell on the house while she and her children were at sleep. She explains, if it were not for God's divine intervention, they would have died, adding that everything in the rooms

and humanitarians, including local and international organizations to come to their aid. Madam Dweh appealed to President George Manneh Weah and the government for assistance to enable them recover from the disaster.

Pres. Weah applauds U.S. on 245th Independence celebration

President George Manneh Weah has congratulated the Government and People of the United States of America on the occasion commemorating the 245th Independence Anniversary of that country.

In the message to his United States counterpart Joseph R. Biden, President Weah, on behalf of Liberia,

and cooperation subsisting between our two countries and peoples, which continue to be enhanced," a release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs quotes President Weah as saying.

According to the Foreign Ministry release, President Weah indicated that his government will continue to engage



extended heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to the Government and People of the United States as they celebrate this historic milestone.

"As you and the people of the United States commemorate another milestone in your national existence, we recall vividly the historic bond of friendship

positively with the United States in order to build on the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

President Weah hoped and prayed that the Almighty God will continue to endow President Biden with abundant wisdom, good health and happiness as he steers the affairs of the United States.

Ellen joins former African leaders: speak out against UK withdrawal of Neglected Tropical Disease Funding

Former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has joined 32 other former heads of state to speak out against UK withdrawal of Neglected Tropical Disease Funding.

In a tweet Saturday July 3, 2021, Mrs. Sirleaf wrote that "withdrawing neglected tropical disease funding undermines years of progress toward eliminating #NTDs in Africa."

"I joined 32 other former heads of state to encourage continued interventions to avoid further loss of life to these diseases. #BbeatNTDs." Mrs. Sirleaf noted

The 33 former African heads of states issued a statement at the end of June appealing for international solidarity in response to the UK's withdrawal of neglected tropical disease funding.

The UK government decided to withdraw £150 million in funding to tackle these diseases, money which



they say would have delivered over 250 million treatments this year alone.

The UK's decision effectively abandons over 200 million of Africa's poorest and most vulnerable people that it promised to support. Out of the 26 countries affected by these

aid cuts, 24 are in Africa, according to a document.

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are reported to be a global success story, with 43 countries having eliminated an NTD.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) like blinding

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trachoma and intestinal worms are preventable and treatable, yet they still affect 1.7 billion people around the world. By preventing children from going to school and adults from being able to work, NTDs trap individuals and whole communities in cycles of extreme poverty.

The UK's decision to withdraw funding effectively abandons over 200 million of Africa's poorest and most vulnerable people that it promised to support. Out of the 26 countries affected by these aid cuts, 24 are in Africa.

Reports say the cuts will mean exiting from supporting interventions against visceral leishmaniasis - a fatal disease

which causes swelling of the spleen and liver, 50% of the global burden of which is in East Africa. Similarly, loss of funding to tackle diseases like Guinea worm, blinding trachoma and elephantiasis could cause unnecessary setbacks for the poorest communities in Africa.

In a statement from the Forum for Former African Heads of State and Government, the former heads of state note that the impact "should be evaded through the collective efforts at national, sub-regional and continental levels".

Full text of the statement from the Forum for Former African Heads of State and

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Human rights lawyer alarms over health situation

Human rights lawyer Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe has expressed concerns over the alarming deterioration of the healthcare situation in

recent days has caused alarm among many in the population.

In a press statement issued over the weekend, the Human right lawyer called on the

capital has virtually collapsed.

Cllr. Gongloe noted that the mounting death toll just in the month of June calls for more vigorous actions that go beyond the recent declaration of the Ministry of Health. He said the government must put in place measures that will respond to the looming crisis in a more serious way.

He advised that the government must now channel much needed resources into establishing Covid-19 field treatment centers in major population centers around Monrovia and other parts of the country as a mean of alleviating the stress on the country's overburdened health system.

He called on members of the legislature to transfer their portions of the US\$15,000 they recently received in a pool fund that will serve as initial capital for the construction of field hospitals. He also called on the president and his subordinates to equally avoid the wastage of state resources and channel such savings toward the alleviation of the health crisis the country is facing.



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

Liberia. Cllr, Gongloe feared that the rise in Covid-19 infection coupled with the unexplained health-related deaths of several people in

Liberian Government to be more robust in the fight against the Coronavirus especially in the context of reports that the health system in the country's

Sa/Leone Independent Electoral Commission visits NEC

An eight member delegation from the Independent National Electoral Commission, (NEC-Sierra Leone) arrives in Liberia Tuesday for a four-day Study Tour to promote Electoral Management Bodies' (EMB) integration in the Mono River Union Sub-region.

The 8-member Sierra Leone delegation is headed by the Chief Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone, Mohamed K. Konneh.

Other members of the NEC-Sierra Leone delegation are, Electoral Commissioner, Marian Sia Nyuma-Moijueh, the Executive Assistant to the head of delegation, Alex Saffa, and Assistant Executive Secretary-II, Gladys Nancy John.

The Director of External Relations, Albert Massaquoi, Director of Operations, Mohamed Turay, Director of Gender and Disability, Christinana O' reilly and the Director of ICT Mbekey Amara are the rest of the NEC-Sierra

Leone delegation.

A statement from NEC-Liberia Sunday, quotes a communication from NEC-Sierra Leone as saying, the objectives of the Study Tour

development of bilateral engagement forum of electoral experts in the Sub-region.

The NEC-Liberia statement said other objectives of the Study Tour of NEC-Sierra Leone include, encouraging



including learning and acquiring skills on electoral best practices from other EMB (s), such as result and electoral risk managements and discussions on the

the use of generic electoral materials and other resources amongst EMB (s) within the sub-region and the sharing of electoral ideas and expertise

NEC reaffirms CPP Simeon Taylor's victory

The National Elections Commission or NEC reaffirms CPP Simeon Taylor's victory of Friday following months of legal dispute.

The Hearing Officer in the Grand Cape Mounty County electoral dispute case, Atty. Swaray Friday, reaffirms the court's earlier decision, declaring Mr. Simeon Taylor of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP), as of the winner of the 8 December 2020 Special Senatorial Election in Grand Cape Mount County.

Day.

Atty. Swaray said, the complainant did not proof through the preponderance of evidence that the signatures of poll watchers of Hon. Victor Watson were forged, neither did they proof that Mr. Simeon Taylor and his gangsters stopped their agents from entering polling places to observe the counting after polls were closed on Election Day.

The Hearing Officer said because the complainant, Victor Watson and his legal team failed



Cllr. Tiawan Saye Gongloe

But the Pro-Tempore Albert T. Chie Watson, through his legal team, has accepted the ruling and announced an appeal to the Board of Commissioners, (BOC) of the National Elections Commission, (NEC).

In his ruling the Hearing Officer, Atty. Swaray said, the complainant, Victor Watson has failed through the preponderance evidence to proof the allegations that Mr. Simeon Taylor voted two times and that there were pre-marked ballots during Election

verwhelming evidence to proof their allegations, the Administrative Hearing has no other ruling but to dismiss and denied their motion as pray for.

Meanwhile, the Hearing Officer of the National Elections Commission, Atty. Swaray has noted the exception Mr. Victor Watson, through his legal team, led by Cllr. Salibu Swary and granted the appeal to the Board of Commissioners, as a matter of law.

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between NEC-Liberia and NEC-Sierra Leone.

NEC-Liberia according to the communication further said, NEC-Sierra Leone hopes that the expectations of the outcome of the study tour, a strategic Partnership between the two EMB (s) in the integration of electoral ideas,

resources and expertise, acquisition of skills on electoral best practices from both institutions in key and strategic areas, in the spirit of collaboration in promoting the ideas and objectives of the Electoral Commissions Network, ECONEC and ECOWAS will be achieved.

Français

Covid-19 : l'armée libérienne mise en état d'alerte maximale

Les soldats des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) ont été mis en état d'alerte dans le cadre de la lutte contre la propagation du coronavirus dans le pays.

Le chef d'état-major de l'armée, le général de division Prince Charles Johnson III, a déclaré que l'infanterie et les garde-côtes libériens ont été activés afin de soutenir les autorités sanitaires en cas de besoin.

« Nous sommes en état d'alerte juste au cas où les autorités sanitaires auront besoin de nous, c'est une façon pour nous de contribuer à la lutte. Nous sommes prêts à être déployés partout où le besoin se fera sentir pour arrêter la propagation », a dit jeudi le général Johnson lors d'une émission-débat en direct sur la radio OK FM à Monrovia.

Selon le général Johnson, l'armée a déjà réactivé son unité médicale et elle est prête à intervenir pour aider le ministère de la Santé et l'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL).

Dans l'ensemble, le Libéria a enregistré 4 098 cas actifs et un peu plus de 120 décès dus au coronavirus au total du début de la crise en mars 2020 jusqu'à ce jour. La troisième vague du virus est considérée comme étant plus meurtrière que les deux premières de l'année dernière. Les autorités sanitaires continuent de demander aux populations de prendre au sérieux les mesures sanitaires mises en place et de se faire

vacciner.

Une équipe du ministère de la Santé a visité l'hôpital militaire 14 qui était l'un des lieux de traitement de la Covid-19 lors des vagues précédentes du coronavirus, à en croire le chef de l'état-major de l'armée libérienne.

« Nous avons déjà construit des tentes à l'Aéroport International Roberts. Je

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Georges Weah en France pour féliciter son fils Timothy Weah

George Weah, actuel président du Libéria, a rendu visite, vendredi, à son fils Timothy Weah, champion de France cette saison avec Lille.

Les champions de France ont reçu la visite de George Weah au Domaine de Luchin

A un mois du début de la saison prochaine, avec le Trophée des Champions à disputer contre le Paris Saint-Germain le dimanche 1er août, George Weah a visité le centre d'entraînement lillois avec son fils Timothy Weah et

Sylvain Armand, coordinateur sportif du LOSC.

"Je suis là pour voir le lieu de travail de mon fils", a informé l'ancienne gloire du football africain. Occasion pour le chef de l'Etat libérien de découvrir où évolue son fils qui vient de remporter son quatrième titre de champion, et qui lui a permis de donner quelques conseils au numéro 22 lillois.

« Aujourd'hui c'est Timothy Weah. George Weah a fait son travail, c'est passé. Maintenant, c'est Timothy Weah et j'espère qu'il va saisir cette opportunité

pour se faire un nom. Bonne chance mon fils », a-t-il déclaré.

Accompagné de sa délégation présidentielle, le Ballon d'Or 1995 a fait le tour des installations du LOSC qui n'a toujours pas trouvé son entraîneur pour la saison prochaine.

"Mister George Weah était notre invité de marque aujourd'hui au Domaine de Luchin", a tweeté le club français.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



Éditorial

COVID-19 : Le gouvernement devrait aller au-delà des simples mesures barrières

Le fait que le gouvernement du Libéria, par l'intermédiaire du ministère de la Santé, a publié la semaine dernière des directives nationales révisées sur la COVID-19 après l'augmentation du nombre de décès et des personnes infectées au quotidien montre que le gouvernement joue du bout des lèvres avec le peuple libérien quant à la gestion de la pandémie.

C'est un secret de polichinelle que les autorités ici, même au plus haut niveau, rechignent à appliquer les mesures de prévention de la COVID, en encourageant des rassemblements de masse, comme c'est le cas lors de la tournée nationale du président George Weah au cours des trois à quatre derniers mois, où les barrières, la distanciation sociale, le lavage des mains et le port des masques ont été totalement ignorés.

La résurgence du virus au Libéria est attribuée à une nouvelle variante indienne qui est plus mortelle que celle qui venait de Wuhan, en Chine, en 2019.

En moins d'un mois, le taux de mortalité n'est pas seulement alarmant, mais effrayant.

Avec des frontières poreuses et mal surveillées à travers le pays, associées à une sécurité plutôt détendue au principal aéroport international Roberts qui a été témoin d'un afflux de visiteurs étrangers, en particulier d'Inde et d'autres pays asiatiques au cours de cette même période, on devrait s'attendre au pire. Ce n'était qu'une question de temps.

Maintenant, nous voici en tant que nation, toutes les lumières de toute la région de la CEDEAO étant braquées sur nous. Nous sommes désormais considérés comme ceux qui représentent un risque pour les 14 autres États membres.

Les mesures nationales révisées publiées dernièrement sont ainsi dénuées de sens. Il faut au contraire des mesures strictes à tous les niveaux sans crainte ni faveur. Il nous faut un leadership exemplaire cette fois-ci si nous voulons réussir ce combat.

L'un des problèmes critiques des directives qui continuent de faire l'objet de critiques est d'autoriser le maintien de l'ouverture des lieux de rassemblement comme les bars et les boîtes de nuit jusqu'à 21h00 ! C'est comme si on donnait une carte blanche aux gens de propager le virus.

Nous avons du mal à comprendre comment un groupe de personnes ivres dans un bar peut observer la distanciation sociale, pour ne pas dire le port de masques. Le gouvernement dit penser aux conséquences économiques de la fermeture de ces lieux. Mais il semble ignorer les répercussions imprévues des activités dans ces lieux.

Le Libéria risque de devenir un enfant problématique pour toute la région, à moins que des mesures efficaces soient prises pour mettre fin à la menace. N'est-ce pas ce que les autorités veulent ? Il nous faut appliquer de manière stricte les mesures préventives.

Enfin, il ne faut pas qu'il soit uniquement question de mesures barrières. Il faut aussi et surtout renforcer les capacités de nos agents de santé et de nos hôpitaux de répondre aux cas quotidiens. Il nous faut plus d'oxygène, de ventilateurs et de lits. Il nous faut du vaccin en toute urgence.

Français

Covid-19 : l'armée libérienne

pense qu'ils ont ce nouveau test de réponse rapide qui devra être administré à quiconque arrivera. A leur demande, nous avons construit des tentes. Nous avons également construit une autre tente au complexe sportif », a dit le général Johnson, avant d'indiquer en outre que tout le périmètre du centre de traitement Covidest sécurisé par des soldats de l'armée nationale.

Parlant de la vaccination, le général Johnson a dit avoir pris sa première dose du vaccin Covid et qu'il prendrait la deuxième ce mois-ci. Il a révélé que seules les personnes vaccinées sont autorisées à avoir accès aux installations militaires.

Toujours à en croire le chef de l'état-major de l'armée, 50% du personnel de l'armée ont déjà reçu au moins une dose du vaccin. Il encourage le reste du personnel des Forces armées du Libéria et leurs familles et

les citoyens à continuer de suivre les mesures de santé annoncées par le ministère de la Santé et à se faire également vacciner.

Lors de l'émission jeudi, l'ancien patron de la NPHIL, le Dr Mosoka Fallah, a encouragé les personnes souffrant de complications de santé comme la tension artérielle, le diabète et les infections des voies respiratoires à se faire vacciner car une fois qu'elles sont infectées, il est beaucoup susceptible qu'elles meurent rapidement de la maladie.

« Donc, au lieu d'avoir peur parce que vous souffrez de ces complications, il est mieux que vous preniez ce vaccin », a déclaré le Dr Fallah.

Expliquant l'importance de prendre les deux doses du vaccin, le Dr Fallah a fait savoir qu'on n'est pas assez protégé quand on ne prend qu'une seule dose. C'est pourquoi les gens sont encouragés à prendre leur deuxième dose pour réduire leurs chances d'être infectés.

Georges Weah en France

Auteur de 3 buts en 28 apparitions cette saison en Ligue 1 avec Lille, Timothy Weah a activement participé au titre de champion de France décroché dimanche par les Dogues. L'international américain a été félicité par son illustre père. « En tant que vainqueur du titre de la Ligue 1 moi-même, je sais qu'il faut une immense détermination, un travail acharné, un engagement et une constance semaine après semaine pour émerger en tant que champion », a souligné l'ancien attaquant du PSG dans un message publié sur le site officiel de la présidence.

Succession de Christophe Galtier

« En dépit de nombreuses

blessures et après avoir joué 28 matchs, c'est un exploit que nous savons que Tim avait toujours voulu. Nous sommes heureux qu'en tant qu'attaquant de l'équipe, il ait pu contribuer à cet accomplissement de manière majeure pour que Lille devienne une fois de plus champion de France », a conclu le Ballon d'Or 1995 qui peut être fier de son fils.

L'homme du titre en Ligue 1 Christophe Galtier a officiellement été libéré lundi, après de longues semaines de discussions et de tensions avec l'OGC Nice.

Résultat, le club nordiste a perdu énormément de temps dans sa préparation et dans la composition de son effectif. C'est pourquoi, le président Olivier Letang se presse pour

COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

Amérique latine : une reprise incertaine

CAMBRIDGE - C'est sans doute en Amérique latine que le contraste entre le calme des marchés et les tensions sociales est le plus marqué. La question est de savoir combien de temps cette situation pourra se prolonger.

Pour l'instant les indicateurs économiques du sous-continent continuent de s'améliorer, tandis que le marché de la dette reste imperturbable, comme par magie. Mais la colère gronde dans les rues, en particulier en Colombie (mais pas seulement). Le taux médian de nouveaux cas quotidiens de COVID-19 en Amérique latine est déjà quatre fois supérieur au taux médian correspondant des pays émergents, alors même qu'une troisième vague de la pandémie s'installe. Les 650 millions de Latino-américains sont donc confrontés à une catastrophe humanitaire.

Les incertitudes politiques augmentent et les investissements de capitaux sont au point mort dans une région déjà en proie à une faible croissance de la productivité. Pire encore, une génération d'enfants latino-américains a perdu presque un an et demi de scolarité, ce qui sape encore davantage l'espoir de rattraper l'Asie et a fortiori les USA en matière d'éducation.

Cuba, la Russie et la Chine ont déjà une tête de pont au Venezuela, la pandémie représente donc pour ces pays l'occasion de faire de nouvelles percées. Les marchés semblent soulagés que le vainqueur probable de l'élection présidentielle péruvienne, le marxiste Pedro Castillo, ait semble-t-il au moins deux conseillers économiques d'orientation beaucoup plus classique. Mais il reste à voir quelle sera leur influence.

Pour l'instant, les indicateurs économiques de l'Amérique latine ne sont satisfaisants que par comparaison avec l'année dernière (la production avait chuté de 7 %). Les estimations les plus récentes quant au taux de croissance annuel du PIB de la région sont proches de 6 %, alors qu'en avril le FMI prévoyait qu'il n'augmenterait que de 4,6 % en 2021. Toutefois, en termes de PIB/habitant (considéré aujourd'hui comme le meilleur indicateur d'une reprise après une grave crise économique), il faudra attendre 2022, voire au-delà, pour que les économies latino-américaines, en tout cas la plupart d'entre elles, retrouvent le niveau qu'elles avaient avant la pandémie.

Cette année, une grande partie de la croissance réelle du sous-continent tient à la hausse du prix des matières premières alimentée par la reprise ailleurs, et non à une véritable amélioration de la productivité qui soutiendrait les revenus tout au long du cycle des matières premières. Pour aggraver les choses, les ménages à faible revenu ont été particulièrement touchés par la pandémie et le ralentissement économique qu'elle a entraîné.

Pour comprendre les défis politiques auxquels est confrontée l'Amérique latine, il suffit de considérer les deux grandes puissances économiques de la région, le Brésil et le Mexique, qui comptent à eux deux pour plus de la moitié de la production du sous-continent. À première vue, ils sont gouvernés par des hommes diamétralement opposés : Jair Bolsonaro président de droite au Brésil, et Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), président de gauche au Mexique. Mais ces deux présidents se ressemblent sur des points importants.

Tous deux sont des autocrates imprévisibles, même si l'instinct politique d'AMLO s'enracine dans une vision radicale du monde datant des années 1970 et que Bolsonaro semble nostalgique de l'ère du régime militaire au Brésil. Et tous deux restent relativement populaires malgré leur gestion catastrophique de la pandémie et une série de décisions économiques inappropriées.

Peu après son arrivée au pouvoir fin 2018, AMLO a annulé le projet de nouvel aéroport de Mexico, alors que les travaux étaient déjà bien avancés et que son besoin était criant. Et bien qu'il ait fait campagne en promettant une croissance économique rapide, le PIB du Mexique a commencé à diminuer avant même la pandémie (il a baissé de 0,1% en 2019). Quant à Bolsonaro, lorsqu'il ne menace pas de raser l'Amazonie, il impute les problèmes du Brésil au Parti des travailleurs (PT), l'opposition de gauche qui a gouverné le pays jusqu'en 2016. Plusieurs dirigeants du PT, dont l'ancien président Lula da Silva, ont fait de la prison pour corruption.

Il est difficile de prévoir l'avenir politique de ces deux pays. On ne peut exclure que dans quelques années le Brésil ait à nouveau un président de gauche (peut-être Lula dont les condamnations ont été annulées en mars) et que le Mexique soit à nouveau dirigé par un centriste.

Pourquoi les marchés de la dette ne sont-ils pas effrayés par tant d'incertitude ? C'est en partie parce que le Brésil et le Mexique sont restés assez conservateurs dans la gestion de leur dette. Certes, la dette publique du Brésil devrait atteindre près de 100 % du PIB cette année, mais elle est essentiellement libellée en monnaie locale, et les résidents brésiliens en détiennent jusqu'à 90 %, contre 80 % il y a 5 ans. Même les emprunts étrangers des entreprises ont été contenus, et la dette extérieure du Brésil ne représente qu'environ 40 % de son PIB. La dette publique du Mexique, 60 % du PIB, est inférieure à celle du Brésil. Malgré tout son coté radical, AMLO s'est affiché jusqu'à présent comme un conservateur fiscal, à l'instar de Lula au Brésil. La leçon selon laquelle une crise de la dette peut faire dérailler une révolution populiste a été bien apprise.

Il est vrai que les gouvernements de la région ont mis en place une réponse macroéconomique étonnamment robuste face à la pandémie. Mais ils disposent de beaucoup moins de marge que les USA pour continuer à utiliser le financement par le déficit. Pour augmenter les dépenses et lutter durablement contre les inégalités, les pays d'Amérique latine doivent également trouver le moyen d'accroître leurs recettes budgétaires. En Colombie, paradoxalement ce n'est pas la réduction de certaines prestations qui a déclenché les manifestations, mais le projet de hausse d'impôts de la classe moyenne pour améliorer l'aide aux citoyens les plus pauvres du pays face à la pandémie. Les gouvernements qui cherchent à redistribuer les revenus feraient mieux d'augmenter les impôts des plus riches plutôt que de masquer temporairement les problèmes en creusant la dette.

Lors des décennies précédentes, les USA n'ont pas voulu s'engager vraiment dans la résolution des problèmes de l'Amérique latine, mais cela pourrait changer. Tout d'abord, pour se redresser, la région a besoin d'une aide massive pour la vaccination. Les USA peuvent aussi l'aider en renforçant leurs liens commerciaux avec le sous-continent - notamment en supprimant les goulots d'étranglement dus à la pandémie et les mesures protectionnistes qui subsistent encore après la présidence Trump.

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ARTICLE

ARTICLE

Leaders Could Prevent Enemies from Arising

By Arlene J. Schar and Dr. David Leffler

Leaders worldwide face a challenging task: uniting their fractured and crippled countries in the midst of a raging pandemic with economic devastation and societal discord fueling terrorism and conflict. Achieving unity under these stressful conditions is a daunting task but it can and must be done.

Can conventional strategies and tactics truly defeat all adversaries during these challenging times of pandemic, protest, and economic collapse? An ideal defense against conflict and terrorism is a proven, state-of-the-art, non-violent alternative that actually prevents adversaries from arising in first place. This alternative gives warriors a strategic and profound proactive advantage by preventing conflict, war and terrorism before they occur, for far less the cost of conventional defenses. This highly effective unconventional approach with a proven scientific record for diffusing conflict and violence is called Invincible Defense Technology (IDT), a brain-based technology which incorporates practices of the non-religious Transcendental Meditation® (TM®) to bring about peace.

When large groups of trained practitioners apply the advanced TM techniques together twice a day, a powerful field effect of coherence and peace affects the consciousness of the surrounding population. The bigger the group the

The TM field effect was demonstrated in 1993, when over 4000 TM experts gathered in Washington, DC as a "National Demonstration Project to Reduce Violent Crime and Improve Governmental Effectiveness in Washington." As predicted, research published in Social Indicators Research showed that crime dropped 24% and public approval of the US president suddenly changed from a negative trend to a positive trend.

Research indicates that such calming effects can also be created on a national level. A recent study published in Studies in Asian Social Science showed that large group practice of these programs in Cambodia between 1993 and 2008 was associated with a 96.2% decline in sociopolitical violence in that war-torn country compared to violence in the preceding three years. The authors conclude the likelihood this reversal in the rising 1990-1992 trend of violence occurred randomly was one chance in 10 million. Other published research has shown that after advanced TM was applied, Cambodia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates averaged 8.9%, and poverty was reduced by 63% between 1994 and 2008. By 2010 Cambodia was ranked 63rd out of 152 countries on the international scale of poverty, an unprecedented jump of 89 places in less than one generation.

Despite such promising scientific results, this TM research and the actual military field tests in other countries have so far been largely ignored by most policy makers. Image what leaders worldwide could



General (Ret.) Vasyl Krutov, former chief of the Ukraine Anti-Terrorism Center; retired Ecuadorian Lt. General José Villamil who also applied IDT to end conflict between Ecuador and Peru.

Lasting peace and invincibility could be established globally if it is based on science rather than politics. In order to best succeed it would be wise to advocate this simple and cost-effective approach. Militaries could quickly form what are called Prevention Wings of the Military. Any large group of experts trained in the advanced TM techniques can produce similar results. Groups could be comprised of congregations at places of worship, prisoners, the elderly in retirement homes, even students as was done in Cambodia. The important factor is that the techniques be performed by trained TM experts consistently in groups twice a day. Simply by doing this high societal tensions would be eradicated.

Violence has historically been the response to national differences, despite its costs both in financial and human terms. What divided countries worldwide need now is for all leaders to recognize that there is a more effective proven way to resolve differences. TM is that scientifically-verified approach, and now is the time for them to utilize this new brain-based technology to dissolve high political tensions and create perpetual unity and stability.

About the Authors:

Arlene J. Schar has been serving as Executive Assistant to Dr. David Leffler since 2015. She has recently been promoted to Director of Communications and her articles have been published in over 370 locations worldwide.

Dr. David Leffler served as an Associate of the Proteus Management Group at the Center for Strategic Leadership, US Army War College. Currently, he serves as the Executive Director at CAMS.



bigger the effect. These outcomes of consistent and measurable decreases in war deaths, terrorism, and crime have been substantiated by extensive research published in the following refereed journals: Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly, International Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Crime and Justice, Journal of Mind and Behavior, Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Journal of Social Behavior and Personality, Psychological Reports, Psychology Crime and Law, Social Indicators Research, Social Science Perspectives Journal, Society of Neuroscience Abstracts, and Studies in Asian Social Science. Hundreds of scientific studies conducted at more than 200 independent universities and research institutions and published in peer-reviewed scientific and medical journals confirm that regular practice of TM produces major increases in calmness, happiness, creativity, energy, and clarity of mind. Over six million people worldwide of all religions, cultures and ages have learned TM and experienced these benefits.

accomplish together if permanent groups of TM experts were established to meditate twice daily to reduce the high stress levels in their countries.

The Global Union of Scientists for Peace (GUSP) (<https://www.gusp.org/>) is a global group of eminent scientists and leaders dedicated to support alternative, peaceful means of conflict resolution. Members of GUSP have endorsed the IDT approach, including Yukio Hatoyama, former prime minister of Japan; former president of Mozambique Joachim Chissano (who applied IDT programs to end that nation's civil war); Lt.

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Liberia sets US\$1,500 fine

By Lewis S. Teh

Liberian authorities have announced different categories of fines against violation of Coronavirus measures, which include US\$1,500 for non-compliant businesses and entities, and LD\$1,000 against individuals who are not masked.

The regulation which comes with an increased fine from the previously announced US\$200 against businesses and entities was made known by authorities representing the Ministry of Health, the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Monrovia City Corporation during a press conference over the weekend.

announced fine of US\$200 for granted and they were violating the measures by refusing to close down their businesses by 9pm.

He added that some were even making fun that they could pay up to US\$500 as fine instead of US\$200, thereby prompting authorities to increase the fine against business and individuals.

"While it's true that things are hard, such hardship will not make us to compromise the safety of our people," Col. Sudue said.

Also speaking at the press conference, the Mayor of the City of Monrovia Jefferson T. Koijee said the new fines of US\$1,500 against businesses and entities, and LD\$1,000 against individuals are meant to deter

the number of cases currently pillaging the environment.

Meanwhile, Mr. Koijee noted that the Gobachev Market in Paynesville and the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) will collaborate with their city governments to work between 7 PM to 4:00 AM daily to give the environment a full facelift for improved sanitation.

According to Koijee, Paynesville and Monrovia can be assured of a continuous support, adding with the help of newly instituted task force headed by Mr. Edwin Tisdell, Director General for City Beautification of Monrovia, they will begin the massive clearing of trees and trimming

Cllr. Kanio Bai Gbala

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The French-African Young Leaders program is organized annually by the French-African Foundation in partnership with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Agence Francaise de Development (French Development Agency). The program seeks to identify, bring together and promote the most promising talents on France and African economic, political, academic, social and cultural scene, and to support the leadership and management potential of the emerging generation through the grooming of leadership skills.

Speaking during the unveiling ceremony in France on 30 June 2021, Alexandre Coster, Co-President of the

French-African Foundation asserted that "the new 2021 Young Leaders class is a testament to the strength of Franco-African relations in the service of common challenges and considerably strengthens the continental network which is an asset in the construction of a sustainable and inclusive common future".

During the course of the programme, the 2021 Young Leaders will have the opportunity to participate in learning events in France and Africa, to develop their leadership skills, exchange with senior leaders from the public and private sectors, and together propose a reflection on key themes affecting Franco-Africa relations.



Liberia National Police (LNP) Inspector General Col. Patrick T. Sudue said the new fine is far from the thought that government wants to generate money from its citizens, but it's meant to scare people and to show the government's seriousness in enforcing the health measure.

Col. Sudue explained that they are doing this not with the intent to suppress citizens or to extort money from them, but to ensure that citizens abide by every measure announced during the health crisis here.

According to Sudue, people took the previously

citizens, especially business owners, to abide by all of the health measures instituted by the government.

"This amount is not intended to generate money for the government or to go after our people, but it's meant to secure the safety of our citizens," Mr. Koijee explained.

Koijee said as it stands, several entities have already been fined, noting that a violation thrice will warrant a complete shutdown as a deterrence for other businesses.

He pointed out that homes and other places are required to have sanitary buckets for hand washing at all times, expressing hope that this will help to reduce

of grass along street corners.

"We hope that all these measures will happen in a great atmosphere. We call on the public to work with our team adequately for the good of all so as together, we can wipe COVID-19 out of Monrovia and our country," Koijee continued.

He said going forward, every citizen should wear their masks at all times while in public or in the proximity of others. Also at the press conference were Sinoe County Senator J. Milton Teahjay, the Paynesville City Government, and other stakeholders.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

Ellen joins former

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Government below:

We, the members of the Forum for Former African Heads of State and Government and other Institutions (Africa Forum), have come together to share our experiences and our moral authority for the benefit of the people of Africa.

Having continuously worked to support the implementation of the overall objective of the African Union (AU) and its policy-making organs, we are very disturbed by the persisting and devastating effect of the communicable, such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, the noncommunicable or chronic diseases like heart disease and cervical cancer, as well as the neglected tropical diseases like blinding trachoma, leprosy, elephantiasis, and Guinea worm disease, and last but not least the multiple epidemics and pandemics such as Ebola and COVID-19 that have claimed hundreds of thousands of lives of our people each year.

We, at the Africa Forum have recognized that the regions in Africa affected by the higher emergence and re-emergence of diseases have revealed problems essentially related to poverty, exclusion and poor healthcare leading to exacerbate health problems and deteriorating peace and security desecration thus articulating the impact of the pandemics and diseases on governance, peace and security on the continent.

We express our solidarity with and commitment to helping the AUC, governments and people of the sub-region to mobilize resources and all the required support to alleviate further suffering and to mitigate the impact of the

communicable, noncommunicable, neglected tropical diseases and the pandemics.

The Africa Forum feels strongly that such a ferocious calamity should be evaded through the collective efforts at national, sub-regional and continental levels including necessary technical and expert support in the form of early warning by those who have the capacity to do so. We commend the determination by the African governments and institutions within the framework of the AU to cautiously minimize the health impact, as well as the social disruption and economic consequences of the pandemics and diseases.

It is significant to note the partnerships that the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) forged with UNDP and other local and international communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including public awareness of the pandemic and importance of whole-of-society partnerships in curbing and recovering from the pandemic. In this regards the Forum would like to express its great satisfaction of the efforts deployed by the Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), which is a global partnership working to raise the visibility of NTDs -diseases that affect over 1.7 billion people on our planet, 600 million of whom in Africa. We also join their effort to prevent undermining years of hard-fought progress toward eliminating NTDs in African countries and risks the possibility of resurgence in areas once free of these devastating diseases and encourage the international community to continue supporting their great intervention on the continent.



GOOD LEGACY SOCIAL & ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION SAYS:

Let's Prevent the spread of CORONAVIRUS NOW!

By Following the Health Regulations



WASHING YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY



MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING



WEAR YOUR FACE-MASK



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Clr. Kanio Bai Gbala receives French Award



YOUNG LEADERS
2021 EDITION

KANIO GBALA IS ONE OF THE #100 answers FROM THE FRENCH-AFRICAN FOUNDATION

Public affairs

After serving as Vice Chairman of the Liberia Anticorruption Commission (LACC), Kanio, 39 years old, is the acting Executive Chairman of the commission.

The Acting Executive Chairperson of the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission (LACC), Clr. Kanio Bai Gbala has emerged as a 2021 Young Leader of the French-African

Foundation. Selected from among nearly 3,000 African and French candidates between the ages of 28 and 40, the 100 2021 Young Leaders represent the results of a grueling month-long selection

process that involved an independent jury of decision-makers drawn from public life and the business world in France and Africa.

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Mourinho: I have been a victim of my own success

New Roma head coach Jose Mourinho believes he has been a victim of his own success. Former Inter boss Mourinho will return to Serie A in 2021-22 after being appointed by Roma following his Tottenham sacking in April. Mourinho, who guided Inter to an unprecedented treble in 2009-10, replaces Paulo Fonseca in Rome, where the Giallorossi have not won a league title since

2001. Since the start of the 2012-13 campaign, however, he has won just one league title - the Premier League with Chelsea in 2014-15. Indeed, Mourinho won only 51.2 per cent of his matches at Tottenham and left without lifting a single trophy. In an extract from a new book called 'Stay Crazy and Hungry', reported in Marca, Mourinho thinks his early success contributed to a focus on winning which has not always served him well in recent years.



"I've been a victim of myself and, if I could, it would be one of the things I wouldn't repeat," Mourinho said. "I won, won and won and I entered into a kind of dynamic where not winning seemed like the end of the world. "I, myself, because of my personality, made out that the training, the games and the job were all to win, win, win, and then, when I came to situations where it was very difficult to win, which for other coaches is something acceptable, in my case it was never enough.

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