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Continental News

Ethiopia PM vows to continue military offensive

The Ethiopian prime minister has vowed to continue a military offensive in the northern state of Tigray despite international calls for restraint.

Tensions between the state and the federal government have been building for months.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration accused Tigrayan forces of attacking a federal army base. Meanwhile the Tigrayan president said that his region was in a state of war. In a statement on television, Debretsion Gebremichael said that resources would be mobilised in preparation for a conflict. The state's governing party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), was once at the centre of power in Ethiopia, but since Mr Abiy became prime minister in 2018, it has been increasingly marginalised. On Wednesday, amid the drama of the US election, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement calling for an end to any fighting.

"We are saddened by the tragic loss of life and urge immediate action to restore the peace and de-escalate tensions... the protection of



Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed addressed the nation on Wednesday evening

civilian safety and security is essential," he said in a statement. In a televised address Mr Abiy, who won the Nobel peace prize last year, said the military's operation was a success and would continue.

He said the operation was launched in response to a deadly attack on a military camp. He did not say how many people were killed. Details are scant as the prime minister said information would be released once operations were over.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, he said that he had ordered a military

offensive after an army base was taken over by forces loyal to the regional government. He accused the TPLF of launching the attack. The attack resulted in "many martyrs, injuries and property damage", he said in a TV address. Later on Wednesday, the BBC spoke to eyewitnesses who confirmed that the Northern Command Headquarters in Tigray's regional capital, Mekelle, was under the control of the Tigray special forces. That does not appear to have changed. Mr Debretsion has

said fighting is going on in the western part of his region that borders Amhara state.

He said federal troops, as well as members of soldiers from Amhara, jointly fought Tigray forces on Wednesday. Mr Debretsion added that his forces seized "almost all" the weaponry from the Northern Command Headquarters "The people of Tigray shouldn't be attacked with the weapons in Tigray. We are fully armed now. We are not inferior to them in terms of weaponry, maybe better." There were reports that the sound of gunfire could be heard early on Wednesday morning, but since then calm has returned to the city. The telephone lines, internet and electricity have all been cut and banks

are closed, but people are on the streets carrying on their normal activities, witnesses have told the BBC.

There is also a high security presence of members of the regional force. The TPLF was the most powerful partner in Ethiopia's governing coalition until 2018, when Mr Abiy came to office following nationwide protests by ethnic Oromos. Since then, the party's power has waned.

Mr Abiy created a new governing party, but the TPLF did not join.

In September, the Tigrayan authorities went ahead with an election in defiance of a nationwide postponement that was put in place following the outbreak of coronavirus.

The federal government had described that election for the Tigray parliament as "illegal". BBC

Malawi Plans Embassy in Jerusalem

Malawi will establish an embassy in Jerusalem, its foreign minister announced during a visit to Israel.

The move represents "a bold and significant step," the minister, Eisenhower Mkaka, said in a video statement Tuesday. It would make

Malawi the first African country in decades to open an embassy in Jerusalem, a city considered holy to the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions.

"I look forward to your embassy opening soon, and I'm sure that more African leaders will follow this decision," Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi

Ashkenazi said in appearing with Mkaka, Reuters reported. Malawi is one of few African countries to have maintained continuous diplomatic ties with Israel since the central African country's independence in 1964, according to The Jerusalem Post. It reports that 16 countries - including Ivory Coast, Kenya and what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo - closed embassies in Jerusalem following the 1973 Middle East War. Those that later reopened embassies did so in the commercial hub of Tel Aviv. U.S. President Donald Trump sparked controversy for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in late 2017 and shifting the U.S. Embassy there from Tel Aviv the following May. Guatemala soon followed suit, and a handful of other countries have at least publicly contemplated similar moves. Malawi's embassy plans in Jerusalem mark a step by President Lazarus Chakwera, who took office in

'My pride at having this scorpion named after me'

If you were going to have a creature named after you then a scorpion may not be your first choice, but Ahmed Ibrahim Awale believes the *Pandinurus awalei* will serve as an inspiration to budding Somali scientists.

The 66-year-old scientist from Somaliland has been honoured by the three researchers who discovered the new scorpion species in the region in recognition of his

to know that this species is named after Awale - after all Awale is a Somali." His pride in having this honour clearly shines through. Since the 19th Century, researchers, mostly from Europe, have been exploring the rich ecology of the Somali region, but Mr Awale wants to add to the growing number of Somalis taking up zoology and botany.

The 15cm large-clawed scorpion that now carries his



decades of work in conservation and environmental protection.

"Most of the species identified in Somalia and Somaliland are named after a place, a characteristic that a plant or animal may have or somebody from Europe or America," he told the BBC in his lively voice on the line from his office in Hargeisa.

"But for many young people here, it will encourage them

name was found in an arid landscape near Agabara village about 50km (30 miles) north of Hargeisa, the capital of the self-declared republic of Somaliland.

It is not as venomous as some of its smaller cousins as there is often an inverse relationship between the size of a scorpion's claws and the power of its sting, Mr Awale explains. BBC



Malawi's newly elected President Lazarus Chakwera greets supporters after being sworn in in Lilongwe

June, "to establish full diplomatic relations with certain strategic partners," his

communications director, Sean Kampondeni, told VOA in a phone interview. VOA

EDITORIAL

Operating a national carrier is no joke

PRESIDENT GEORGE MANNEH Weah is perhaps, still settling down from the euphoria that characterized the official launch of "Liberia Airway", Wings of Liberia at the Roberts International Airport in Margibi County last week Friday, 30 October.

ACCORDING TO THE Executive Mansion, the President did not hold his emotions during the occasion saying, Liberia owning a national carrier has been his long time wish since he came to the Presidency. "It has been my dream, hope and vision that we will very soon see Lone Star Air, the Wings of Liberia, flying our flag in international skies, shining so brightly", Mr. Weah is quoted in a press release.

WHILE WE WELCOME progressive investments that would boost our national economy, we caution the government that operating an airline service is not a child's play, as it requires serious investment and huge responsibility both nationally and internationally.

IF NEWS OR experiences of countries with strong economies in Africa such as Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya or Ethiopia and elsewhere are anything to go by, the Government of Liberia should be very circumspect in how it proceeds on this matter.

THESE COUNTRIES WITH national carriers are seriously struggling to maintain services to the public principally due to bad management and corruption that have left employees without pay for months, if not years, grounding aircrafts.

SUCH BAD BUSINESS environment erodes public confidence in a national carrier and portrays a very negative image of the country involves thus, driving away investors rather than the other way around.

IT IS NOT just enough to perform a launch, but serious thought is required in running a national carrier that should bring pride to every Liberian and our beloved country.

WE MAY RECALL that the last time Liberia had an effective national carrier (Air Liberia) was in the 70s under the administration of slain President William R. Tolbert. Tolbert's successor Samuel Kanyon Doe came and picked up what could be described then as remains of Air Liberia, but didn't do anything much with it, as the aircraft crashed in Sudan, while returning from repair in Egypt, killing one of the crew onboard.

PRESIDENT WEAH DISCLOSED that the current venture is efforts of authorities at the Ministry of Transport and investors from Ghana, who are partnering with Liberian entrepreneurs to resurrect the national carrier, which has been out of service for nearly half of a century.

CONSIDERING THE GLOBAL economic meltdown that has even been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, we think deep thought should go into this, so that Liberia would do it differently this time around; it is not about seeing neighboring countries having national carriers and think we are ready to enter the civil aviation market to operate a carrier because this business thrives on confidence, reliability and efficiency.

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COMMENTARY

By Shashi Tharoor

The Rise of the Indian-American Voter

As Indian-Americans grow in number, they are becoming an increasingly important voting bloc, helping to elevate their native country's place in the US foreign policy agenda. And while this affluent, highly-educated cohort traditionally has leaned Democratic, it would be a mistake to assume that it is homogeneous.

NEW DELHI - Beyond the major headlines surrounding the US presidential election, a little-noticed development is attracting attention both in India and among American campaign strategists. The rising influence of the Indian-American community in the United States - though barely 1% of the electorate - has made it impossible for the world's oldest democracy to ignore the world's largest.

Indian-Americans are the second-largest immigrant group in the US, and among the fastest-growing - up by nearly 150% over the last decade. They also are more affluent and highly educated than any other ethnic group, with a median income nearly double the national average (estimated at \$100,000 in 2015). And they have been remarkably active politically, as voters, campaigners, donors, and candidates. In the past two decades, two state governors, one US senator, five members of the House of Representatives, and now a vice presidential candidate have been Americans of Indian descent.

No wonder both major parties are actively courting Indian-American voters, a significant number of whom reside in potential swing states like Texas, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Both presidential candidates have released television commercials in Indian languages on the leading networks broadcasting Indian programming in the US, and Joe Biden used the Hindu festival of Ganesh Chaturthi to woo Indian-American voters.

On the Democratic side, Biden's running mate, US Senator Kamala Harris of California, has openly embraced her roots, using a Tamil term to describe her Indian aunts in her nomination acceptance speech this August. She has spoken at length about her Indian ancestry, as well as visits to her grandfather and the conversations they had during seaside walks in Chennai. Moreover, Indian-American celebrities have campaigned enthusiastically for the Biden-Harris ticket, with one fundraiser in September reportedly pulling in a record-breaking \$3.3 million from the Indian-American community.

For his part, US President Donald Trump responded to the Harris nomination with a campaign ad featuring Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom he has lavishly praised throughout his first term. As right-wing populists with a deep suspicion of minorities and a barely concealed bias against Muslims, Trump and Modi have developed something of a "bromance." They have even held joint campaign-style rallies, sharing the stage at a "Howdy, Modi!" event in Texas and a "Namaste Trump" event in Modi's home state of Gujarat.

The Republicans have created a campaign organization called Indian Voices for Trump, as well as various sub-groups to target Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim Indian-American voters separately. And Trump's handlers recently arranged for their candidate to preside over a rare White House naturalization ceremony featuring a sari-draped Indian-born software engineer.

All of this attention has led some observers to suggest that Indian-Americans, who traditionally lean Democratic, may shift their support to Trump this election. There has certainly been a modest realignment from eight years ago, when 84% of them voted to re-elect President Barack Obama. Still, a recent YouGov poll finds that 72% of Indian-

American voters support Biden, and, as one recent study concluded, "Indian Americans continue to be strongly attached to the Democratic Party, with little indication of a shift toward the Republican Party." When Trump described India's air as "filthy" at the second presidential debate, Biden was quick to reply that he wouldn't insult a friend that way.

However, there are larger fault lines emerging within the Indian-American community. India's diaspora, though collectively influential, is deeply divided by ideology, religion, age, immigration history, and even caste.

Modi, for example, is a deeply polarizing figure among Indian-Americans. Those who support him do so passionately, applauding his tough stance on issues such as Kashmir and Pakistan and his advocacy of an assertive majoritarian Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) ideology. They cheered for his government's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act and his participation in a ceremony breaking ground for the construction of a Ram temple on the site of a demolished mosque.

But Indian-Americans of a more liberal bent oppose Modi just as intensely. While their counterparts have cheered Modi's every appearance in America, they have protested outside his rallies, decrying his human-rights record. Modi's popularity among some Indian-American voters probably accounts for the slight shift toward Trump, but they are still far outnumbered by those expressing support for the Democratic ticket.

Both tickets have their drawbacks, though. Trump's harsh immigration rhetoric and policies - including severe restrictions on H-1B visas, which have disproportionately hurt Indian tech professionals - certainly haven't helped his standing in the Indian-American community. But it remains to be seen how much the Democrats will be helped or harmed by their own politicians' unsparing criticism of Modi. Representatives Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Ro Khanna of California, echoed by Harris, have condemned the Modi government's actions in Kashmir.

If Biden wins, Harris's presence in the administration will ensure that India isn't overlooked, let alone forgotten. But that attention will cut both ways. Harris is bound to be a strong voice for democracy and human rights generally, which could put her at odds with the Modi government. When politicians have special ties to another country, they are more likely to adopt passionate and principled positions toward it. But this is not always welcome within that country, as would surely be the case with Modi and his allies.

Modi's Indian-American supporters may feel that Trump's re-election would be "good for India." But while Trump has uncritically embraced Modi and his Hindutva agenda - and there has been growing convergence on security co-operation, especially in view of Chinese assertiveness in the region - his administration has not always been helpful to India. From tariffs and immigration restrictions to environmental politics, US policies over the past four years have needled New Delhi.

Those Indian-Americans who dislike Trump can argue that a Democratic administration could hardly be worse. And Trump's close identification with Modi will affect the votes of Modi's Indian-American opponents.



Lord, its glaring

Dear Father;

Come to think of it, they have gone too far. This is a total disregard of our village Oracle. And those who jumping ships now, declining their roles on the Footballer's Camp team-its late to be hailed as heroes and heroines.

Yes, it's too late. It's a double face game, your rejection should have been made known on the day you were placed there. You cannot come after days of confusion and waved your hands to say you are clean-no, you are not.

Hmmm, which one my son talking here so? You ready for trouble again eh?

Father, truth be told in politics, there is no depoliticized zone. In short there are no fences to sit on, you are either in or out. You can't say you are out but you will still play a supporting role. There is nothing in our Oracle that says a village servant should play supporting role to a camp during voting. It says you should not get involve-period!

Um, now I know where you are going with this thing my son.

Oh, really Father?

Yes, my son, at first I was a bit confused.

Yes, rite. Yea mehn, it sometimes get under my skin when people want to use a none-essential situation to claim purity, when in fact they will failed miserably where it is actually important to see them acting. You know, everybody in this village knows that our village elders, Paramount chiefs and Traditional Chiefs at the Traditional Council don't care for fewhn when it comes to being an example of our village Oracle that every citizen be it big or small supposed to abide by. No, they don't. Which is why the very code of conduct that supposed to regulate our village servants and bring about fair play in our village voting process is being abused so glaringly.

Not under this Footballer alone though, it happens even under our most celebrated Old Lady, in every aspect of it. Now it has even gotten worst-Conguo man would say "worsen".

Father it's like an upright total disregard of our village Oracle. The Footballer who swore to protect it is stumbling on it left and right what you think his kitchen cabinet staffers will do-follow there master even at the extreme-and they do it publicly with no fear or favor and who dare question their actions.

Ehn, talking about on one dare questioning them, they say what that other little boy from your village city fiefdom did the other day?

Oh, Father, the young man woke up one morning and told the people on our Bluffing Road that nobody should part their conveyer there anymore. The man says is an order and anybody who dares question him will face his wrath.

Tell me something my son!

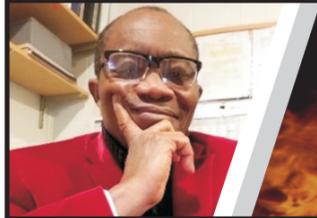
Oh, Father, even if the intention was good, there was no prior warning and who dare not obey?

Then your village is more than sojar man's camp now oo.

Father, da the one you talking slow so. They say the Village City Fiefdom head give order who dare to disobey, unless you want to rascals following him all around the Fiefdom to come and destroy your property and nothing will come from out of it.

Hmmm, na why oo.

Yes, Father, na really why oo and we inside. We are all inside it and staying in it as well. Let the children in the market will sing: "yor lee us oo, da "O..." we want."



With Jones Mallay

LIBERIA POLITICAL HOT-FIRE

fredrickdiamondm@yahoo.com

GOL Should Establish A Nationwide Medical Board of Medical Investigators

In 1966 the late Pres. William V.S. Tubman envisaged the establishment of a viable medical school in Liberia to train medical doctors for the nation, in particular for Africa at large with the help of the Italian Government, especially the Vatican and the A.M. Dogliotti Foundation made his dream possible in 1968, when Monrovia-Torino Medical School was established in 1968 and admitted very few students most of whom were foreign students.

With the late Pres. Tubman concrete support, Dogliotti became the epicenter of the advanced school of medical teaching in Liberia. In December 1973, the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine graduated the first set of medical students who received their degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD). In 1982, the College reached a milestone with the graduation of its first 100th medical doctor as 16 students graduated in that year.

According to reliable sources, one of Dogliotti's most hidden success stories was the fact that it was heavily shadowed by 95% foreign doctors from South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Cameroon, India, and the United States that made Dogliotti highly competitively prestigious in those dark moments. But Dogliotti's glorious days soon disappeared in the 80s when the late Pres. Doe's military takeover, it didn't only kill people, but it did kill thousands and thousands of good visions for Liberia, and Dogliotti's prosperous vision was one of such.

Today, post-war Liberia has continued to witness a huge proliferation of multiple Medical Schools followed by strange, strange Nursing Training Centers established by groups of young graduating nurses who in most instances posed as veteran doctors and registered nurses in most fake clinics around Monrovia. The confirmed report has it that there are 17 strange Medical Schools alone with 23 substandard Nursing schools and five of the Nursing schools are run directly by foreigners and the remaining are run by Liberians who graduated from other substandard nursing schools as well and together they were able to pull together their resources and their contacts to open a school in Monrovia with no checks and balances.

How can a new group of graduating nurses who with no prior practical experience, no internship knowledge, simply proceed to open their nursing school in Monrovia and treat people of different types of illnesses? Furthermore, how can doctors go about establishing their medical schools in the country? How can doctors, and nurses account for the numerous deaths of patients in their care? How are they held accountable for the sudden death of citizens in their operation theater or those that are given wrong prescriptions that caused their sudden death directly or indirectly?

For many Liberians who attend clinics, Nurses are posed as doctors making prescriptions and carrying out surgeries. The majority of Liberians who attend clinics in Liberia and complain of having light fever, they all are often diagnosed with Typhoid fever and they all are often given drips upon drips, irrespective of their pre-existing medical condition.

The Liberian medical system is a piece of holy joke. It is indeed a rotten potato. Some sources revealed that there are too many fake foreign and local Liberian doctors and untrained nurses masquerading in the city killing innocent Liberians by way of administering either the wrong drug or prescription and diagnosing the wrong illnesses. Our source also disclosed that several untrained nurses go about killing innocent and helpless Liberians through the administration of fake and expired medication and no one is paying attention to such a gruesome undertaking in Liberia. Our sources also maintained that the system is heavily dodged with several fake doctors' majority of whom are either school drop-off or impersonating as Doctors and Nurses in Monrovia silently.

The medical field is a very critical sector of any society. In the West, for example, people go to medical schools between 10 to 12-years before they branched into their areas of specialization with an extra 2 to 3 years of rigorous internship. The nurses go to school between 4 to 5-years of professional studies. They also undergo a 2-years internship. They do not pose as doctors nor do they go about opening nursing or medical schools. Only Lib this can truly happens.

It is about time for GOL to put on its matching booths and weed out, all fake doctors, unqualified nurses, and shout down fake medical and nursing schools. Aside from that, GOL will need to establish a medical board of investigators who will investigate the death of any citizen in the hands of so-called doctors and unqualified and fake nurses who prescribed the wrong dose and carry out dangerous surgeries. Those who posed as doctors and registered nurses should be weeded out of the system and those who go about making very dangerous prescriptions at the detriment of innocent Liberians should be sent to jail with hard labor.

SPECIAL

ARTICLE

Liberia: Why “Majority” Think/Speak Irrationally, Produce Plenty Children, and the Nation’s Developmental March is Snail-Pace

By Samuel G. Dweh

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CONTINUE FROM LAST EDITION

are the “commanders-in-chief” in this other business. The “tea” has three kinds—Lipton (clear water), “milky” (mixture of Ovaltine and milk), and “hatai” (herbal tea)

But majority of customers to the Tea Business are Liberians—wasting “working time” here on plenty talking (argument) on “politics” (local) and “sports” (European games) Such loquacity has boosted the Tea Business, especially the Hatai: The foreigners sell between 100 and 150 glasses per day. Each glass is sold at twenty Liberian dollars (LD\$20), and each business person was recording at least 120 “buyers” With knowledge about this number, you now imagine the US Dollar equivalent each foreign tea seller (is) raking.

Most of these Tea Shops are “Forex Bureau”—no operation license from the Government of Liberia—for their customers who have only US Dollar at the time they need the tea. And much of the US Dollars, as well as other International Currencies, got here is sent to the foreigner’s Home (Country) While these foreigners are working, the Land owners (Liberians) buying tea and bread, are only sitting and complaining: “Foreigners are controlling our economy and our Government is doing nothing to stop this!”

INCREASED DRUNKENNESS DURING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

Like it did to other Countries, COVID-19 has slowed Liberia’s national economic wheel and glued most Liberians (including business people) to their homes. This economic inactivity engendered “frustration”, especially for those who are accustomed to leaving home for economic activities.

Many believed “Beer” will calm the mental tension. Such feeling caused an economic birth drinking spots—added to existing ones. The assembly of drinkers violated the Government’s “Social Distancing” law, under the State of Emergency to prevent further spread of COVID-19, but the George Manneh’s Administration was less rigid on enforcement of this other ‘order’.

During Liberia’s Independence Day’s celebration (July 26), during the activeness of the President-declared State of Emergency for COVID-19, all Beer Bars were buzzing with drinkers. Rampant sexual acts were part of the celebration. Imagine sperms entering most of the women involved in the sexual encounters, to take the form of ‘human beings’ months later—to



Another proof: This notice was seen in front of a Bar near the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police (LNP) in Monrovia

blow up Liberia’s population.

Some pro-boozers say the national alcoholic addiction isn’t much of a hindrance to the development of the Country. Other argued that it is a kind of therapy, to relieve stress, and

AND THE NATION’S DEVELOPMENTAL MARCH IS SNAIL-PACE

Liberia is chronically under-developed in all sectors. Most of the roads are deplorable. There’s no electricity in most part of the Country—including the capital City. There’s no pipe-borne water in over 80% of the Country, forcing residents of these deprived places to drink from Wells contaminated with fungus, airborne dust, or animal feces. The education system is battered, with grade-school students buying grades or promotion, and university students buying degrees. These are happening in spite of tons of millions International Trade currencies pumped into the Country’s post-war recovery projects by the Country’s historical partner (America) and other developed Nations—China, Britain, France, Sweden, etc.

Alcoholic addiction, by majority of Liberia’s citizens in leadership position, is a major contribution of this under-development. Intoxicated, these leaders lost the needed mental power wanes and can’t produce. In their temporary mental inactivity, their sexual libido is prematurely directed and produces offspring (children) who the national economy won’t adequately cater to and whose presence and actions (example, armed robbery) will put the entire economy under press.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A government official or private-sector employee caught drunk should be pulled out of the workforce, with no severance benefit. The same should be done to any operator of a Government’s vehicle parked at an alcohol sale spot after “official working hours”

The law against sale of liquor to juveniles, under-18 people, should be reinforced and violators punished with imprisonment. Fine should be with imprisonment for the person who sold the liquor.

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Being advertised: Billboard of Liberia’s oldest, and historical, beverage: Club Beer. This Billboard was situated along Tubman Boulevard—Liberia’s major road connecting Center of the Capital, Monrovia—when it was snapped on February 25, 2020

Another proof: liquor varieties & prices price list of another “drinking spot”

This concept started in campuses of the University of Liberia—where post-civil war time students prioritize non-academic arguments (especially over politics or foreign football) at the University’s Park over academically/intellectually rewarding brainstorms. This gives you a clue to why thuggery by students—hiding under students’ advocacy groups—is common on each Campus of the University of Liberia—and gradually moving towards students of other universities (private)

DRINKING PLACES AS “DAILY BREAD SOURCES” OF JOBLESS LADIES & YOUNG MEN

As Liberia’s population is becoming “bigger”, the Country’s employment community is becoming “smaller” by shutting down of many private business entities, mostly on owners’ mismanagement or corruption by government officials.

Majority of the unemployed working-age young people swarm at each of these Drinking Bars to beg for money from the “money wasters”. Many of the young female “hustlers” here go beyond mere asking to being sexual thirst quenchers to some of the intoxicated rich male drinkers. The man’s car, parked near the liquor sale point, sometime serves as the “motel” or “quick service center” when he doesn’t want to spend extra money on a Hotel. Some of these cars are for the Government, brought here by persons they were assigned to. There has been public outcry on Government’s officials “misuse of Government’s vehicles” by taking them to “non-Government events” (drinking spots) and during “non-working hour”. During the Presidency of Madam Ellen Johns Sirleaf, the Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA), Mary T. Broh, arrested Government’s vehicles at Beer Bars. But her mission was short-lived on politics heated by top government officials who were addicted to taking Government’s vehicles to private “Night time merrymaking” event.

THE ONLY ECONOMIC VENTURE LIBERIANS LEAD IN

On the Liberian business field (private sector), Liberians are in the leadership role of only one economic venture: Liquor sale. Foreigners lead in the other business ventures—including the “hot water business” (Tea) The Guineans and Malians



In post-war time: A price publicity cloth banner on the wall of another Drinking Bar.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NEC rules in pre-election matters

The Board of Commissioners, (BOC) of the National Elections Commission, (NEC) has rendered final rulings in four separate elections cases following mandates from the Supreme Court.

Marias has already registered as an Independent Candidate and in view of the above has declared the case, Coalition for Democratic Change by and through its Chairman Molbah Morlu verses Senator H. Dan Marias mute.

Cllr. Amara Sheriff

Committee did not err and that the decision of the Committee denying and dismissing Mr. Jackson Morlu's complaint was confirmed and affirmed.

The third ruling of the BOC issued today, Tuesday 4 November 2020 and read by Commissioner Barsee Leo Kpangbaisaid in the case George B. Samah growing out of the action, application for nomination said the Candidate Nomination Committee did not err when it denied Mr. Samah's nomination appeal after failing to meet all of the requirements set by the Committee. After the ruling was excepted, Cllr. Jimmy Saah Bombo announced an appeal to the Supreme Court of Liberia.

In the final ruling of the Board of Commissioners, read by Commissioner Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Awar, in the case, Mulbah Jarkollie, out of the action, Application for Nomination the BOC holds the decision of its Candidate Nomination Committee that the committee did not err. Commissioner Morgan Awar said the decision of the Committee denying and dismissing Mr. Mulbah

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



In the first ruling of the Board read by Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, the BOC said after a careful review of the records of the Candidate Nomination Committee as mandated by the Supreme Court, records show that Senator H. Dan

represented the legal interest of the Coalition for Democratic Change and its Chairman Mulbah Morlu.

In the second ruling of the BOC, read by Commissioner Boakai A. Dukulythe board said it was the holding of the Board that the Candidate Nomination

CSOs want police official in Bong County changed

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

Four Civil Society Organizations in Gbarnga, Bong County have called on the Liberian government to with immediate effect change the assignment of Bong County Assistant Superintendent for Police Fedrick Nepay.

The group at a major press conference in Gbarnga Wednesday, 4 November

overstayed as police boss, allegedly leading him to build stronger relationship with citizens as a police commissioner.

According to Cole, the CSOs have observed that Commissioner Nepay has built a lot of relationships that are interfering with his professional function which they feel is promoting



claimed that the police official has overstayed in the county and his relationships there are allegedly interfering with his professional duty.

On behalf of the DELTA-Human Rights Foundation, the Foundation for International Dignity, Justice and Peace Commission and CJPS-Liberia, Mr. Jessie B. Cole says it will be quite important if relevant authorities can change Commissioner Nepay's assignment from Bong County to other parts of Liberia.

Mr. Cole claims that Commissioner Nepay has

selective Justice.

Aaron Juahkollie, Executive Director of Foundation for International Dignity, explains that Mr. Nepay has contributed immensely to the security of Bong County and Liberia at large, but he thinks his relationship with community dwellers is hindering his professional work.

Meanwhile, he also urges the judicial branch of government to respond to the plight of Mr. Archie Ponpon who recently set himself ablaze due to unpaid salaries.—*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

WONGOSOL proposes measures to combat rape

By Winston W. Parley

Through a newly launched Policy Brief, the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) with support from USAID through LAVI has proposed a number of measures to help combat rape and other sexual gender - based violence (SGBV) issues in Liberia.

Based on its analytical considerations presented Wednesday, 4 November in Sinkor, WONGOSOL proposes sustained policy engagement and influencing advocacy with the inter-ministerial taskforce to follow-up on the implementation of the anti - rape and SGBV reform commitments made by the government.

It also proposes the need to advocate for a holistic judicial reform addressing the legal, institutional and human resource functions and the need to prioritize engaging men and boys and providing economic

empowerment to women and girls to reduce power imbalance in homes which it says, most often result in intimate partner violence.

government, adding that it should not be seen as the people's thing, but a national issue for all.

"Because the virus of rape is not running behind ... women and girls; it's adding



Making the presentation on behalf of WONGOSOL, Ms Lena T. Cummings Ms. Cummings suggests the need to become more proactive to engage

boys and all into it. We reported that from our own work we did, we have five of those cases," she says.

According to her, during

the Covid period between March to September this year, the Ministry of Gender recorded 992 rape cases out of which 22 accused were convicted while the rest are pending court trial.

She notes that when WONGOSOL did its own study over that same period working in Montserrado and Margibi Counties, it also documented 109 cases.

63 percent of the 109 cases were documented in Montserrado, according to Ms. Cummings, while about 40 percent of the cases were documented in Margibi.

She reveals that five percent of the cases were

male survivors, and 104 accounted for female survivors.

She notes that the study found two major violence which includes intimate partner violence and sexual violence.

She adds that the natures of rape cases were mainly gang rape, statutory rape, and incestuous rape, as well as rape by community members and duty bearers such as police, prophet and guardians.

"This suggests communities and homes are gender - unsafe - environment for women, girls and babies," she says further.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

VR clean-up is recipe for transparent election

-Liberian entrepreneur

By Emmanuel Mondaye

A Liberian entrepreneur and proprietor of the C. E. Enterprise situated on Pipeline Road in Paynesville City outside Monrovia, Edwin Selle Harris says the ongoing clean-up exercise of the

premises over the weekend, Harris noted the process will also create a level-playing field that will enable every candidate in the race to contest without any excuse whatsoever when the NEC announces final results from the poll.

He says in a democratic society like Liberia, the clean-up exercise by the national

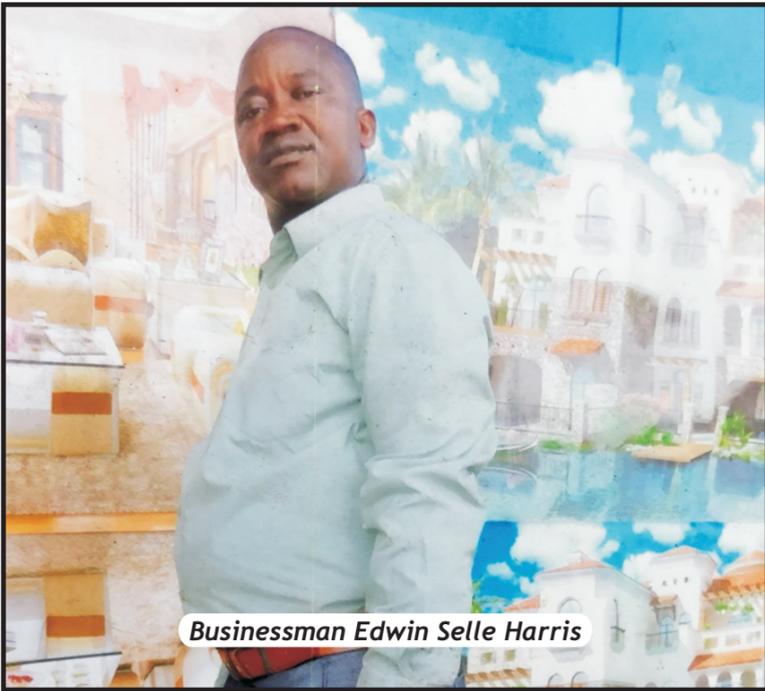
the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) senatorial candidate Thomas Fallah will definitely triumph over opposition his rival Senator Darius Dillon on December 8th because he enjoys overwhelming support from the electorate.

Harris reveals that the Montserrado County electoral district #5 Representative Fallah also enjoys support from the youth, who anticipate seeing current development under the administration of President George Manneh Weah.

Commending President Weah for his developmental initiatives, he recalled the President, in his inaugural speech, assured Liberians they will not be spectators in their own economy as evident by dozens of Liberians operating their own businesses and competing with their foreign counterparts.

He explains that the CDC-led government aims to providing equal business opportunities between foreign and Liberian-operated businesses as a means of sustaining the economy and increase income generation for Liberian-owned businesses.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



Businessman Edwin Selle Harris

voters roll by the National Elections Commission (NEC) ahead of the December 8th special senatorial election will produce free, fair, and transparent election.

Addressing a news conference at his business

electoral body signifies clearly that NEC is committed to conducting not only a transparent election, but encouraging candidates' participation without any hindrance.

He, however, emphasizes

Court rules in favor of LBDI employee in Bong

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong County

The regional Labor Court in Bong County has ruled in favor of a dismissed Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) employee David Gotoba in a case involving the management of LBDI and Gotoba.

David Gotoba was dismissed on 26 November 2019.

According to LBDI through a communication which is in the possession of our correspondent, the decision to dismiss David Gotoba came as a result of his failure to exercise due diligence as required which led to the

correspondent states that the defendant LBDI is liable for the wrongful dismissal of complainant David Gotoba.

The court orders the bank to reinstate Gotoba or pay his required benefits.

When contacted, the LBDI Gbarnga Branch Manager Eric Sena says he is not aware of the situation and refers this paper to the General Manager of LBDI John Davis.

Every effort to contact Mr. Davis through text messages and phone calls proved futile.

Meanwhile David Gotoba expresses happiness in his victory over LBDI for his alleged



unauthorized processing of four withdrawals in the amount of USD\$4,800 from the accounts of various customers.

Following an investigation over the dismissal of Gotoba by the Labor Office of Bong County Region 3, the Supreme Court of Liberia through the Labor Office in Bong ordered the management of LBDI to reinstate David Gotoba.

The communication written to LBDI management by the Supreme Court, a copy of which is also in the possession of our Bong County

illegal dismissal and says he has served the Bank for about ten years without any suspension or warning from the management of the bank.

He says he was shocked over his dismissal in December 2019.

Gotoba concludes that he is a man of good character and assures the people of Bong County that his character was tempered with by the management of LBDI and he is happy that he has been vindicated. **-Edited by Winston W. Parley**

politicians compete to lead.

He said journalists have crucial role to play in an electoral process by delivering thorough, verified and balanced information.

"Journalists must acquire all relevant documents regarding the election law so that you can hold the referee to the game. Be knowledgeable about the rule of the game", he further emphasized.

Liberia is preparing for

senatorial and representative by-elections and national referendum on December 8, 2020.

Internews, in partnership with LMD, PAL and USIAD has trained local journalists from across the country to work with experienced editors in producing thoroughly researched stories about the electoral process leading to polling day and post-election. **Story by Jonathan Browne**

Starts from back page

Strengthen editorial

the Liberia Media Development Program with implementing partner Internews is in partnership with the Publishers Association of Liberia, which brought 17 editors from renowned media houses to discuss strengthening media editorial leadership during elections.

At the same time, the Director for Civic and Voter Education at the National Elections Commission (NEC) Paul Wilson said, the NEC is challenged with high level illiteracy among the population, which makes it difficult in understanding civic-voter education about the electoral process.

Director Wilson described election as a bridge between peace and chaos, urging Liberians to ensure peace is maintained across the country.

He noted the media plays a significant role in enhancing

the process of peace and discouraging violence.

He called for strengthening capacity of NEC to deliver effective civic and voter education which would improve the democratic process in Liberia.

Wilson continued that the NEC is there to ensure integrity in the process by providing platforms for aggrieved parties to be heard, beginning with hearing by NEC Magistrate, Hearing Officer, the NEC Board of Commissioners and the Supreme Court of Liberia.

Professor Thomas Keydor, second panelist, said he opposes any attempt to set quotas for women in politics, saying "the Constitution of Liberia requires everybody to

compete; you may win or you may not win."

However, he called on the media to lift the voices of women candidates alongside the male counterparts. "How are the papers raising the voices of those women?", he asked.

Professor Keydor urged the media in Liberia to build synergy in order to attract donors and partners' support to promote developmental stories, underscoring, "You are in a mutually-conflicting environment; you need to diversify."

Information Minister Ledgerhood Rennie, said election can be acrimonious because of its conflict nature, particularly so because

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Français

Le tueur du journaliste a été arrêté

Un éleveur qui aurait tué le journaliste Chris David Brown dans le comté de Bong a été arrêté par la police libérienne.

Selon le rapport préliminaire de la police, le suspect Henry Tucker a avoué avoir utilisé son fusil à canon unique pour tirer sur la victime qui se serait rendu dans sa ferme pour voler ses chèvres.

L'inspecteur général de la police nationale du Libéria (LNP), le colonel Patrick T. Sudue, avec ses côtés le ministre de l'Information Ledgerhood Rennie et le président de l'Union de la presse du Libéria (PUL), Charles Cuffey, a expliqué qu'un certain criminel présumé Prince Garlawulo, qui serait un ami de la victime, a été appréhendé avec l'aide des habitants.

Selon le colonel Sudue, c'est Prince qui a informé la police que la victime Brown a été tiré dessus par le suspect Henry Tucker, une information quia conduit à l'arrestation de ce dernier.

«Et sur la base des informations de la même communauté, nous avons pu établir un lien entre la victime et le criminel arrêté Prince Garlawulo et une dame du nom de Geeta Bryant qui est gérante de restaurant dans le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



5 millions de LD pour celui qui trouvera les tueurs des auditeurs

Le Dr Daniel E. Cassell a annoncé une somme de 5 millions de dollars libériens comme récompense pour quiconque fournira des informations qui conduiront à l'arrestation et à la poursuite des auteurs des meurtres des quatre auditeurs décédés dans des circonstances mystérieuses.

« J'ai donc demandé à ma fondation, la Fondation Dr. Daniel E. Cassell, d'offrir une

récompense en espèces de cinq millions de dollars libériens (5 000 000,00 L \$), ou son équivalent en dollars américains, à toute personne pouvant fournir des informations crédibles qui mèneront à l'arrestation et à la poursuite réussies d'individus impliqués dans le décès des quatre Libériens », a déclaré le Dr Cassell dans un communiqué mardi.

Les quatre auditeurs de

l'Agence du Revenu du Libéria (LRA), M. Albert Peters, Gifty Lama, George Fanbutu et le chef de l'Agence d'audit interne (IAA) du pays, Emmanuel BartenNyeswua, sont tous morts dans des circonstances mystérieuses à différents endroits et moments le mois dernier.

«Ma famille et moi sommes préoccupés par la vague croissante de peur qui menace de submerger notre pays à la suite de la récente mort mystérieuse et encore inexplicable de quatre Libériens, dont trois travaillaient pour la Liberian Revenue Authority (LRA), et l'autre, pour l'Agence d'audit interne (IAA). J'ai contacté certains membres des familles endeuillées pour leur exprimer nos plus sincères condoléances pour les pertes difficiles qu'ils ont subies.

Pour moi, pour les veuves en deuil, pour le veuf, pour les enfants, pour les autres parents, pour les amis et pour de nombreux Libériens, la vie d'Albert, Gifty, George et Emmanuel comptent. Notre société libérienne risque

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



« Je suis choqué », le Sénateur Wesseh sur l'immolation par le feu de Ponpon

Le sénateur du comté de River Gee, Conmany Wesseh, a exprimé son plus grand choc face à la tentative de suicide de Leroy Archie Ponpon, un employé de la justice, en guise de protestation contre le non paiement des arriérés de salaire dus par le gouvernement du Libéria. Ponpon était à la tête d'un groupe d'employés du pouvoir judiciaire qui protestent depuis des mois contre la réduction de leur salaire mensuel, dans le cadre d'une politique gouvernementale dite d'harmonisation salariale mise en œuvre cette année dans l'ensemble de la fonction publique.

«En effet, tout le monde doit être préoccupé par ce qui a pu conduire Archie à préférer se suicider plutôt que de négocier une solution. Plus encore, pourquoi a-t-il choisi une manière aussi horrible, perspicace, atrocement douloureuse pour faire valoir son point. Pendant les 14 années de notre guerre et les terribles expériences qui en ont résulté, j'arrête de dire que les Libériens étaient incapables d'infliger une certaine cruauté et inhumaine à un autre être humain. Maintenant, je dois arrêter de penser qu'aucun Libérien n'est capable de protester à la manière d'Archie. Ce que tout cela confirme, c'est que nous devons rechercher la justice en toutes circonstances rapidement, correctement, adéquatement, en temps opportun, avec humanité et passion. Priez pour le prompt rétablissement d'Archie », a dit le sénateur Wesseh.

Dans un entretien avec ce journal le mardi 3 novembre dans son bureau au Capitole, le sénateur Wesseh a indiqué que la tentative de suicide de M. Ponpon doit interpeler le gouvernement pour procéder à une enquête rapide sur les préoccupations soulevées par les employés, sinon, le pays risque d'être témoin des tels actes.

« La justice doit être vue et servie rapidement par une voie transparente pour éviter que de jeunes Libériens s'immolent par le feu », a-t-il dit.

Membre de la classe progressiste et pilier du Parti de l'Unité, le sénateur a expliqué que certaines personnes ne peuvent pas supporter la dépression, en conséquence, elles se suicident. Il incombe ainsi au



gouvernement de réduire la frustration des personnes touchées à tout moment. Traiter les problèmes avec soin, rapidement et de manière transparente.

Il insiste en outre sur le fait que les gens devraient apprendre à résoudre les problèmes autour d'une table du dialogue plutôt que de prendre leur précieuse vie donnée par Dieu dans des protestations ou d'essayer de plaider ou de se faire entendre.

M. Archie Ponpon menaçait dernièrement de passer à l'acte, accusant le juge en chef Francis S. Korkpor d'user de tout son poids pour soit licencier, suspendre ou faire arrêter des membres du personnel du pouvoir judiciaire qui avaient organisé un mouvement de protestation pour réclamer des arriérés de salaire.

Lundi dernier, M. Ponpon aurait caché de l'essence sur lui pour se frayer un chemin dans les locaux du temple de la justice sur la colline du Capitole. Il s'est allongé par terre, a versé de l'essence sur lui, principalement sur sa poitrine, puis sorti un briquet pour s'enflammer, tandis que ceux qui l'entouraient criaient, horrifiés par ce geste qui semble être le premier de son genre dans l'histoire du Libéria.

Pour lui sauver la vie, certains de ses collègues ont utilisé de l'eau pour éteindre le feu. Mais il a subi des brûlures graves. Il a été aussitôt dépêché dans le centre de santé le plus proche pour être traité.

Plus tard dans la journée, certains des membres du personnel du pouvoir judiciaire se sont rassemblés sur les lieux où Ponpon s'est immolé par le feu et ont organisé une manifestation, exigeant justice et la démission du juge en chef Korkpor. Ils ont juré de défiler avec des cercueils dans les locaux du tribunal. La police anti-émeute a été déployée sur les lieux, sans aucun incident majeur.

Français

Le tueur du journaliste

comté de Bong», a expliqué le colonel Sudue.

Le porte-parole de la police Moses Carter a expliqué que le corps sans vie de la victime Brown a été retrouvé gisant dans une crique en milieu de journée le samedi 31 octobre non loin de Tucker Town, dans le comté de Bong. «Le suspect Henry Tucker, un éleveur de la communauté de Tucker, dans le comté de Bong, a été arrêté tard dans la soirée le 2 novembre 2020 après qu'une chasse à l'homme ait été lancée contre le suspect prince Garlawulo, un voleur notoire du comté de Bong», a dit Carter. Le voleur notoire

préssumé Garlawulo aurait avoué à la police avoir l'habitude de voler avec la victime les chèvres de l'éleveur Tucker pour les vendre, à en croire la police. «Le suspect Garlawulo a en outre informé les enquêteurs de la police que lui et le journaliste décédé volaient généralement des chèvres pour les vendre à une dame identifiée comme Geeta Bryant », a dit Carter. Le gouvernement, par la voix du ministre de l'Information Ledgerhood Rennie, a dit prendre la question très au sérieux, félicitant la police pour son enquête préliminaire.

5 millions de LD pour celui qui

d'être définie par ces vies, et pourtant ils sont morts de manière inexplicable.

Naturellement, ces familles souffrent. Pour certaines, elles ont perdu la personne qui dirigeait et, dans certains cas, ont maintenu ces familles ensemble. De nombreuses vies au sein de ces familles seront longtemps affectées par la perte qu'elles ont subie de façon traumatisante. Mes pensées et mes prières accompagnent toutes ces familles, et j'appelle tous les Libériens de bonne foi à se joindre aux prières pour ces familles profondément affligées.

En tant que chef de famille et père, mon cœur est brisé en sachant que, alors que ces familles pleurent la mort choquante et tragique de leurs proches, elles n'ont toujours pas les réponses dont elles ont besoin pour les aider à guérir et, espérons-le, apporter beaucoup. Besoin de mettre un terme aux expériences difficiles de leur perte. Je sais que rien de ce que nous ferons n'émoussera les douleurs de leur perte. Cependant, on ne peut pas non plus dire que nous n'avons pas fait tout ce que nous

pouvons, individuellement et collectivement, pour aider ces familles en deuil à trouver ce dont elles avaient besoin pour guérir.

Trouver une consolation raisonnable est également bon pour notre société. Par conséquent, il nous incombe à tous de faire tout ce que nous pouvons pour que notre pays reste un espace sûr où tous peuvent vivre, travailler et prendre soin de leurs proches.

En effet, aucune société ne peut empêcher la commission de tous les crimes. Cependant, aucune société ne peut être véritablement libre et espérer être en sécurité, là où les crimes présumés ne font pas l'objet d'enquêtes approfondies, les auteurs présumés appréhendés, la justice est dûment servie et le caractère sacré de la vie est jalousement protégé et préservé. Par conséquent, tant que ces morts resteront mystérieuses et inexplicables, le traumatisme de la peur envelopperait notre société. Aucune société ne peut, de manière réaliste, prospérer dans la liberté et la justice lorsque son peuple est submergé par la peur », a déclaré le Dr Cassell.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Shashi Tharoor

L'essor de l'électorat indo-américain

NEW DELHI - Par-delà les gros titres sur l'élection présidentielle aux États-Unis, une évolution peu remarquée retient pourtant l'attention des stratèges des campagnes électorales, en Inde comme en Amérique. Avec l'influence croissante de la communauté indo-américaine aux États-Unis - qui pourtant représente à peine 1 % de l'électorat -, la plus ancienne démocratie de la planète ne peut plus ignorer la plus peuplée.

Les indo-américains sont par le nombre de deuxième groupe de migrants aux États-Unis, et l'un des groupes dont la croissance est la plus rapide - une hausse de presque 150 % au cours des dix dernières années. Ils forment aussi le plus riche et le plus éduqué des groupes ethniques, avec un revenu médian (estimé en 2015 à 100 000 dollars) de près du double de la moyenne nationale. Et ils sont remarquablement actifs au plan politique, comme électeurs, comme militants, donateurs et candidats. Au cours des deux dernières décennies, les Américains d'origine indienne ont donné au pays deux gouverneurs, une sénatrice au Congrès des États-Unis, cinq députés à la Chambre des représentants, et aujourd'hui une candidate à la vice-présidence.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant que les deux partis s'affairent activement autour des électeurs indo-américains, dont un nombre significatif réside dans des États où les résultats peuvent être serrés, comme le Texas, le Michigan et la Pennsylvanie. Les deux candidats à la présidence ont diffusé des messages de campagne enregistrés dans des langues indiennes sur les principales chaînes de télévision diffusant des programmes indiens aux États-Unis, et Joe Biden est apparu lors de la fête hindoue de Ganesh pour courtiser l'électorat indo-américain.

Dans le camp démocrate, la candidate à la vice-présidence, sénatrice de Californie au Congrès des États-Unis, Kamala Harris, revendique ses racines, et elle a utilisé un nom tamoul pour désigner ses tantes lors de son discours d'investiture, au mois d'août. Elle a longuement évoqué ses origines indiennes, ses visites à son grand-père, et leurs conversations, dans leurs promenades au bord de la mer, à Madras, la capitale du Tamil Nadu. En outre, des personnalités indo-américaines ont mené campagne avec enthousiasme pour le « ticket » Biden-Harris, établissant probablement lors d'une collecte de 3,3 millions de dollars auprès de la communauté indo-américaine un record de campagne.

Pour sa part, le président des États-Unis Donald Trump a répondu à la nomination de Mme Harris par un spot de campagne où était invité le Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi, dont il n'a cessé de chanter les louanges au cours de son mandat. Tous deux populistes de droite, suspicieux envers les minorités, Trump et Modi entretiennent une sorte d'« amitié virile ». Ils ont même tenu ensemble des meetings de campagne, partageant l'estrade lors d'un événement intitulé « Howdy Modi ! [Salut, Modi !] » au Texas, qui a eu pour pendant un « Namaste Trump [Je m'incline devant toi, Trump] » dans le Gujarat, l'État natal du Premier ministre indien.

Les républicains ont mis sur pied une organisation de campagne intitulée Indian Voices for Trump, ainsi que divers sous-groupes, destinés à cibler l'électorat indo-américain hindou, sikh et musulman. Et les stratèges de Trump se sont récemment arrangés pour que leur candidat préside un événement rare, une cérémonie de naturalisation à la Maison Blanche, où figurait en bonne place une ingénieure informatique d'origine indienne vêtue du sari traditionnel.

Toutes ces intentions ont conduit certains observateurs à penser que les indo-américains, qui votent habituellement en faveur des démocrates, pourraient reporter leur soutien sur Trump lors de ce scrutin. Un réalignment modeste s'est

probablement ensuivi, par rapport aux 84 % de cet électorat ayant accordé leur suffrage à la réélection du président Barack Obama. Néanmoins, un récent sondage YouGov indique que 72 % de l'électorat indo-américain soutient Biden et, comme le conclut une étude non moins récente : « les Indo-Américains maintiennent des liens forts avec le parti démocrate, et peu de signes militent en faveur d'un glissement vers le parti républicain. » Lorsque Trump a lancé, lors du second débat présidentiel, que l'air en Inde était « dégoûtant », Biden n'a pas manqué de répliquer qu'il n'insulterait jamais ainsi un ami.

D'importantes lignes de fracture émergent pourtant dans la communauté indo-américaine. La diaspora indienne, quoique très influente considérée collectivement, est profondément divisée par l'idéologie, la religion, l'âge, l'histoire des migrations et même la caste.

Ainsi Modi apparaît-il comme une figure très polarisante parmi les Indo-Américains. Celles et ceux qui le soutiennent le font passionnément, applaudissant à son intransigeance sur les questions du Cachemire et du Pakistan, et lorsqu'il promeut le règne idéologique hégémonique de l'hindouïté (le nationalisme hindou). Ils louent l'amendement de la loi sur la citoyenneté et la participation du chef de l'État indien à une cérémonie de pose de la première pierre d'un temple dédié au dieu Rama sur le site d'une mosquée démolie.

Mais les Indo-Américains qui penchent plus à gauche s'opposent avec la même force à Modi. Si la droite de la communauté salue avec ferveur chaque visite de Modi en Amérique, ils manifestent devant ses meetings et critiquent son bilan en matière de droits de l'homme. La popularité de Modi auprès d'une partie de l'électorat indo-américain se traduit probablement par un léger glissement vers Trump, mais les soutiens du ticket démocrate dans l'autre partie de cet électorat sont, de loin, beaucoup plus nombreux.

Les deux campagnes ont cependant des faiblesses. La rhétorique incendiaire de Trump sur l'immigration et les mesures prises par son administration - notamment les restrictions drastiques imposées au visa H-1B, qui ont frappé sans commune mesure les professionnels indiens de la haute technologie - n'ont certainement pas amélioré sa popularité au sein de la communauté indo-américaine. Mais il reste à voir si les démocrates seront aidés ou au contraire handicapés par les critiques que leurs dirigeants ne ménagent pas à l'encontre de Modi. La députée Pramila Jayapal, de l'État de Washington, et le député Ro Khanna, de Californie, relayés par Harris, ont condamné les mesures prises par le gouvernement Modi au Cachemire.

Si Biden l'emporte, la présence de Harris dans son administration garantira à l'Inde qu'elle ne sera plus négligée, et encore moins oubliée. Mais cette nouvelle attention jouera dans les deux sens. Harris parlera à l'évidence d'une voix forte en faveur de la démocratie et des droits humains, ce qui pourrait la placer dans une situation d'opposition au gouvernement Modi. Lorsque des responsables politiques entretiennent des liens particuliers avec un pays tiers, ils adoptent le plus souvent à son égard des positions passionnées et peu enclines aux compromis. Mais cette attitude n'est pas toujours appréciée dans le pays en question, et la réaction de Modi et de ses alliés ne fait guère de doute.

Les soutiens indo-américains de Modi sont probablement convaincus que la réélection de Trump serait « bonne pour l'Inde ». Mais si Trump a soutenu sans barguigner Modi et son programme d'hindouïté - avec une convergence croissante sur la coopération en matière de sécurité, en raison notamment de la forte présence de la Chine dans la région -, son administration n'a pas toujours été aux côtés de l'Inde. Des droits de douane et des restrictions migratoires à la politique environnementale, l'attitude des États-Unis a provoqué New Delhi au cours des quatre années passées.

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School principal

use the building led to his alleged flogging.

He said though the NEC had arranged for the building, he had no plan to allow politicians hold rally on his campus because policy from the Ministry of Education forbids school premises to be used for political meetings especially, while academic activities are in progress.

He recalled that on early Tuesday morning, the National Elections Commission Maryland office contacted him to use the school campus for its recent voters exhibition exercise, but to his utmost surprise, Mr. Biney's supporters had

contrary to claim by the CDC supporters.

He said action was not on the basis of favoritism for any particular candidate or party, but to protect the image of the school and the Ministry, knowing the policy of the Ministry of Education.

He said the ruling party supporters, who allegedly flogged him, also threatened that he would lose his job saying, "You don't know that we are the ruling party and you are refusing for us to use the school building?"

"Let me say to you, I was not only threatened of job dismissal, but my name was removed from the exhibition

to."

Defending his action, he said, "I am prepared, because I can't be with the government as an employee and be treated by some supporters of the government just because I am protecting the good image of the Ministry that works directly under the government."

Meanwhile, George Tambagbess, Discrepancy Officer in the office of Speaker Bhofal Chambers and a supporter of senatorial candidate James P. Biney, who witnessed the situation between Principal Towaye and his colleagues in district#3, Maryland County, described the allegations fake and misleading.

According to him, the situation which resulted to fist-fight between Biney's supporters and the school principal was allegedly masterminded by some supporters of Maryland County Senator Dan Morais, who is seeking reelection.

Mr. Tambagbess narrated that it all started when they got at the school campus early Tuesday morning to use the school building to donate a power-saw to residents of the district, who had asked Mr. Biney to provide them a power-saw.

He said when they got to the school building, it wasn't in use, as claimed by Principal Towaye, so they decided arranging for the building to use it for their donation purpose.

Tambagbess said to their surprise, the Principal refused and decided to lock doors of the school, but they couldn't allow it because they noticed his action was something planned by the opposition, who decided to damage image of the ruling CDC.

But despite the denial, information gathered by this paper corroborates that indeed, Principal Towaye was allegedly assaulted by supporters of the ruling party candidate Jame Biney. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**



Principal Eusebio Towaye of the Karloken High School

gathered on the school campus.

He said the situation couldn't have led to a fist-fight but the Biney's supporters decided to forcibly use the building when he had refused and decided to lock the doors of the school building.

Principal Towaye disclosed that his refusal led the CDC to term his action as being biased and supportive of the opposition.

However, he clarified that since his appointment as Principal for the Karloken High School; he had never allowed political parties to use the premises for rallies

process that I had applied for", he added.

Principal Towaye: "So taking the case to court, wasn't only because I was flogged by supporters of the ruling party candidate but to also seek proper justice, seeing how was flogged and being threatened."

However, when asked whether he has gotten support from residents of the district or the Ministry of Education on his decision to take the case to court, he said the decision was reached in consultation with his family.

"As I speak to you now on this radio, the case has been registered and I was asked to bring my lawyers, if I wanted

WONGOSOL proposes

Cont'd from page 6

In the wake of these rapes incidents, Ms. Cummings indicates that the two - day National Anti - Rape and SGBV conference held at the Ministerial Complex from 8 to 9 September this year following the three - day record anti - rape protest represents crucial reform action by the government.

She recalls that during the conference, a road map was developed to serve as a working tool to address all forms of SGBV within the short, medium and long term from September 2020 to September 2022.

Potential challenges identified by the study include policies and politics, as Ms. Cummings points to the colossal culture of lack between policy or laws and practice and demonstrated political [will], a major risk to the implementation of the road map.

Political will for the judicial systems reform is also cited as

that it presents breakthrough recommendations to the government and advocacy actions to CSOs and activists on mitigating the challenges and successfully implementing the roadmap.

Launching the Policy Brief, Deputy Gender Minister Madam Alice Howard says the work speaks volume, saying it talks a lot about what the president has already declared an emergency.

She notes that data wakes people up, adding that this is why "we are here today to agree with WONGOSOL for the work and the donor that gave them the funding to do this project."

Minister Howard stresses the importance of continuously doing such project, expressing hope that the study could help solve the problem in Liberia.

"I take this time to launch this Policy Brief and it be a working tool for us to use in this country, going forward," Minister Howard says.



a challenge, specifically looking at the structural challenges, quantity and quality of human resource and system rigidity as well as systemic corruption that back survivors in their path to accessing justice and undermine speedy trial.

Giving the overview earlier, Ms. Eliza Dahn says the event is intended to communicate a policy brief prepared by the Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia with support from USAID through LAVI.

She says during the presentation on the major content of the policy brief, it provides evidence and analysis regarding SGBV statistics, laws, policies, debates and plans.

She continues that within a frame of analytical considerations of evidence, WONGOSOL mapped - out potential challenges to implement the anti - rape and SGBV roadmap.

Additionally, she indicates

In remarks, Madam Tenneh Johnson from the SGBV Unit at the Ministry of Justice says the ministry has prosecuted and won five cases from January this year for Montserrado alone, and there are lot of indictments on the table.

She notes that there's a need to work with the actors in an effort to fast track those cases.

Representing Carter Center, Madam Cerue Konah Garlo recommends that in spite of all the laws and policies in place, anti - rape and SGBV dialogue should be taken to the community level to have community - led approaches to combat SGBV, especially rape.

"Because people in the community, especially men, how do they see women? What's the value system they have for women? Right, sit with them and dialogue. I think the best way to do it is to have a lot of dialogue at the community level," she concludes.

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VR clean-up

He admonished the youth of Montserrado County to prepare themselves for the December 8 special senatorial election by ensuring their voter's identification cards issued them by the National Elections Commission (NEC) to participate in the special senatorial elections are safely kept.

Opposition parties here have demanded the national

elections Commission to properly clean-up the Final Voter Roll by weeding out duplicated names if the election must be credible and transparent.

The opposition Collaborating Political Parties filed a lawsuit against the National Elections Commission (NEC) before the Supreme Court of Liberia to halt the recently held nation-wide

voters roll update exercise due to what they described as multiple registrations of people.

The regional body, ECOWAS, assisted by the United Nations, is helping the NEC to clean up the Final Voter's Roll ahead of the December poll. - **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

Trump runs to court

With counting still ongoing in several battleground states in the US, several media reports have put former Vice President Joe Biden in a touching distance to the White House, as incumbent President Donald Trump file lawsuits to prevent counting in some battleground state.

The UK independent newspaper reported Thursday that Mr. Biden was within touching distance to victory over Trump after flipping the key states of Michigan and Wisconsin with a retain lead in Arizona.

Fox News had earlier

Trump's supporters have begun protesting outside the vote count facility in Phoenix, some of them armed, after the incumbent president made baseless claims of electoral fraud in the hours after polling closed. In Detroit, they demanded the count be stopped.

Trump has begun legal action in an attempt to prevent the counting of legitimate votes in battleground states, but judges in Georgia and Pennsylvania on Thursday dismissed lawsuits aimed at stopping ballot counts.

But according to the BBC, both Trump and Biden are each confident of victory as the

BBC, the overall turnout in Tuesday's election is projected to be the highest in 120 years at 66.9%, according to the US Election Project.

Mr Biden had the support of 70.5 million voters, the most won by any presidential candidate ever. Mr Trump has pulled in 67.2 million votes, four million more than he gained in 2016.

In a related development, the CNN reported on Thursday that the Trump campaign had withdrawn its federal court challenge to 93 absentee ballots and says it will pursue in state court

The network reported that Republican lawyers told a federal judge Thursday that they'd like to withdraw their request for a restraining order over 93 ballots in Pennsylvania's Montgomery County that voters were allowed to cure before Election Day after their absentee ballot wouldn't be accepted.

It further reported that a day before, the judge suggested the case was an attempt to disenfranchise voters and toss out the votes, though he did not rule.

The report indicated that the Republicans noted they have a hearing on a similar case they've brought in Pennsylvania state court scheduled for Friday.

"Due to the timing of these proceedings and the pendency of a hearing scheduled in the Commonwealth Court of the Pennsylvania at 10:00 a.m. Friday, November 6, 2020, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Plaintiffs believe that a Temporary Restraining Order in this case will be ineffective in addressing the matters covered in their Motion and, therefore, withdraw their Motion without prejudice to their underlying Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and ask the Court to enter an appropriate order," the Republicans' court filing said. -Complied by New Dawn

outcome hangs in the balance with both sides embroiled in a legal fight over votes.

The BBC reports that projected wins in the Rust Belt states of Michigan and Wisconsin have inched Mr Biden closer to victory.

In a televised address, Trump declared victory and alleged voter fraud, while accusing his rivals of trying to "steal" the election.

In his televised address, Biden urges supporters to exercise some patience, but was confident that he was on course to be the next man in the White House.

Meanwhile, according to the



called the State of Arizona for with 11 Electoral Votes for former Vice President Biden. While other network still had the two men at 253 and 214, Fox News with its prediction puts Biden ahead at 264 Electoral College votes with Trump 214.

Several media reports also indicates that the main challenge to the White House now lies in Georgia and Pennsylvania, where officials have said they could declare a result as at Thursday. Victory for Mr Biden in either state would propel him into the White House.

Reports say a number of

Conditions of Archie Ponpon worsen

By Bridgett Milton & By Ethel A Tweh

Family members of protesting judicial worker Archie Ponpon who set himself ablaze are making an SOS call to all well-meaning Liberians to help save their son's life.

Mr. Ponpon set himself ablaze on Monday, 2 November at the Temple of Justice in Monrovia in continuation of several weeks of protests by him and his fellow workers for cut salaries, as he accused Chief Justice Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. of suspending and

sustained from the fire costs about US\$150 at the John F. Kennedy Medical Hospital and the Ponpon family cannot afford such amount.

Additionally, Archie Ponpon's younger brother Emmanuel Jipoe is also calling on humanitarians to make intervention, noting that there has been no medical attention shown to Archie and his condition is getting worse daily.

He claims that Doctors and Nurses at the hospital have



relieving protesting of their jobs.

Speaking to this paper Wednesday, 4 November via telephone, the father of Archie Ponpon, Mr. Andy Ponpon said the condition of his son is getting worse on a daily basis.

Mr. Ponpon says laments that there is a need for his son to be taken out of the country for an urgent medical treatment to save his life.

According to him, a single medical drug recommended to cure his son from the injuries

allegedly informed the family that there's no medication at the hospital for Archie.

He narrates that the government is owing his brother for 12, therefore it take the full responsibility of Archie's wellbeing while he is in the hospital. "Archie is in unbearable pains, we are brothers so I feel his pains as well. Archie kept saying he's dying whenever I visit him. My brother is in too much pains," Jipoe says. -Edited by Winston W. Parley

NEC rules

Cont'd from page 6

Jarkollie's complaint was therefore confirmed and affirmed. Cllr. Morgan Awar in the board's ruling said in the case, Candidate Nomination Process, in which Mr. Jarkollie was seeking to reopen or extend the nomination process on ground of illness, the BOC was exercising its Administrative and Regulatory functions and not its quasi-judicial functions as provided by law.

Meanwhile, the legal representative of Mr. Mulbah Jarkollie, Atty. Steven Karr

after taking exception to the ruling also announced an appeal to the Supreme Court of Liberia.

All seven members of the BOC, including Chairperson Davidetta Browne Lansanah, Co-chairperson Cllr. P. Teplah Reeves, Commissioners Boakai A. Dukuly, Barsee Leo Kpangbai, Cllr. Ernestine Morgan Awar, Floyd Oxley Saylor and Josephine Kou Gaye heard the elections cases and signed the rulings.

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School principal flogged -for denying CDC access



Principal Eusebio Towaye of the Karloken High School

By Patrick N. Mensah, Maryland

Days after he was allegedly flogged by supporters of the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) senatorial candidate James P. Biney in Karluway, Electoral district #3, Maryland County, the Principal of the Karloken High

School, Eusebio Towaye, has taken several supporters of the ruling Coalition before the Pleebo Magisterial Court.

Speaking on a community radio station on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 via mobile phone, Principal Towaye narrated the he was allegedly flogged by supporters of Mr.

Biney because he [Towaye] refused to allow them access to a school building that had previously been booked by the National Elections Commission sub-office in the county.

According to him, a day before Mr. Biney's supporters visited campus of the Karloken High School, asking to use the school auditorium for a ceremony to donate a power-saw to residents of Karloken, the National Elections Commission had already arranged for the building.

He explained that since the NEC had already booked the building for exhibition purpose, he refused to allow politicians to use the school facility.

Principal Towaye continued that his refusal to allow the CDC supporters to

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Strengthen editorial leadership

-LMD Chief of Party urges media editors

The Chief of Party for the Liberia Media Development Program under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Lien Bach, has challenged media editors in Liberia to strengthen their editorial leadership in electorate reporting.

Madam Bach said editors should inspire journalists to

produce fact-based and objective reports that would promote free and fair elections in Liberia.

She spoke Wednesday, 04 November in Monrovia at a one-day High Level Media Editors' Forum organized by the Publishers Association of Liberia with support from USAID facilitated by Internews.

Madam Bach described the forum as a great opportunity for



Liberian Editors to share their experiences and expertise with one another in enhancing electoral reporting.

She noted that despite challenges confronting the media in Liberia, professionalism should be maintained to inform the public adequately on electoral issues ahead of the Special Senatorial Election on December 8, 2020.

Madam Bach stressed that

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