

THE NEWSPAPER THE KEY

1st EDITION

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Monthly English Newspaper

■ Political - Cultural - Social

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Mauritania welcomes the new American Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht



The Key Is Celebrating The World Press Freedom Day

The Key Newspaper INTERVIEW With The HAPA
President Dr. El Houssein Meddou

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The press has always been the bedrock of democracy. It is the voice of the voiceless i.e. it holds the powerful people accountable when they abuse their power and shares the covered information that matters most to the local communities. Hence, The key Newspaper has interviewed Dr. El Houssein Meddou, the president of HAPA to get the required information about the press in Mauritania at first hand. The interview went as what follows . Read P: 3-4



EDITORIAL

■ Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Sidi Ely

Welcome to THE KEY Newspaper First edition .Since a free press is considered to be the cornerstone of democracy, we've decided



to create this medium. Also, having this English platform in Mauritania is going to bridge the gap between Mauritians and others in the world. In The key, we will strongly adhere to the standards of journalism. The ultimate goal of this newspaper is to be credible, accurate and reliable. We firmly believe that this is the high time to disseminate the news and information in the lingua franca today. We hereby take the oath that we shall be honest, assertive and Courageous. Moreover, this newspaper shall devote more time to the English learners. Thus, they will be provided with all of the necessary stuff to help them learn the English language. Furthermore, The Key Board is open to all of the readers' suggestions that could reinforce the quality of this medium project. To conclude, socially we are going to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of what's going on in the society as a matter of integrity.

Free Medical Insurance to secure 100 thousand Mauritanian families

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What did Mauritania do to keep COVID-19 Under control?

Mauritania Is Warmly Welcoming The New Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht

Mauritania welcomed with open arms the new American Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021.

Cynthia Kierscht Career

Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, was confirmed by the Senate on December 22, 2020, and sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on January 27, 2021. She previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Canada, Haiti and the Caribbean in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA) and as Director and Deputy Director in WHA's Office of Canadian Affairs. From 2011-2016, Ms. Kierscht served in Bogotá, Colombia as the Cultural Affairs Officer, the Deputy Management Counselor, and the Coordinator for the Summit of the Americas.



In Washington, she served twice in the Bureau of Counterterrorism, in the WHA Office of the Executive Director, on the Secretariat Staff and in the Operations Center, and in the

Near East Bureau. Her overseas assignments include the U.S. Embassy in Rabat, the U.S. Interests Section in Tripoli, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, and the U.S. Consulate in Marseille. She has been the recipient of several Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards and speaks Arabic, French and Spanish.

Ms. Kierscht earned a B.A. in International Relations from Carleton College and a Masters in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. When did Cynthia Kierscht hand in her copies of Credentials to Mr. Ismail Cheikh Ahmed ? The New American Ambassador Cynthia Kierscht To Mauritania handed in copies of her credentials to the Minister Of Foreign Affairs , Cooperation and Mauritanian's Board Mr. Ismail Cheikh Ahmed .

Cynthia Kierscht has made the following comments about Mauritania.

Mauritania is on the right track since the elec-

tion of the current incumbent Mr. Mohamed Cheikh Al Qazwani .

Moreover, She said that American companies are coming to Mauritania for Investment. In addition to that

Some of the gas companies have noticed some successful opportunities. Furthermore,

She said that Mauritania has achieved great success regarding the abolishment of slavery since the current incumbent was elected as the president of the state. Though Mauritania had a bad record regarding the human rights ,it is getting better now thanks to the current government.

Mauritania is getting better now with regard to "trafficking " The Mauritanian Government has made a new legislation to stop trafficking, and a new ministry committee, its objective is to take care of all of the matters that are related to trafficking. The government has come up with an effective strategy to eradicate this issue.

Free Medical Insurance to secure 100 thousand Mauritanian families



On Friday, 28th, 2021 the head of the state ordered that 100 thousand medical insurance cards to be distributed to secure some poor families; it was executed through the public union for the sake of the national solidarity the condemn of the exclusion . This was of his presidential platform that says many poor families will have access to the basic services. It's guesstimated that 620 citizens benefited from this new initiative. Nevertheless, some critics have posed this question, why not the new free medical insurance open to everyone since the population is not that large number?



THE KEY

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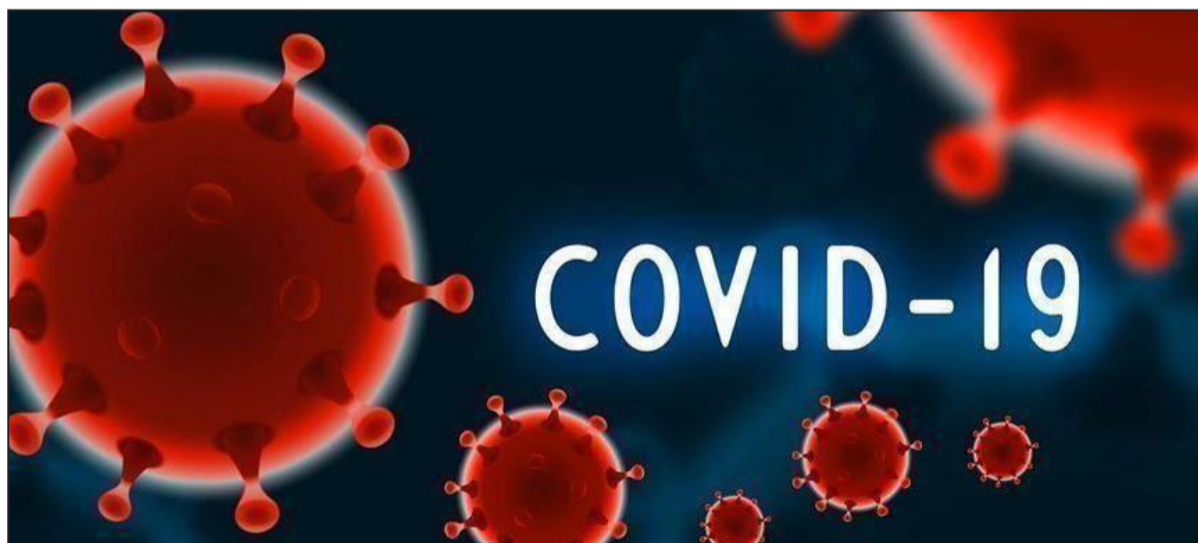
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What did Mauritania do to keep COVID- 19 Under control?

COVID-19 is a Pandemic that terrified people globally. It made the mighty countries weak. It brought about terror to the largest country in the world which is China even the most powerful country in the world in human history which is America was terrified at it. This very virus has started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The WHO declared the outbreak PHEIC on January 30th, 2020 ; slowly but surely it was declared as a pandemic on March 11th. Then Mauritania isn't on another planet and declared the shutdown of schools on March 15th ,2020 , but Lo and behold the markets were shut down as well. Thereafter, the lockdown and the curfew were to be announced. All Mauritians got terrified, for this is a Pandemic that they never experienced, yet it didn't bring too much damage to them because of the great efforts that were made by the ministry of health. People surfed the internet day in day out to get the latest news about the cases. It took the Mauritians months to placate and see it as a typical virus. Then , the government announced some measures that were to be practiced in order to protect oneself from catching such a virus. They had to



wear masks every time one is going out home . Social distancing and physical distancing were to be practiced as well as we wouldn't shake hands with one another even some of our relatives out of fear from infecting one another.

The New Variants of COVID- 19 In Mauritania

On May 19th,2021, It was reported by the minister of Health that four people have been infected with three new different variants of COVID-19.

Two people were infected with the

variant of U.K. One person was infected with the Variant of India. The other one was infected with the variant of South Africa . He has asked the citizens to take more serious precautions measures in order to keep themselves protected from these more dangerous and contagious variants of COVID-19.

Statistics of the national Vaccination Campaign against COVID-19 on June 4th

It's reported from the ministry of

health regarding the total number of the population of Mauritanian that received the vaccination against the new version of COVID-19 since the beginning of the vaccination that started on March 26th .

There are two doses . To break it down:

Dose 1

The total number of the new candidates is 968

The total number of the vaccinated people is 36,121

Dose 2

The number of the new candidates is 00

The total number of the vaccinated

people is 6,902

Furthermore, the new minister of the ministry of health Sidi Zahav was In the accompany of the minister of the national defense and the ambassador of China in the country on Saturday at the international Oumtounsy airport to receive the second batch of Sinopharm vaccine that is about 280 thousand doses that is granted by China . Moreover, the minister of health ministry called upon people to take the vaccine against COVID- 19 so that the vaccine can reach a better stage. Hence, the country can be better economically and socially during the time frame of this pandemic.

The country has already received one batch from Sinopharm vaccine that is made of 50 thousand doses in addition to 13 ventilators.

The Latest Update about COVID- 19 In Mauritania

It was reported that on Friday, June 4th ,2021

32 recoveries, 57 new cases, and zero death.

Total cases in the country 19,752 out of those cases 18, 713 people have recovered; 466 deaths and 573 active cases.

The Key Is Celebrating The World Press Freedom Day

The Key Newspaper INTERVIEW With The HAPA President Dr. El Houssein Meddou

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Know-The-HAPA

HAPA is a French acronym that stands for (La Haute Autorité de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel) as for the translation would be as what follows (The higher Authority for Press and Audiovisual) HAPA was founded on October 20th ,2006 . It was stipulated by the law N 26/2008 in the second article to institute an independent administration authority to be in charge of the sector of the press and Audiovisuals under the commands of the president of the state. It was agreed upon that the location should be in Nouakchott in addition to having the power and the recognition with a financial independence.

The article N4 of the law that has already been mentioned has defined the power of HAPA and of the most important ones of them are what follows :

- Making sure to enact the legislations and the systems that are related to the press and Audiovisual communication.

- Conducting some surveys regarding the demands of the use of the stations and the companies of the Audiovisual broadcasting and giving an opinion regarding the approval of authorizing ,refusing ,renewing , or withdrawal of the authorization , and permissions to benefit from these stations and companies .

- Guaranteeing the Independency, the freedom of media, and communication according to the law enforcement.

Ensuring the rights of the political parties, the unions and the civil societies systems that are authorized to access to the public media based upon the terms that are stipulated by the law.

- Coming up with the regulations of the production, programming as well as broadcasting the programs that are related to the electoral campaigns .

- Having fair competitions between the public and private print and Audiovisual media .

- The Board of the higher Authority is made of six members including at least one woman.

The president and two other members are appointed by the head of the state.

- Three other members are appointed by the president of the National Assembly.

The press has always been the bedrock of democracy. It is the voice of the voiceless i.e. it holds the powerful people accountable when they abuse their power and shares the covered information that matters most to the local communities. Hence, The key Newspaper has interviewed Houssein Meddou, the president of HAPA to get the required information about the press in Mauritania at first hand. The interview went as what follows .

The Key Newspaper commenced the interview with the next question:



What's the Role of The Higher Authority for Press and Audiovisual?

The ultimate role of The HAPA is to have full control over the journalists, for we are responsible over them i.e. we should put them in good conditions where they can fulfill the responsibility that has been placed upon them similarly they have some rights from HAPA e.g. we make sure that

their rights are not taken away from them furthermore the journalists are cognizant of the fact that there is a higher power over them where they should not violate the rules and regulations.

Are there any encouragements from The HAPA for the Journalists?

The HAPA does encourage the jour-

nalists through offering some training regarding this field. Hence, they can perform this task professionally. Add to that, The HAPA gives some awards for the outstanding journalists that have written some outstanding articles so that they can put in more efforts.

How do you deal with the journalists when they so happen to violate the regulations?

The HAPA follows up all of what is written about the country whether it's written locally or internationally. When someone happens to abuse the power that has been given to him, there is a committee that is in charge of that , they would warn, reprimand or even strip the platforms authorizations before the actual penalties. The HAPA has given dozens of warnings to websites, TVs and radios in order to divert their attentions to the fact that no mistakes are committed. Thus, the information is going to be accurate and credible.

What would be your responsibility over the press in the country?

We make sure that every journalist can speak his mind freely without having any fear to be arrested wrongly similarly the journalists have to if not must abide by the rules so that this profession can be done in the best fashion and manner.

To be continued
P:4





Part II
P:3

The Cinema In Mauritania Needs A Financial Aid and Support

How would you assess the press?

The HAPA makes some reports and studies regarding the media landscape, we would extrapolate as many lessons as possible that our journalists would be in need of to work at a professional level. The HAPA is looking forward to having a training for all of the journalists. Thus, they will be equipped with all what this profession needs e.g. the information that they share is accurate and verifiable; they become courageous and bold to represent this profession in the utmost best way; they possess credibility, integrity and good ethics.

How far back has this establishment been founded?

This establishment was founded in 2006. It's an independent establishment. Its main role is to take the press here in Mauritania to its peak where journalists are not held back to express themselves in honest ways .

What is your impression about This English Newspaper?

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for having me in the first Mauritanian English Newspaper, and I want to compliment you for this great ambition. Since this is the first Mauritanian English Newspaper, let me admit the fact that you have some advantages similarly you have some minute disadvantages as well. To start off with the advantages, you're going to deliver the news in English this should be translated as you might be read by everyone. You're going to give all of the information about Mauritania In English, for the bulk of the Information is disseminated in English around 70%.

Of the advantages as well when someone reads about Mauritania through your newspaper, he will get it from the right people i.e. beyond the shadow of a doubt that there is great difference between writing about Mauritania by Mauritians and writing about Mauritania by non-Mauritians . Moreover , you are driving the Mauritians to learn the Lingua Franca which is none other than English. There would be some hurdles as I've stated before your audience here in Mauritania is very minor furthermore this is the first time ever some diligent, accomplished , and ambitious young people want to accomplish something that's unprecedented. Hence , People will doubt your abilities, for they never tried so because they never thought of this as something that can be accomplished. They will discourage instead of encouraging.

Are we in need of An English medium in the country?

The HAPA President responded, The news today should be delivered in the most spoken language which is English. I believe this is the high time to embark upon such a journey. When we speak about languages, we should not speak about the quantity but rather the quality . English is the most impactful language today. Therefore, my answer would be, yes we need such a medium. To illustrate, we shouldn't speak about the impact of Arabic in Arab countries but rather the impact of Arabic globally. There is no comparison between Arabic and English today as far as the influence is concerned.

Must the journalists today speak English?

The standard journalist today is the journalist that speaks English otherwise he would be ignorant of the bulk of the Information that's disseminated globally. The journalist has to if not must speak English as the saying goes " The journalist is just like the philosophy he is a layman at different fields. Since you are English journalists, you were very lucky to be the first ones to aspire to achieve such a goal in the country.

Many series and plays would be made year in year out, yet they wouldn't be financially given too much support as a consequence they would not meet the expectations of the seventh art audience.

The cinema in Mauritania shouldn't be like the other sectors, for the actors they themselves are capable to do a lot; they put in more efforts though in lieu of being encouraged, they would be discouraged by the society, simply because they don't know the value of the cinema. Many series and plays have been made recently. Although the actors are not in good conditions to exhibit their best, they were competent at what they were doing. Imagine if they were to be supported, how they would benefit in addition to benefiting the people that invested in them. The cinema has so many benefits that we can extrapolate: of them it boosts the economy if not skyrockets it .e.g. when so many jobless people get chances to make ends meet through the seventh art. The actors advertise to people e.g. when an actor drinks a type of drink



in a movie, the fans would want to get the same drink by any means, for their favorite actor was drinking it, and as a result they would just want to be like them. Cinema transmits one's culture to another. Furthermore, it preserves the culture i.e. when a different generation happens to watch a movie that was made during a frame time in a totally different one, they will get to know the customs, habits, and tradition of their country back then since the series would be made according to the norms and values of one' cultures. It educates in ways that we cannot imagine e.g. when someone

watches a series. Then he so happens to coincide with his persona, he will solve his problems based upon how his favorite character solved his. Last but not least, series, plays and movies, they always carry some healthy and critical messages to pass on to the others.

To summarize, the actors in Mauritania are not only competent but also qualified, however, they only need financial supports to take their business to the next level. If you want to invest your money, the right field would be the cinema in Mauritania.

How Is The Eid Of Al Fitir Celebrated In Mauritania? (A Primary Festival For The Muslims)



A Universal Eid (Festival) for the Muslims that would occur regularly on 1st Of Shawal .

Culture is what makes people different from one another. Nonetheless, it would be wrong when you consider your culture to be the be-all and end-all. We need to be open-minded, and embrace one another. The ultimate purpose of this article is to live in harmony universally. We need to coexist so that the world will be much better than what we can ever imagine. Regarding cultures what may make sense for someone in his culture may not add up to another person in his. Nevertheless,

this shouldn't be the case. When you get exposed to a new culture, get open to it without preconceived ideas or prejudices. Embrace what might benefit you , and leave out what might harm you from your own perspective. As you may know the Muslims have only two PRIMARY EIDS (FESTIVALS) i.e. there are two FESTIVALS that would be unanimously celebrated by all Muslims every time they occur in their regular times. We don't have problems to celebrate other festivals as long as they don't have some religious connotations, yet there are only two primary Eids (FESTIVALS) for the Muslims.

The word Eid is derived from the word (Ada Ya'oudou) i.e. Eid signifies two things: A regular return at a time interval and a congregation of people. With regard to the first definition; it translates as This Eid would happen every year at the same time . The second definition translates as people gather together at that time. We refrain ourselves from eating and drinking in the daytime for a month , and once that month is over ,we celebrate as we are so happy due to the fact that we were able to do it. People would congregate in the morning around 9 AM to offer two units (Raka'ats). Then, they would congratulate one another on that day. They would rejoice ,for that's their festival. Parents would be obligated to purchase clothes to their children because of this Day. Some people would slaughter an animal as a part of celebration. Moreover, children would go around to ask for (Ndewna: given tips for the children as a part of rejoicing with them). Men and women would ask for forgiveness , for one might have wronged the other one unintentionally, and this is the right opportunity to get absolved.

To conclude, this Festival is of our primary Festivals, for it was Gifted to us by God . It's been being celebrated for almost 15 centuries, and it's still celebrated to this day. It shall be celebrated continuously.

English Impact Today In Mauritania



American Corner ISERI CLUB

It's unanimously agreed that English is the lingua franca today. Therefore, it must have influenced so many countries in the world. Mauritania would be one of them. Even though English is neither spoken here as a first language nor as a second one, it is studied at the University of Nouakchott AL Aasriya as a Major field of studies. Some students would graduate with the ability to speak this foreign language though they lack an environment where they can practice it more. Students would be taught all of the necessary skills that one would need to learn any language. Professors would do all their best to fulfill their res-

ponsibility. Having that said, also, there are many English centers and institutes that were

instituted to help the students that didn't have chances to major in English. It would only be

a matter of months and the students would be able to get their messages across in English. We are not here to romanticize but to say the truth as it is.

The sad fact of the matter is that many English students from the English department would graduate having great difficulty to communicate effectively, and this is problematic on multiple levels. Professors may be exonerated, nonetheless some would be guilty. We hereby ask and petition the government to support instructors so that they can perform well the responsibility that was placed upon them. Since some students wouldn't have an English environment where they can boost their English, Some professors

and teachers came up to the fact that there must be a plan B which is to have some centers and institutes to trouble-shoot this problem. However, some of them would stand out from the other ones as it is the way of life e.g. The TOP, The English House, EBC, NEC, TEC and A. T .A Academy. Moreover, there is no shred of a doubt that The American Center at US Embassy in Mauritania is playing a vital role to help the English learners to learn this language easily.

To sum up, this Newspaper was created to stand up with all of the English speakers whether they are from within or from without.



American Corner ISERI CLUB

Comments

Words of Welcome to KEY Newspaper

Daouda Diallo

Former English Language Teacher

Creating the K.E.Y Newspaper as a way to export the true facets of the Mauritanian culture in the English language is an idea that many people who love Mauritania and the English language will surely welcome. It is my belief that the K.E.Y. will represent a reliable source of information where readers cannot only learn about other cultures, but learn about the realities of our country in all its dimensions: spiritual, cultural, linguistic and economic. It appears today that most young Mauritanians have become



fully aware that English language is an undisputable means of communication. I am hopeful that this Newspaper will not only encourage our youth in their quest for knowledge and success, but it will

also offer them a variety of programs and activities that promote peace and national unity. As long as you are working for these noble purposes, I will personally continue to support this initiative. So ,I say well done to the team of young men and women who have had the courage to initiate this project which, I believe, will go a long way, thanks to their motivation and the support of their fellow Mauritanians who share the common interest of promoting the English language in the country. I see this as a great initiative, and hope that it will spread out into other areas. Good luck on this noble endeavor!

Houda Sidatt

HR & Office Advisor - Tullow Oil R.I.M

I would like to personally congratulate the founders of this Newspaper and wish them all the best in this new adventure. This is such a great initiative, giving Mauritanians a tool to share ideas and information in English and a platform to discuss social and educational issues. What truly amazes me is the fact that these idea and project are led by a team of young Mauritanians, proving once again that our youth



is full of potential and ambition. You already made us proud by your commitment to this project and I am certain that this will be a huge success.

Gerry McKeown

Instructor at The Higher Institute of English

The launching of this much-needed Newspaper provides us with a wonderful opportunity to see what Mauritanian youth really feels about the most important social, educational,cultural and political issues of the society that they live in. It also aims to act as a hub for English speakers and to be a real motivator for change.



Nothing is Impossible In Football

The National Football Team makes it for the second time in THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS 2021

Since this is the first edition of The KEY Newspaper, we're going to back up a bit with regard to the achievements of our country as far as football is concerned.

Football is a sport that has always been looked down upon the Mauritians; the people who would hold such stances, they would say it's not of our culture to give too much focus to football. However, one forgot that football can take the state so far. It has been trivialized until the FFRIM current president was elected in 2011 who is none other than Mr. Mohamed Yahya. In the beginning of the 21st Century, the Mauritians got to know the importance of Football as a result more and more started to play it and their performances got better. The National Mauritanian Team didn't participate before in none of the Africa Cup of Nations. Of the achievements of the current president is instituting various academics and building several stadiums ;Cheikha Boidiya stadium is one of



the stadiums that was built where many matches were played in it recently when it hosted U20 cup . All of these great achievements have helped our national team to get qualified to Africa Cup of Nations 2021 that's hosted in Cameroon. El Mourabitounes played against Central Africa in the Capital of

Central African Republic which is Bangui. The fans were watching the match with great enthusiasm especially the Mauritians, for the qualification would mean a lot to them. They got qualified once in 2019 that was hosted in Egypt. The match started, and many attempts were made to score a goal

to punch your ticket to the Cup. The first-half was almost over with Nil Nil , but Aboubakar Karama wouldn't want it to be a boring match with Nil Nil score , and he scored the first GOAL in the match. The fans of El Mourabitounes were jumping for joy due to the GOAL. That was great for them to finish

the first-half with a goal. The match was resumed, and everybody was watching the game expecting more goals; many shots were made to score ,however , it wasn't too long until the referee whistled to end the match with 1-0 for El Mourabitounes. The Mauritians felt on the top of the.

UEFA Champions League 2020/21

Chelsea Vs Manchester City

Manchester City has punched their tickets to the final for the first time ever, whereas Chelsea won their first Champion League in 2012, and they would want to win the second one since it's been almost a decade they didn't win one. Chelsea played Against Real Madrid in semi final while Manchester City played against Paris Saint-Germain. To set up the stage, Chelsea played the first leg against one of the most successful clubs in sports which is Real Madrid. The match was kicked off and the two clubs were competing one another to have the upper hand over the other one when the second leg time comes, many occasions were made to score the first goal but it wasn't too long until Pulisic scored the first goal in the 14' minutes and the clubs were divided into two states, one is jumping for joy and the other one wants to score one goal at least to finish the match with a draw. The match went on and it didn't take too long till Benzema scored an incredible goal in the 29' minutes. The match got bigger, for the both clubs wanted to take the lead in the second leg whereas Manchester City played against Paris Saint- Germain. The match was kicked off as usual, and many occasions were made to score some goals, however, it didn't take too long till Paris player Marquinhos scored an outstanding goal in the 15' minutes, and



the fans of Paris were feeling on the top of the world. It was still too early to get hopeless from winning the match for Manchester City. In the 64' minutes of the match De Bruyne came out of nowhere and scored the first goal for his club to have a draw. The second-half was in the beginning and the two clubs were aspiring to score the goal that will solidify their places in the final. But, Mahrez decided to be the one who would make his club take the lead in the second leg and scored the goal in 71' minutes. The battlefield was full of enthusiasm either wanting the finish the score with 2-1 or scoring more or at least

making it a tie game. At the end, the match got over with 2-1 for Man City. The second legs between the two clubs took place and they went as what follows: Manchester City played against Paris Saint-Germain once again taking the lead in the first leg. Since Man. City never qualified to the final, they wanted to prove the fact that they can do it. The match started and too much was on the stake, one of the teams had to leave with the loss of Champions League. Man. City managed to score the first goal by none other than Mahrez in 11' minutes to solidify their spot once again in the final of Champions League. Pa-

ris didn't get discouraged and still hope to outcompete their opponent team. However, the champion Mahrez all of a sudden scored the second goal of to kill the hope of Paris to ever aspire to qualify to the final. Opportunities were made to score more goals, but it didn't last too long until the referee whistled to end the match with 2-0 for Man. City. As for the second leg between Chelsea and Real Madrid In their first draw it was 1-1 Too much was on the stake, Real Madrid is 13 time winning machine and Chelsea are aspiring to qualify to the final since it's been a while to accomplish such achievement.

The match was kicked off, and the two clubs were aiming to the final. It only took Chelsea 28 minutes to score a goal by Werner to have the upper hand over their opponent. Real Madrid tried all their best to even score, yet the other team had a different angle. The match went on, and Mount didn't want to finish the match before he completely solidifies the spot, and scored a goal in 85' minutes , to make that statement as we've qualified. Now, we have set up the stage to the final of this Champions League. The match was a grandiose event that everyone wanted to watch so badly. On May 29th , 2021, the two teams met one another to win the UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE. Chelsea would take the Champion League for the second time and Man. City would win it as the first time. The event was monumental and the both teams wanted to outperform one another. Many chances were missed and many opportunities were squandered. But FYI, one team must win and the other one must lose. The match continued till Havertz scored a phenomenal goal in 42' to take the lead in the first-half. The second-half commenced, yet no player scored successfully, and every Chelsea fan desperately was waiting for the referee to whistle to end the match with 1-0 for Chelsea . Chelsea was crowned with the UEFA Champion League 2021/22

The Life of Women in the Countryside Vs the Capital

Women have always had a significant role in Mauritanian society.

They are backbones of families, workers of various trades, and voices for numerous causes.

While females in every region of Mauritania share many similarities, there are also obvious differences between those in the countryside and those in the capital. In the countryside, life is more traditional.

While new technologies and modern infrastructure take over, tradition is still the cornerstone of life. The life is slower, less economically prosperous, and access to good education is minimal.

This creates limited opportunities for females in the countryside. Most females attend school, but most do not continue past secondary school due to a school's distance from home, financial difficulty, or early marriage.

They are taught how to run a household and are obligated to family traditional expectations that men provide and women confine themselves to domestic responsibilities.

Many females never step out of their villages, which limits their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

These days, women in the countryside do operate boutiques and work together in cooperatives, which helps bring in money for their families and also teaches the women about business and trades.

In the countryside there can be limited access to goods or services to replenish their supplies, however, having a business allows women an outlet to participate and to be more independent in their communities.

In the capital, life is a mix of traditional



■ Kristen Smolka

and wealth is abundant. Females in the capital have access to more opportunities.

They have a better chance to finish school and attend university since schools are a closer distance. More and more are even traveling outside Mauritania to continue their education, to expand their knowledge, or to work. They are not necessarily obligated to marry at such a young age.

The city is more accepting of women owning businesses, taking part in governmental offices, and other jobs traditionally reserved for men. There is also more access for them to do so.

While tradition and poverty also affect many women in the capital, they do have access to more non-formal educational programs that can help them with literacy development and business training in diverse sectors. With more

access to education women can provide more financial means to their families which will allow females to stay in school longer, allow them to travel and explore, whether it is outside of their villages or outside of the country, and allow them to participate more independently. While the life in the village may be quite different from that in the capital, it is important for these women to continue their path of education. This is easier said than done, especially when dealing with a dismal education system itself, but any education allows a person to grow and understand their world a little more.

Already, we can see how education has allowed the Mauritanian female population to grow, defy predefined traditional limitations, become motivated to create change in their communities, and create a positive meaningful impact on their lives.

and modern. Modern technologies, infrastructure, and access to public and private education have existed for years and are always evolving. Life is busy



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