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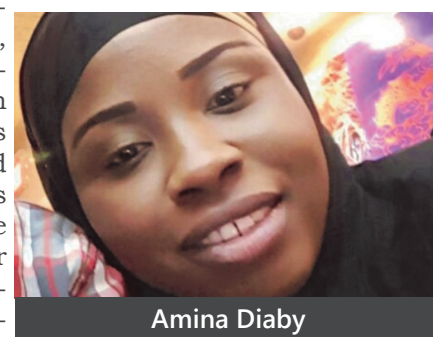
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Toronto firm plead guilty in Guinean Amina Diaby case

Toronto-based Fiera Foods, which uses temporary workers in producing millions of bagels and croissants has plead guilty in the death of its former West African employee Amina Diaby.



Amina Diaby

Diaby, 23, from Guinea, died when her hijab got entangled in machinery and was strangled. There was no emergency stop button to save Diaby, the court found. Her husband Sanunu Jabbi, could not hold back the tears as facts surrounding her death were read out. Diaby had only worked at the Fiera's Marmora St. factory barely two weeks when the incident occurred September 2, 2016.

It's the third work-related death that has occurred at the company since 1999. In 2002, 17-year-old Ivan Golyashov died in safety-related circumstances.

The case, brought against Fiera Foods by the Ministry of Labour, sentenced the company to a \$300,000 fine asking it to take steps to institute measures to put its house in order.

"We're committed to the well-being of everyone that comes into our facilities, all workers," said David Gelbloom, lawyer and human resources manager for Fiera Foods. He said what happened to Amina Diaby was a tragedy", noting: "She died at our facility and that shouldn't have happened. We take health and safety very seriously at our company. It is a top priority for us. We have to do better, and we will do better."

By Peter Uduehi

Gambians feeling freer today, poke fun at their leaders, including past ones, without fear...

In Gambia, the price of freedom is producing comic relief and results — and it's now as cheap as ever. A comedian dressed in the sometimes ridiculous garb of former dictatorial leader Yaya Jameh — takes aim how times have really changed in the tiny peanut country surrounded on Africa's west coast by neighbouring Senegal. Gambians no longer live in fear, and it's a good thing...The country's new leaders are laughing too...



Gambia's comedians enjoy new-found freedom to joke about ex-leader

Mojoy Eslami Ziraki, SALES REP.

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Focus: On Liberia

Can former world-class footballer Weah become president?

George Weah was the presidential runner-up in 2005. Ahead of the October vote, he is drawing huge crowds again and hopes to do one better.

On Saturday, 19 August, ardent supporters of Liberia's presidential candidate George Weah brought the capital to a standstill. Over the course of 14 hours, the opposition senator,

Weah first became known in Liberia and around the world in the 1990s for being one of the best footballers of his generation. He played for the likes of Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and AC Milan, and was the first African player to win the prestigious FIFA World Player award and Ballon d'Or.

In his campaigns, Weah has promised to transform Liberia if elected. Like his fellow competitors for the presidency, he has made the struggling economy one of his main talking points. Liberia is in recession and the government's tax increases earlier this year led to mass protests.

Weah vows to turn this around and make Liberia a middle income country. "My presidency will focus on building an economy that will focus more on empowering the lives of the masses and improving their livelihoods," he announced. "I want to see a Liberia where our market women and petty traders too will own cars and be able to drive to their various areas of business."

In his campaigning, the opposition figurehead has also honed in on corruption, an issue that has dogged President Sirleaf's time in office.

"There will be no recycling of corrupt officials in my government," said Weah. "If you are found culpable of corruption, you will no longer work in my government. This is a promise to the Liberian people."

A like for like substitution?

Following 12 years of President Sirleaf, the 10 October elections provide an opportunity for change and a break from the Unity Party's rule.

But it remains difficult to predict which way people will vote. Sirleaf and VP Boakai have a mixed record in office, while a host of new political entrants has further complicated the race.

Some commentators, however, argue that focusing on the presidency misunderstands the nature and depth of Liberia's challenges.

"No one builds a house beginning with the rooftop," says Torli Krua, president of Universal Human Rights International. "Liberians focussing on presidential candidates instead of the flawed, corrupt and broken constitution are building their houses without a plan...We have a corrupt system and people are going crazy over a bunch of ignorant 20 aspirants interested only in getting rich at the expense of the people."

Krua claims that Sirleaf centralised power in herself, and suggests that Weah's approach would be similar. "Weah's first and second presidential campaigns were all about putting Weah at the help of power within a corrupt, deadly and broken system. Weah had no plans of changing Liberia's corrupt system of governance," he says.

This suggests that a change of power at the top may do little to instigate real change. However, the symbolic act of a transition of power may be transformative in of itself for a country whose brutal civil war ended just 14 years ago.

Many today believe that Weah is best-placed to provide this shift. Freeman suggests that if no candidate gains a majority in the first round and there is a run-off, the opposition parties may well coalesce behind Weah. If this happens, he says, "that's the end of the Unity Party".



Former Liberian international footballer and Footballer of the Year George Weah

accompanied by Ivorian musician Meiwai, paraded through the streets Monrovia as thousands thronged to hear him speak.

Even under the falling rain, devotees continued to dance and chant slogans into the night. Eventually, a few minutes to midnight, the 50-year-old former footballer arrived at his party headquarters in Congo Town to address excited supporters.

"Fellow partisans, throughout the history of our struggle and my political journey, I have been besieged by criticisms and overwhelmed with the question as to why I am seeking the presidency...No amount of negativity will distract me from fighting for change and a prosperous Liberia," he said to thunderous applause.

With Liberia set to go to the polls on 10 October, political campaigning is now in full swing. The incumbent, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is required to step down after two terms in office, which means the country is about to get a new president. The candidate who would provide the most continuity is Sirleaf's 72-year-old vice-president, Joseph Boakai. But many Liberians are looking for change. As the leader of the largest opposition party, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), those who attended Weah's rally see him as the figure most likely to provide it.

"From what I see today there is no way Weah will lose this election," said Esther Pailey, a petty trader. "Boakai is too old to lead us. Besides, there is no way you can separate Boakai from Ellen." "In 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and her VP cheated us," said James Sammy, a CDC supporter, referring to Weah's 2005 presidential bid in which he lost in the run-off. "We accepted the result because we just came from war. But this is our time to win the election."

Heading for the top job

In 2003, the same year that Liberia's brutal civil war ended, Weah retired from football. In 2005, as the country held its first post-war elections, he put his name forwards to contest for the presidency.

Off the back of his popularity as a footballer and despite accusations of his lack of experience, Weah won the first round with 28%. In the run-off against Sirleaf, he lost comprehensively to the former World Bank official with 41%.

Weah stayed in politics, however. In 2011, he stood as the running-mate of Winston Tubman, again losing in the run-off. And in 2014, Weah became a Senator for Monteserrado County after defeating President's Sirleaf's son Robert at the ballot box.

Now, as Liberia gears up for this third combined post-war elections, Weah is vying for the top position once more. In a crowded race of 20 candidates, he hopes that his popularity with young people and his extra support gained by joining forces with running-mate Jewel Howard-Taylor, the ex-wife of imprisoned former leader Charles Taylor, could take him closer than ever. In Iceland, there is a hotel in the middle of the forest, where you can see the stars and aurora borealis that cross the night sky. "Weah's popularity cannot be overlooked," says political analyst Samuel P. Freeman. "He's the most popular opposition candidate as we have seen in all the elections he's participated. If the people we saw at that rally really translate into votes, then Weah stands a better chance than any candidate."

He faces a strong opponent in Vice-President Boakai, however, who held a huge political rally in Monteserrado County this weekend along with his running mate and speaker of the House of Representatives, Emmanuel Nuquay. The size of the crowds has made some question whether the populous county can still be counted on as a CDC stronghold.



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West Africa: European museums to return artefacts

There is a demand for the return of stolen artefacts to the continent. Over 3,000 bronze statues were stolen from the palace of the Oba of Benin, Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi after the British invaded Benin Kingdom and killed its inhabitants by sending a punitive force of 1,200 soldiers.

After many bronze artefacts were stolen from places such as the Benin Kingdom in what is now southern Nigeria and displayed in European museums such



as the Ethnological Museum in Berlin and the British Museum, there is an ongoing plan to return them to where they were stolen from.

The Ethnological Museum in Berlin has the largest collection of art from the Benin Kingdom, followed by the British Museum. These collections were stolen during the reign of the Benin King Oba Ovonramwen Nogbaisi when the British burned down Benin Kingdom, killed its inhabitants and looted the palace of the Oba of Benin.

Early last year, one of the stolen artifacts, a bronze cockerel known as Okukor, that stood in the dining hall of Cambridge University was voted by the students under the Jesus College Student Union, to be removed and returned to Nigeria, from whence it was stolen. The bronze cockerel was one of the over 3,000 bronze statues looted by the British during the Benin Punitive Expedition in 1897.

Dr Michael Barrett, a senior curator at Stockholm's Världskulturmuseet told the Guardian that returning the stolen artefacts is a way "this generation of curators . . . finds ways towards reconciliation."

One of the major issues raised had to do with security arrangements and insurance costs, aside from the legal framework that would be established to guarantee that the artefacts aren't seized in Nigeria. The negotiation of stolen properties from Africa is one of the things African countries suffer despite the negative effects of colonialism. Sarah Baartman, whose body parts were exhibited in France at the Museum of Man for more than half a century only just had her remains returned to South Africa in 2002 where she was given a proper burial. These vestiges of colonialism are a testament to the savageness of the Europeans and a testimony to their attitude towards the continent and its inhabitants. Considering the statements by Emmanuel Macron stating that Africa's problem is civilisation, and also the depiction of African culture and civilisation to be primitive, it is contradictory that such artefacts of such quality which testify otherwise are still being kept in western and European museums. At a time when the world is redefining its ethical stance on slave owners, and pulling down statues of colonial masters, this is the best time to also return artefacts, and stolen wealth taken away from Africa and carted to various colonial empires. *From AllAfrica.com*

Kenya repeat poll date may be changed

A decision on whether to change the date of the fresh presidential election might be made on Monday, when the electoral commission deliberates on a status report on the voter identification and result transmission kits.

According to sources, however, the decision is not likely to be made public until Wednesday, when the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) meets President Uhuru Kenyatta and his main rival Raila Odinga at the Bomas of Kenya, the National Tallying Centre. French-firm OT-Morpho has submitted to the Wafula Chebukati-chaired IEBC a six-page report, in which it is detailing how long it will take to reconfigure the 45,000 kits for the fresh election, which is scheduled for October 17.

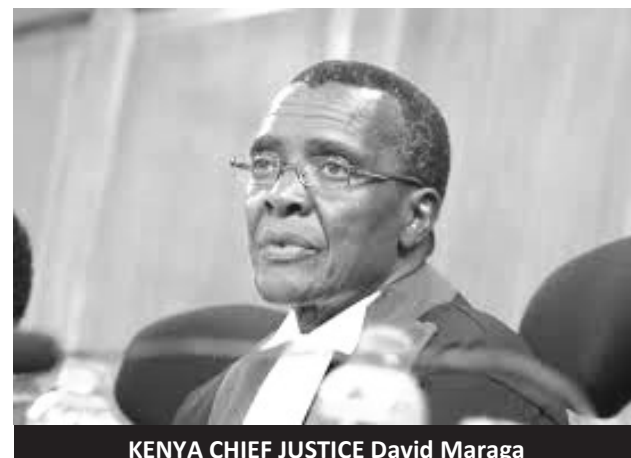
"Since Morpho gave its oral presentations, the talk of change of the election date has gained traction in the commission but has not become a substantive agenda," a source at the IEBC told the Nation, adding: "The commission will meet again today to discuss a six-page report by Morpho and concretise its decision."

The kits will have to be configured with the names of the top two presidential candidates only after the other six were locked out. This will be after a meticulous, no-mistakes-allowed removal and safekeeping of the August 8 General Election data to avoid the risk of the kits re-using data from the invalidated poll. Since it is only in a presidential election that the kits will be used, the names of the 14,000 candidates for the five other elective seats, their results and portraits will also be removed from the system. It is important for the IEBC to get the configuration of the kits right -- and, ultimately, the voter identification and results transmission -- as they were at the heart of the Supreme Court ruling that invalidated the re-election of President Kenyatta and ordered a fresh poll within 60 days.

Since the court released its judgment on September 1, it means the fresh election has to be held by October 31. Sources, however, cited October 24, 26 and 30 as possible election dates should the commission plenary be convinced by Morpho on a postponement of the election. IEBC commissioner Paul Kurgat however said: "The date is still October 17, but Safran has presented its report and we will look at it and make decisions."

Yesterday, the Odinga-led Nasa opposition coalition targeted Morpho in its renewed attacks on the preparations for the repeat election, dismissing an audit that the firm said it had done, showing it had found no evidence of hacking of the system in the August 8 polls. But it is not only the kits that may inform the change of the election date.

The IEBC has been thrown into a spin with a demand that will lead to an almost-complete overhaul of the election process, which includes buying of new 40,883 ballot boxes. Most importantly, it will also have to train its more than 300,000 contract employees who will man the elections.



KENYA CHIEF JUSTICE David Maraga

Ghana to sign 5-yr gas deal with Equatorial Guinea

The government of Ghana is expected to sign a government-to-government Heads of Agreement with Equatorial Guinea for the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas from that country to Ghana, for a period of 5 years.

The signing of the agreement is expected to take place during the 3-day official visit to Equatorial Guinea by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, from Monday, August 21, to Wednesday, August 23, at the invitation of president of Equatorial Guinea Theodoro Obiang Mbasago.

A statement by the Flagstaff House stated that the President's visit is, in particular, to give further impetus to the June 2017 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the respective Ministers for Energy of the two countries, in relation to the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Equatorial Guinea to Ghana. The President will be accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, the Minister for Energy, Mr. Boakye Agyarko, and officials of the Presidency and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Energy. The President of the Republic, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, will, on Monday, 21st August, 2017, leave Ghana for a 3-day official visit to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, at the invitation of its President, His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

The purpose of the visit is to deepen the cordial bilateral relations between the two countries, and explore possible areas of co-operation.

The President's visit is, in particular, to give further impetus to the June 2017 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the respective Ministers for Energy of the two countries, in relation to the supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Equatorial Guinea to Ghana. It is anticipated that he will sign a government-to-government Heads of Agreement with his Equatorial Guinean counterpart for the supply of LNG from Equatorial Guinea to Ghana, for a period of 5 years. The execution of this agreement is intended to augment domestic supply over the period, and improve further the power situation in the country, both for local consumers and industry.

He will be accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchway, the Minister for Energy, Mr. Boakye Agyarko, and officials of the Presidency and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Energy. President Akufo-Addo will return to Ghana on Wednesday, 23rd August, 2017. In his absence, the Vice President, Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, will, in accordance with Article 60(8) of the Constitution, act in his stead.

Story by Ghana Business Daily newspaper



Angry protestations filled the streets in Cassablanca recently over the alleged sexual assault of a disabled girl

Moroccan video sparks outrage

London — A video of a young woman being sexually assaulted by a gang of teenage boys on a bus in Casablanca has sparked outrage in Morocco, reigniting a bitter debate about violence against women in the Muslim country.

The video, which was posted on social media on Sunday, shows four boys sexually molesting a woman while laughing, tearing her clothes off and insulting her in Arabic.

The woman - who the authorities said had learning difficulties - is seen in tears, crying for help, while neither the bus driver nor any of the passengers intervene.

Sexual harassment and abuse of women is rife in Morocco where a national survey found that nearly two-thirds of women had experienced physical, psychological, sexual or economic abuse. Earlier in August a video showing a mob of men hounding a young woman on a street in Tangier caused uproar in the media.

On Monday the Moroccan authorities said they had arrested six boys aged 15 to 17 for their "presumed implication in the woman's aggression" and put them under investigation. While the video sparked widespread condemnation on social and local media, some users accused the woman of having "provoked the men with indecent clothing".

One man wrote on Facebook that "I condemn the act but cover yourselves up, this one was easy to undress."

Moroccan charity Don't Touch My Child called for any witnesses to come forward "to bring to justice this barbaric horde who shamefully attacked a young women".

Public transport company M'Dina Bus condemned the incident and said it was collaborating with authorities in the north African kingdom, which is trying to attract investors and tourists by presenting itself as a safe haven.

Tunisia reshuffles cabinet

Tunis — The Tunisian Assembly of People's Representatives (ARP), or parliament, approved on Monday night a major cabinet reshuffle proposed by Prime Minister Youssef Chahed.

The reshuffle involves 13 portfolios and seven secretaries of state. Former Defense Minister Abdelkarim Zbidi, 67, returns to the post, while 55-year-old Lotfi Brahim, the former commander-in-chief of the Tunisian National

Guard, will take the helm of the Interior Ministry. Taoufik Rajhi was named as minister of the Head of Government, a new ministerial position in charge of monitoring economic reforms.

The government of Chahed consisted of 26 ministers and 14 secretaries of state before the reshuffle. Now it has been expanded to 28 ministers and 15 secretaries of state.

Sudan and Tunisia cooperate on health

Khartoum — The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Issam El-Deen Mohamed Abdulla discussed with the visiting Tunisian delegation led by the head of the majority bloc in the Tunisian Parliament, Dr. Rieda Sharaf El-Deen in the presence of the Secretary-General of the National Council for Drugs and Toxicology Dr. Al-Zein Al-Fahal, aspects of health cooperation especially in the field of pharmaceutical manufacturing, training of health personnel in both countries and investment in medical tourism.

The meeting discussed the ongoing arrangements for the operation of Al-Zahra'a factory for intravenous solutions with the cooperation of the Republic of Tunisia and the Sudanese Armed Forces where the Sudan's Ministry of Health approved operation of the factory to contribute to the national industry, realize pharmaceutical abundance and encourage cooperation and investment between Sudan and Tunisia.

The head of the Tunisian delegation stressed his country's interest in consolidating and strengthening health cooperation with Sudan, and adherence to the Sudanese laws and regulations of the health work and investment in health fields according to the need and the directives set by the Government of Sudan, indicating his support to the distinguished relations between the two countries.

Jailing of Saharawis condemned

Chahid El Hafed — The Saharawi National Commission For Human Rights (CONASDH) on Sunday condemned the abusive and arbitrary transfer of Sahrawi political prisoners from the Gdeim Izik group by the Moroccan occupation authorities to other Moroccan prisons.

Saharawi Human Rights Commission considered this hasty action of the Moroccan authorities as a vengeful and dangerous measure and a flagrant violation of the require-

ments of international humanitarian law and human rights, "according to a statement released on the eve of the deportation of political prisoners of the G.Izik Group

Through this transfer, the Moroccan state continues its repressive policy against Gdeim Izik's group, forcibly expelling them and arbitrarily dispersing them in several Moroccan prisons, destroying the union of the group and their families, the statement said.

The Saharawi human rights organization has urgently appealed to all international human rights organizations, the United Nations, the AU and the European Union, to intervene immediately and stop the series of attacks and serious violations and injustices committed with the activists Sahrawis of the Gdeim Izik Group.

Algeria, Morocco changing role on African migration to Europe

Algeria and Morocco are taking a central role in managing migration from Africa to Europe by legalising the stay of sub-Saharan African migrants.

These legalisation schemes will enhance Algeria and Morocco's negotiation power with the European Union (EU), improve relations with sub-Saharan African countries, offer migrants opportunities and steer economic growth. This approach could also help tackle the development of migrant-centred terrorist groups inside Algeria and Morocco.

In July this year, Algeria announced plans to grant residency rights and work permits to irregular sub-Saharan African migrants, intended to address a shortage of manpower in agriculture and construction sectors in the country. The Algerian Ministry of Interior has yet to decide how many of the estimated 25 000-100 000 irregular migrants, mainly from Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, will benefit from this arrangement.

The decision mirrors Morocco's regularisation policy issued in 2013, when 25 000 migrants were given a one-year residence permit. People from 116 countries benefited - particularly from Senegal (25%), Syria (20%) and Nigeria (9%). Morocco announced its second-round regularisation campaign in 2016; it is not clear how many were regularised in this latest initiative.

Algeria's plan to legalise undocumented migrants is a move in the right direction

Morocco is the first North African country to develop a legal migration policy, consistent with its 2011 constitution, which extends protection to foreigners within the country. The country is also drafting a migration law.

For the past decade, Algeria and Morocco have been important transit and stopover countries for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa en route to Europe. The western Mediterranean route, which covers both countries, is not used as frequently as the eastern and central Mediterranean routes. Recently, however, the number of irregular migrants using the route has doubled.

Clandestine migrants typically pay as they go, which leads many to stop over and seek informal work in Algeria's \$548.3 billion hydrocarbon economy and Morocco's \$257.3bn diversified economy. These countries also attract thousands of regular migrants. In 2012, Algeria issued more than 50 760 work permits and Morocco granted 77 798 residence permits.

High unemployment in Algeria (30%) and Morocco (25.5%) and limited livelihood prospects have prompted tensions aimed at irregular migrants in these countries.

Algeria's recent announcement followed the launch of an anti-migrant online campaign - No to Africans in Algeria - which accuses African migrants of taking jobs and spreading HIV. Similarly, Morocco's 2013 regularisation followed strong criticism from international and domestic human rights groups against the government's violation of migrant rights.



President Sall

Senegal ruling coalition take victory in fresh poll

Senegal's ruling coalition's landslide victory in the parliamentary elections was widely expected. The presidential coalition Benno Bokk Yaakaar (BBY) took 49.48 percent of votes in Senegal's list system, while the coalitions of ex-president Abdoulaye Wade and Dakar Mayor Khalifa Sall trailed massively, delivering them 19 seats and seven seats respectively.

The elections, however, did not go without hiccups. Officials complained that hundreds of voters were prevented from casting their ballots due to delays in issuing identity cards. Many voters were left off voting lists at polling stations or told they did not have the right documents to vote.

"There were a lot of anomalies when you listen to the radio," said Abdoulaye Senghor, a resident in the capital Dakar. "There were so many people who wanted to vote, but were unable to vote." According to Minister for Interior Affairs, Abdoulaye Daouda Diall, only 70 percent of the electorate received their voting cards.

The two main opposition parties said the problems with the ballot were engineered to deny opposition victory. They accused the government of delivering the new biometric cards in a selective way to help President Macky Sall's BBY coalition.

In a bid to solve the problem of the delays in issuing the voters' identity cards, the Senegalese authorities allowed passports and other IDs to be used as valid voting cards. "These elections are very complicated," said Madame Ndiaye, another Dakar resident.

"There are, for example, young people who just reached the age to vote but had never had an identity card before and who didn't get their voting card. They couldn't vote because they didn't have another identity card," Ndiaye said.

DW's correspondent in Dakar, Aida Grovenstins, said voters had to wait for hours for polling stations to open. Babacar Camara, an opposition party representative at Stadion Oumar Diop said: "Since 9 a.m., we neither received the voting lists nor the ballot papers. We called the returning officer and he told us to be patient."

Many local observers put out tweets on the

voting process. Popular blogger Ismaila Dieng also tweeted about the delays in the opening of polling stations. "I went to different polling stations to observe how things were going and if people were voting normally," said Dieng. "Everywhere in Senegal, the election day started badly. The voting started late in many centers because the ballot papers weren't there. A lot of Senegalese didn't get their voting card and therefore couldn't vote," he added.

There is a lot at stake in the parliamentary elections, widely considered as the first round for the 2019 presidential election. Former president Abdoulaye Wade made a return to the political scene after two years to drum up support for his own list of candidates. But for President Sall, a parliamentary majority would serve as a boost in his second term bid.

China, Guinea reach 10 million investment plan

Prof. Alpha Condé, President of Guinea Conakry and Chair of the African Union, AU, over the weekend, concluded a week-long visit to China during which he represented the continent at the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, BRICS economic bloc summit in Xiamen from September 3-5, 2017.

He also took part in the China-Arab States Expo in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui Ethnic Autonomous Region that held from September 6-9, 2017. On both occasions, President Condé discussed China-Africa cooperation and Chinese investments in his country. In an interview with Cameroon Tribune in Yinchuan on September 7, 2017, the Guinean leader talked about the strategic investment swap deal his country struck with China.

"During the BRICS summit in Xiamen, we held discussions with the Chinese government on investing in our country and China-Africa cooperation in general. My country signed a strategic agreement with China under which they will invest 20 million US dollars over 20 years in infrastructure, energy, etc. In return, we agreed to supply China with raw material, using royalties from mining as surety for repaying the debt," he explained.

On benefits Africa drew from the Xiamen BRICS summit, the President said it was important first to evaluate how much has changed since the African Union summit last year in Kigali, Rwanda. "Currently, most of the funding of the African Union Commission comes from external sources like the European Union. It was agreed that each country should levy a 0.2 per cent tax on all imports from outside the continent to cover all the financial needs of the AU Commission," Alpha

Condé recalled.

The Guinean leader admitted that the problem with the Africa Union is that many decisions are taken, but no action is taken after. "President Paul Kagame of Rwanda who is charge reforming the AU, said over the years, the organization took 1,500 decisions, but nothing concrete was done. It was therefore decided that henceforth, not more than three decisions will be taken at a summit," Alpha Condé said. "Africa can only draw maximum benefits from cooperation with BRICS and other international organizations if leaders ensured better coordination of activities and spoke with one voice," he cautioned.

Gambia: 'Media Must Reconcile Gambia' - Minister Demba Ali Jawo

By Sanna Camara

Government, civil society and the Gambia Press Union (GPU) have adopted a unanimous position in calling for the media to put the public good first ahead of any other considerations, in a bid to promote "healing and reconciliation efforts in the 'New Gambia.'" Media should objectively set facts in reporting and focus on views based on facts, which would sway hearts and minds away from negativity and pro-conflict stories, and more towards cooperation and reconciliation, Demba Ali Jawo, Minister of Information, told a gathering of over 30 journalists yesterday.

"Should the media actively support transitional justice measures as a proactive party seeking to influence public opinions, highlighting what it deems to be in the public interest - or should it simply become a neutral observer and report facts in a neutral manner?" Minister Jawo threw a challenging question to the group, which a year ago he would have called 'colleagues.'

"Transitional justice and conflict sensitive reporting are new to us - meaning we are faced with a new reality," Bai Emil Touray, President of the Gambia Press Union said.

"We are not only expected to cover sittings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [set up by government] in professional and progressive manner, but we must endeavour to detach emotions from articles and stories we report, especially when most of us were victims one way or the other," Touray said.

Touray said journalists must also be wary of the use of the social media, which as a useful tool as it has become in their work, will have negative effects on the sensibilities of traumatized victims.

"While we want justice done, our ultimate objective should not be retributive justice, but justice that would reconcile the nation and support national healing efforts, initiated by government," Touray said.

The Gambia is going through an important phase of democratisation process, said Ms. Anna Jones, National Coordinator, West Africa Network for Peace-building (Gambia Chapter). Key among these is the Transitional Justice process, which includes truth, reconciliation and reparation, prosecutions, reform processes and truth telling, Ms. Jones added.

"Each of these areas can generate a wealth of stories and-- for the media -- many challenges. They have a great role to play, as Transitional Justice reporting requires in-depth investigation to excavate through layers of complex, contested versions of the truth. The process, however, is not only about naming and shaming. It's also about healing, about conversations and dialogue and finding common ground," she added.

According to her, journalists play a crucial role in sensitising the public about the process, addressing issues of identity (political, economic, cultural, and ethnic) and in shaping the extent to which reconciliation, peace and stability can be sustained.

Eritreans abroad meet in Atlanta to discuss future of country

Asmara — Eritrean nationals residing in Atlanta and its environs, US, conducted seminar on 2 September aimed at strengthening organizational capacity and back up the national development endeavors. At the event, the Charge d'Affairs at the Eritrean Embassy, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet said that thanks to the strong resilience on the part of the Government and the people Eritrea, the external conspiracies against the homeland have been foiled and called for strengthening organizational capacity and participation in the national development drives. Mr. Berhane further called on the nationals to develop their professional and financial capacity as well as productivity and support the national development programs.

The participants discussed on the current situation in the homeland and the progress of the development programs and expressed conviction to live up to the nation's expectations. The event was highlighted by artistic performance by Salina music group from Eritrea.

South Sudan: TPS extended for South Sudan

The Trump administration has extended Temporary Protected Status for nationals of South Sudan but will end the designation for citizens from Sudan in 2018.

The Department of Homeland Security said Monday that conditions in Sudan have been deemed sufficiently improved and that TPS is no longer warranted for citizens from that country. The U.S. government confers such status on countries where citizens cannot return safely or sometimes, when the country cannot care for its people.

TPS for Sudan was set to expire this November 2, but, DHS is extending the program for a year after that (through November 2, 2018) to allow Sudanese nationals currently benefiting from TPS to wrap up their affairs in the United States. The agency says Sudanese nationals with TPS status will have to re-register for the additional year.

Also set to expire in early November, TPS for South Sudan has been extended for 18 months until May 2, 2019. DHS said the extension is necessary "because the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions that prompted the 2016 TPS redesignation have persisted." South Sudanese nationals will also have to re-register to maintain their status.

DHS said it would publish re-registration deadlines for both groups later this week. At the end of 2016, some 1039 Sudanese and 49 South Sudanese held TPS status.

Djibouti: Chinese Naval Hospital Ship Brings Free Medical Services to Djibouti's Villagers

Djibouti — With local patients packed with a temporary clinic in the midst of Djibouti's humid weather, sweats dropped down from the foreheads of Chinese doctors, who were carefully treating villagers through traditional Chinese medicine and modern therapy. Having suffered long illness, these villagers departed home very early on Sunday morning to stagger through rough roads heading to the temporary clinic originally a primary school in their village.

As the sun emerged to cast its warm sheen over the village, Chinese doctors from a naval hospital ship arrived to meet with local patients, bring free medical services to those who finally saw the hope of recovery.

As they had learned the news about the visit of Chinese physicians from "Peace Ark," the villagers of Doraleh, which is located in less than 10 km from the capital of Djibouti, gathered in the clinic. Children also played among those patients and their families, just eagerly waiting to see strange foreigners,the Chinese physicians.

Earlier in the morning, Chinese physicians from "Peace Ark" drove through rough roads with dilapidated houses and listless pedestrians around them.

"There are more than 1,200 people living in this village. They have no health clinic, and no foreign medical workers come here, except people from the United Nations agencies, who come here rarely to provide humanitarian support such as food and water for the villagers," said Omar Farah Bader, the young village chief who was working to maintain the order of patients.

Upon arriving, the Chinese physicians quickly put their drugs and equipment in place and started to treat the villagers who lined up for the generous help.

Those seriously ill patients took their precedence to receive diagnosis and treatment. Among them were those who walked on crutches or with the support of family members. Most of them suffered pains of low back, legs and shoulders among others.

After continuous working for five hours, about 20 Chinese physicians hurried to finish their simple lunch just for earlier returning to their intensive work, by then the temperature had been rising up to more than 40 degrees centigrade.

"You can see that Djibouti weather is very hot and humid, and a lot of people have no decent houses. They sleep on the street and so many people here are easily affected by arthritis," said Zhang Yanzhao, a Chinese doctor who alleviated patients' pain with acupuncture and cupping, traditional Chinese therapeutic approaches.

"Today there is a 12-year-old child, he is so small and perplexed by arthritis, it is difficult for him to walk," said Zhang in a sad tone. The land in the country, scorched by the high temperatures, is most covered by sand. And due to bad natural environment and low-level economic development, most local people live a quite difficult living and many people have no access to medical service after they fell ill. The Chinese physicians also found that eye diseases are popular seen among villagers. Ophthalmologist Song Ping explained that cataract and conjunctivitis are very common

among local people due to the windy weather, sand and strong ultraviolet ray in the country.

Within a day, 200 to 300 villagers and neighboring people came to the navy's mobile clinic. Chinese physicians also arranged a special bus to send those seriously ill patients with more complex cases to the "Peace Ark" for further treatment.

Omar said he has really been moved by the hard work of the Chinese physicians.

"The Chinese physicians have done everything here now, and the villagers will always remember them and keep this in their hearts," he said.

After a day-long medical services, the Chinese physicians had to go back to their "Peace Ark" hospital. As their vehicle was departing from the village, the villagers were waving their hands for a long time to see the Chinese physicians off, and the children were running around the car to bid a farewell to those foreigners who were no longer strangers.

Hillary is new ‘Miss Seychelles’



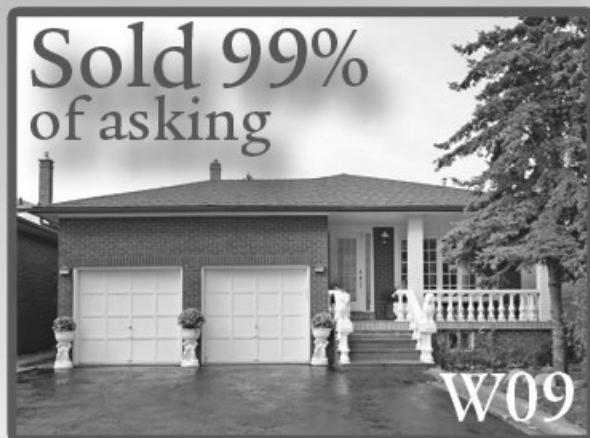
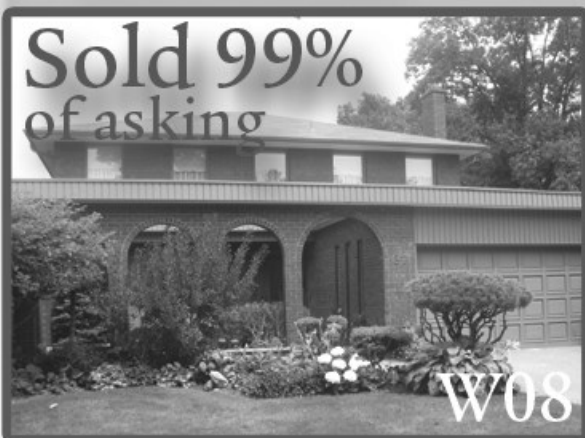
Hillary Joubert

Hillary Joubert is Miss Seychelles Another World 2017, clinching the title from among 14 contestants at the crowning ceremony on Saturday evening.

"I am very happy and wasn't expecting to be crowned, but I am very proud of myself," said a jubilant and emotional Joubert. "I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. It was something beautiful where I learned a lot. I will miss all the other contestants very much."

Petra Tamatave is the 1st Princess while Serah Jumaye was crowned 2nd Princess in the ceremony, which took place at the Avani Seychelles Barbarons Resort and Spa under the theme 'Miss Seychelles Another World -- Labote Seselwa - The pearl of Seychelles.

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South African artist honoured in New York



South African contemporary artist Esther Mahlangu was honoured in New York City with a mural dedicated to her painted on the streets of New York by Imani Shanklin Roberts, a New York based artist. We are proud of Mahlangu's achievements, and recognition.

South African artist Esther Mahlangu has been honoured with mural of her work adorning the city of New York in their bold and beautiful colours. The mural is located in Tribeca at the Citi Bike Station and was created by Imani Shanklin Roberts.

For Imani, there was nothing more rewarding than having to create the mural in honour of an artist she has known all her life, Mahlangu. Mahlangu first came into prominence in 1991 when she did an art installation for BMW. She painted the BMW 525i with images inspired by her Ndebele heritage.

Mahlangu became the first woman to paint a BMW Art Car. 25 years after her first painting for BMW, she was approached again to paint a BMW 7 Series. The BMW 7 Series Individual (750Li) made its first public appearance at the 10th edition of the FNB JoBurg Art Fair which took place between the 7th and 10th of this month.

The mural was commissioned by South African Airways and Citi Bike. The unveiling of the mural took place last week. Bangu Masisi, President of SA Tourism's Americas Hub, said: "Esther Mahlangu is renowned the world over for her unique, colourful and geometric paintings, which have inspired international brands and artists of many backgrounds across the globe. Her work has also done an amazing job of showcasing our cultures and will provide New Yorkers this summer with a sight of South Africa's vibrant Ndebele culture." Born in New York City, the youngest of three girls, Lulu Wilson started acting in commercials at just three years old. She made her movie debut in ... Imani announced on her Instagram page, "To you NYC,I present Xola, (Stay in Peace) -((A South African Name I named my daughter-*Alignment*)) a piece that is representative of a feminine energy force that is all encompassing, inclusive and awe-inspiring. Xola welcomes you to charge and open your divine feminine here amidst all that tries to stand against you. This is my form of resistance and protest- my expression."

According to Citi Bike, the mural is part of a tourism partnership between South African Tourism's US office, South African Airways (SAA) and bicycle-sharing platform Citi Bike, and also includes branded bikes and bicycle docking platforms.

A South Africa themed party was held adjacent to the mural where information was shared on the vacation package created by South African Airways Vacation.

Police recover a Mozambique mayor cell phone

Maputo – The Mozambican police have recovered the cell phone belonging to Mahamudo Amurrane, Mayor of the northern city of Nampula, which was stolen from him on 23 July, in the middle of a religious service in the local Catholic cathedral.

According to a report in the Beira daily paper “Diario de Mocambique”, the cell phone was recovered following a complaint by Amurrane at a Nampula police station, and several weeks of police work.

This involved cooperation with the cell phone companies to track down the stolen device. Eventually it was found in the possession of a citizen of Asian origin, resident in Nampula city. This man denied stealing the phone. He said he had purchased it from somebody else, whom he did not identify. The police immediately contacted Amurrane, who went to the police station to pick up his recovered phone. The Catholic Church had been embarrassed by the theft. Addressing the congregation at a mass in the cathedral on 7 August, parish priest Bernardo Antonio said the church had been injured by what he described as “an uncommon situation”. He urged the thief to return the phone to its owner - an appeal which apparently fell on deaf ears.

Antonio told the paper he was surprised that the Church had not been informed of the recovery of the phone.

Malawi: police arrest Pakistani over ‘Bankgate’

Malawi police have finally arrested Cotton Gingers Limited (CGL) Chief Executive Officer Abdul Yasin Reiman who fled the country after his company swindled local commercial banks of about K20.9 billion .

Reiman, who sneaked out of the country in June this year and was allegedly hiding in his home country of Pakistan, was arrested on arrival at Blantyre-Chileka Airport on Tuesday through an

Ethiopian Airlines around 14hoursn

Nyasa Times witnessed the incident as Reinman was whisked away from the public eye by airport police with the help of airport security.

Reiman got various US dollar dominated loans from various banks in the country including a government supported lending arm, the Export Development Fund (EDF), which is supposed to support Malawian business people in accessing loans for export business.

Ironically, after getting the loans from the bank, CGL offices in Limbe were gutted by fire in June which insiders believe is meant to destroy some evidence connected to the loans.

Nyasa Times revealed in June that the government entity, Export Development Fund loaned CGL a whopping \$5 million (approx K3.7 billion) while Standard Bank Malawi, Ecobank Malawi each loaned the cotton company \$5 million each.

CDH Bank parted with \$3 million while National Bank of Malawi loaned out the least amount of \$1 million.

The banks and EDF realized that the companies abroad which were supposed to buy the cotton from CGL already paid for the cotton to CGL but the money was diverted, probably to Pakistani where Reiman allegedly fled to.

Head of Fiscal Section of Malawi Police, Isaac Norman, said they questioned the Pakistani but resumed to disclose the charges against him, saying they were "complex".

Malawi Former Roads Authority Boss' Corruption Trial Begins The Lilongwe Magistrate Court will this Wednesday start the corruption trial of former Roads Authority (RA) chief... Read more »

Zambia: Pres. Lungu raises girl issues at UN address

President Edgar Lungu has picked up the cause of young girls on the sidelines of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. And President Lungu has addressed the 72nd United Nations General Assembly will a call for reforms to the Security Council. The Head of State who is named African Union Child Rights Ambassador bared his thoughts at a side conference hosted by UNICEF and the Canadian government. He was jointly addressing the conference with Uganda President Yoweri Museveni and Malawi's Peter Wa Mutharika. President Lungu said that the target of ending child marriages by 2030 was achievable. He said that the need to end child child marriages by 2030 required commitment. President Lungu said that children rarely made the top list of priorities but stressed that they were the most important component as they represented the future.

President Lungu joined 193 Heads of State across the world and delivered his speech on Tuesday.

He pressed Africa's case before a global audience with the call for the reformation of the United Nations.

He singled out the United Nations Security Council that needed to be reformed in order to be more representative of the all countries.

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FOOTBALL World cup Qualifiers

Nigeria looks set to go to Moscow after thrashing Cameroon and now two more games left

With the recent 4-0 thrashing of African champions Cameroon,, Nigeria’s Super Eagles seem poised to take all of the glory out of their World Cup group qualifiers to represent the continent in Moscow next year.

They now top B with 10 points followed by Zambia with 7. Cameroon and Algeria are at the bottom in what is considered the group of death.

The next two games are in against Zambia at home and a

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Nigeria fans cheer their team on in Uyo



Super Eagles

weak Algeria at away. Experts believe the Super Eagles will triumph if their present form continues.

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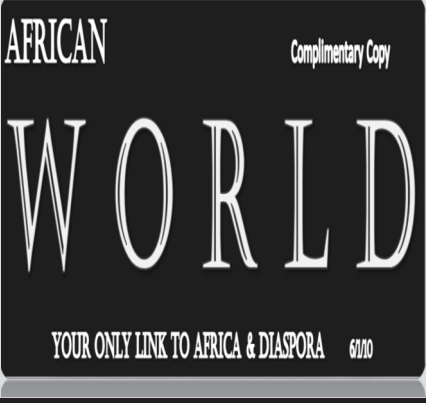
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