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APC Richard Konteh vindicated of corruption charges

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Racheal Pessima discusses pathways to re-electing President Bio



Dr. Richard Konteh has been proven upright in his dealings

One of the front runners of the All People's Congress (APC) flagbearer race, Dr. Richard Konteh has been vindicated by the Anti-Corruption Commission after a protracted investigation over a Japanese Non-Project Grant Aid (JNPG) that the Japanese Government donated in the form of petroleum products to the Government of Sierra Leone worth approximately Eleven Million United States Dollars. **Cont. Page 2**

Climate change mitigation: British Foreign Secretary pledges new support for developing countries

Chief Kadiru Kaikai entices APC stronghold with no-run-off message



Kaikai speaks undisturbed by others

Afrimoney launches donation platform on its menu



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PERSONAL GLIMPSES

By: Winstanley, R. Bankole, Johnson

My very first reaction to the voice note of the Political Parties' Registration Commission (PPRC) Chair Abdulai Massianday Bangura was the caveat: "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts". To me, beneath the veneer of his good intentions for the APC into what sounded like a clearly orchestrated interview lurked mischief and aspersions to not only widen the perceived rifts within the APC, but to also paint the party as violence prone. Hear him: "They (referring to the APC) will call poor and unsuspecting youths into the streets to wreak havoc in this country" – Unquote.

That untruth should not go unchallenged, and anyone (like myself) could be forgiven for misconstruing the PPRC Chair's inference to mean that it is the APC Party and leadership that is prone or wont to be: "Calling out call poor and unsuspecting youths into the streets to wreak havoc in this country". But that is not true!

For someone heading an institution like the PPRC that ought to be committed to good democratic governance, I was tempted to say that such a cloaked aspersion on the APC was most unfortunate and disingenuous, until someone yanked my attention to the fact that the present PPRC Chair was prior to his appointment a former Deputy Minister of Justice and from social media sources, a bona-fide card-carrying member of the SLPP. This was the man urging or advising the APC to put their house in order so as to effectively participate in next year's elections and definitely kick the SLPP out of power. Ever heard of anyone

THE PPRC COULD STILL DO BETTER

biting the fingers on the hand that is feeding him/her?

Disingenuous

But what made those statements against the APC unfortunate and most disingenuous to me was that it was coming from a lawyer who by practice ought to be versed in the law of evidence and the establishment of the burden of proof, and should be cautious not to so tarnish individuals or groups without the evidences supporting same beyond all reasonable doubts. It is on record that the APC as a political party has never "called out poor and unsuspecting youths into the streets to wreak havoc in this country". And neither the incidents of 10th August nor of thereafter or before that date have been conclusively proven to have been instigated by the APC Party, nor that any of the demonstrators arrested were either acting on the orders of the APC Party or were even card-carrying APC Party members. As a matter of fact the only means by which that suspicion against the APC could have been laid bare was if the Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai inquiry commissioned to investigate the causes the incidents of 10th August had concluded their task and submitted their detailed report to the government. But the Commission would appear to have developed clay legs; the corpses of those who allegedly lost their lives on and after 10th August have been buried by the government and the bereaved families "compensated" for funeral expenses they did not incur. So in the absence of the Commission's reports, culpability as to which exact political party those deceased persons actually

belonged to remains as open as ever, which to me made the PPRC Chair's aspersion that the APC Party being unable to resolve impasse within themselves will resort to: "Calling poor and unsuspecting youths into the streets to wreak havoc in this country" – unfortunate and disingenuous.

Clemency

Incidentally and as an aside, regarding the aspect of the government financing the funeral expenses of deceased civilians, I am of the view that it was because they had proved beyond reasonable doubts that those souls lost were neither "Insurrectionists" nor "Terrorists". And assuming that that was the case, why the government is still not further extending clemency to tens of citizens arrested and still detained for trials since the Commission of Inquiry set up for the purpose has neither sat nor apportioned culpability to any of those already tried or are undergoing trials in connection with the 10th August demonstrations.

So would this government be now disposed to borrow a leaf or two from the Ghana experience that demonstrations against a sitting government by citizens even if spontaneous are commonplace and could pass off without police brutality and arrests, but with full police protection and at no loss of lives, and on that basis authorize the release of everyone detained to date in connection with the 10th August demonstrations?

Regulate

But back to the voice note of the PPRC Chair. If the institution he heads had been properly structured to operate as effectively as it ought to have been and

with the powers vested in it to also "Regulate" political parties, the misunderstandings with the APC Party could have been resolved at his office long ago. But it isn't. Hence the need to be seeking clarifications from the Judicature. But come to think of it, the APC are not the only party with internal wrangling, but they are the only party democratic enough to have entertained alternative views and brave enough to have scrapped the "selection" clause when it comes to nominating a flag bearer. So that is progress.

Contempt

The thankful inference by the PPRC Chair to the "International Community" as our moral guarantors needs to be both deeply commended and exploited. Even if that means him as a lawyer and an "Amicus Curiae" (a friend of the Courts) reminding the Judiciary that "Rulings" on matters of "Contempt" adversely impacting the existence, operations and progress of a major opposition political party – insofar as it relates only to the application of directives by a High Court Judge, need not be inordinately delayed in the interests of the very reasons the PPRC Chair sounded so committed to assisting the APC resolve to wit: inter-party stability. That is as far as the mandate of the PPRC Chair could be flexed, if he really cared about protecting the interests of the APC rank and file. So within me I feel that the PPRC could do much more than aspersing on the APC.

No Judge should accept and or list a petition for "Contempt" of his/her orders for hearing unless s/he is convinced prima-facie evidences exists that his/her values or orders have been underestimated or violated, which to all intents and purposes should be deemed a serious matter.

Delays to urgently "Rule" on such a petition within the shortest possible time risks emboldening the "Contemnor" to continue underestimating the values of the Judge in question and to be further flouting or disobeying his "Rulings" with impunity. That will reflect adversely on our entire Judiciary and open it to odium, ridicule and contempt.

I have no evidence to this day that our Judicature is under "State Capture" or is malleable by the Executive, but it does seem eerily eerie that their seeming dilatoriness to promptly and conclusively adjudicate on matters adversely impacting the main opposition could in many ways be misconstrued as making the political climate more favourable the sitting government, more especially so if it is the same "Contract Judge" that is being "overloaded" with such cases. And that might uncannily lend credence to fears and concerns of the wider citizenry – as more recently in EU and some other International partners - that public confidence and trust in our justice services delivery sectors (particularly the Judiciary) has waned.

Should this unfortunate trend continue the Judicature should might as well be considering replacing their "Logo" from "Two Scales" depicting "Equilibrium", to something else depicting the perception of the wider citizenry and the international community to wit: "Public Mistrust".

APC Richard Konteh vindicated of corruption charges

From Cover

Dr. Richard Konteh is a former minister under the erstwhile government of President Ernest Bai Koroma. He started as Deputy Minister 1 in the Finance Ministry put in charge of Development and later Minister of Trade and Industry and in the second half of President Koroma's government, he was appointed the Chief of Staff in the Office of the President.

During his tenure as Minister of Trade and Industry, Sierra Leone Government received a donation dubbed as Japanese Non-Project Grant Aid (JNPGA) in the form of a petroleum products. The two governments had an exchange of notes clearly indicating the terms and conditions under which the funds derived from the sale of the donated products should be utilised.

For proper management of the products, a United Kingdom based company was appointed to serve as procurement agent for the importation and delivery of the products to Sierra Leone. Advertisements procedures for the sale of the petroleum products were duly followed and the National Petroleum (NP) Sierra Leone Limited emerged winner of the bid at a contract sum of Forty-Seven Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty-One Million, Three Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-Eight Leones



Eighty Two Cents (Le47,451,317,238.82). The National Petroleum made full payment of the said amount to the Government of Sierra Leone and was lodged into two designated accounts at the Bank of Sierra Leone. The sum of Twelve Billion Leones was given to the Sierra Leone Commercial Bank (SLCB) to roll out a loan scheme for individuals and corporate bodies engaged in Small and Medium Enterprises with a binding commitment to repay with minimal

interest.

Despite the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the SLCB reached regarding the management of the loan by the Bank with no interference from the Ministry, yet Dr. Richard Konteh who was the political head of that Ministry was subjected to a protracted investigations by the Anti-Corruption, but has at last been vindicated.



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LOCAL NEWS

We need urgent Climate Action

By Alfred Koroma

-UN Chief warns

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres has called for urgent climate action, warning that the world is 'on a highway to climate hell.'

"I have just warned global leaders at #COP27: We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator. Our planet is fast approaching tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible, the UN Chief posted on his Twitter Page, stating: "We need urgent #ClimateAction."

World Leaders are gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt for this year's UN Climate Summit known as COP27. They are negotiating climate actions from emissions targets to mitigation, adaptation and Climate Funding.

Last year's climate summit or COP26 was held in Glasgow where countries pledged to deliver stronger commitments, including net-zero commitments, forests protection, climate finance and many others, but they failed to meet their commitments since the conference in Glasgow.

Before this year's summit, a report published by the United Nations Framework to the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) warned that plans submitted by most signatories of the Paris Agreement to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions are not adequate to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius



UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres

by the end of the century.

Instead, the report warns countries action plans are leading the planet to 2.5 degrees warming, a level deemed catastrophic for people and nature.

According to scientists, Planet Earth has already warmed 1.1C since pre-industrial times and warned rise must be limited to 1.5C by 2100.

The current climate plans are not enough. UNFCCC and others reports have made it clear that emissions are still growing, and temperatures predicted to rise to dangerous levels by the end of the century.

Chinese Medical Team takes malaria prevention and treatment to Kono

By Abu Bakarr Kargbo



Chinese medical team in Sierra Leone provided training on malaria prevention and treatment for medical staff at the China-Sierra Leone Friendship Hospital. The training provided by the Chinese doctors took the form of a PowerPoint presentation, video documentary, and practical work, and was aimed at boosting their counterparts' capacity of dealing with the epidemic disease.

Also, residents within the Hastings, Jui, Waterloo, Bureh, York, Wellington, and Tombo Communities benefited from First Aid Training provided by the Chinese Medics. The training came in the wake of the realization that most Sierra Leoneans don't know how to perform emergency first aid treatment in an emergency situation which sometimes leads to early deaths.

The 23rd batch Chinese medical expert team is currently scoring major successes in developing Sierra Leone's health sector. Since its arrival in the West African nation, the Chinese medics have been widely acclaimed by Sierra Leone's government and people for playing key roles in treating cases like malaria, typhoid fever, diarrhea, and other contagious diseases.

The 23rd Batch of the Chinese Medical Team on Sunday take malaria treatment and prevention methods to mining communities in Kono District, Eastern Sierra Leone. The team left its comfort zone in Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital to travel about 300 kilometers to Bandafageh Section in the Nimikoro Chiefdom, Kono District where provided services to 28 Chinese and about 130 local Sierra Leonean employees.

Due to the lack of malaria prevention and control knowledge,

several employees have been suffering from malaria recently in most remote communities, especially in mining communities where there are often traumatic events in mining work and access to medical services is far from their reach.

It is against this backdrop the Chinese Medical Team deemed it particularly important to popularize some common sense of trauma first aid to mining company employees.

Professor Xie Jingjing of the Medical Team gave a lecture on the

prevention and treatment of malaria, whilst Professor Tang Zhengwu gave a lecture on the operation drill of common on-site first-aid techniques.

Through the popularization of medical knowledge, the staff felt that they had gained a lot. The Chinese Medical Team in Sierra Leone has carried out many free clinics for Chinese enterprises and local residents in the country, which has achieved very good results and promised to continue its good humanitarian services.

It could be recalled that the

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LOCAL NEWS Afrimoney launches donation platform on its menu

The Director of Afrimoney Sierra Leone said they have introduced the donation platform as another additional service in the *161# Afrimoney mobile system, which is meant to help churches, mosque and other organizations to receiving money for themselves across the country.

Speaking to this medium, Martison Obeng-Agyei said Afrimoney is a mobile money solution offered to all Africell subscribers in a secure way to store and manage money in an account linked to ones Africell sim card, similar to a bank account system.

Martison Obeng-Agyei said to be eligible for the platform, one has to ensure they register the said organization with Afrimoney and be given a sim card with a short code that will serve as the account code to transfer money in an accessible way to low-income earners with a minimal requirements for registration and transaction.

Martison Obeng-Agyei continued that the mobile money platform is a means of receiving money without physical presence as one might not be chance to go to church or mosque, but will be able to pay their offering, tithe, zakat, charity or any other financial obligations or gestures.

He added that to make use of the

platform, one should dial *161#, select the first option which says send money and after that "you highlight the third option which is donation, and you will be given three options which is option one for church, option two for mosque and option three for others and then select one of the options based on the organization you are dealing with and after that you will be asked to input the said organization code and then confirm the said code.

Martison said that some of the criteria they look for before registering any organization is their registration documents, the signatory of individuals that will have access to the mobile account, national identification, to ensure credibility and certainty when entering into the agreement.

Obeng-Agyei uniquely highlighted that the platform is just the same as an account, but that the aid of the sim card which serves as a connecting point to access the service as it will help the crowdfunding capability of the organizations.

He said the service would be free of cost in a quest to help the organizations thrive.

He said the system will reduce transaction costs for users and helps households to better manage their cash



flows; it allows firms to invest and build capital over time, fostering the creation and expansion of business; and it facilitates faster and more efficiently in terms of mobile money transaction.

In addition, said that since they re-launched the mobile money service in 2020, they have made rapid improvements in a faster and more secure mobile money platform with a wider array of services as Africell puts mobile money at the heart of its expansion plans which will allow their customers to send funds swiftly and

securely to individuals and organizations on any network and even those without phones on a twenty-four-hour basis using a unique code.

He concluded by imploring all and sundry to make use of the various offers of Afrimoney like the transfer of money domestically, payments for goods and services, and to also pay bills such as EDSA, DSTV, and WAEC among others, buying Africell services like airtime, data, collect international remittances and the payment of salaries.

AMA Academy concludes first Pan-African Fintech training for journalists

By Jariatu S. Bangura

The African Media Agency (AMA) Academy in partnership with Ecobank, has concluded the first Pan-African financial technology training for African based journalists covering business, finance and technology.

The program was a five-week online comprehensive finance journalism courses on fintech designed by AMA Academy and sponsored by Ecobank. It provides financial, technology and business journalists with the most comprehensive, cutting-edge knowledge and skills needed to report the actual African Tech Revolution.

According to the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of African Media Agency and AMA Academy, Eloine Barry, they decided to do something and collaborate more with crucial partners to bring something that is meaningful and impactful to all hence the birth of AMA Academy.

"We decided to launch some programs along with a standard one to help you craft your hone, craft better and potentially teaching you how to monetize your content. And then we looked at the landscape of how the continent is evolving and how fintech is one of the fastest growing industries on the continent. And we thought, who could we, in our wildest dream, partner with to bring onboard a great fintech program," she noted.

She stated that they knocked at the Ecobank Group's door and that

something happened so swiftly, adding that the program represents true collaboration.

Group Corporate Communications Manager at Ecobank Group, Christiane Blossom, it is believed that journalists have a critical role in changing how stories are told across Africa.

"I will quote the Famous Professor Chinua Achebe who said, "Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter." Stories have power, and it is deliberately said that media is the 4th power. If we don't tell our story correctly, it will be widely told the wrong way. You may have read the Business in Africa narrative Report published by Africa No Filter in February this year. The findings of this report show the pressing need of African media to change the generally negative tone perceived in the international press," he said.

He stated that it is time to change the media narrative and tell the right stories about Africa and especially about doing Business in Africa.

"Our business landscape in Africa is full of opportunities. But unfortunately, stories told by international media do not always reflect these opportunities. The growing African Start-Ups and Fintech in Africa, for example, do not get the proper attention of the press," he added.

He explained that the same Business in Africa Report shows that 22% of Africa's working-age population

started new ventures between 2011 and 2016, the highest rate of any region globally, but that those African start-ups receive declined coverage.

He said with the rise of digital and digital finance, the growth of Fintech is impressive, adding that Ecobank believes that by helping African Fintech to grow and to scale across the largest pan-African footprint of 33 countries, they will significantly achieve their purpose of contributing to economic growth and regional integration of the continent.

He said by completing the training with 100% attendance, "You get the opportunity to access the large network of Fintech partnering with Ecobank".

He added that at the end of the training and completing the final task, the 2 best journalists from French and English-speaking Africa will be invited by Ecobank to the Africa Financial Industry Summit in November in Lomé to network with influential Fintech companies across Africa.

"This is in addition to an Award they will receive as the Fintech Journalist of the Year."

He concluded that they believed it was critical to increase coverage of success stories of the Fintech industry in Africa.

"If they are not told by Africa business media from their own perspectives, nobody else is going to do that."

He said Ecobank believes in the power of partnership, and that was why they were partnering with AMA Academy to equip media practitioners with the right tools,



Executive Director AMA Academy, Madam Eloine Barry

with the objectives that they get a better understanding of the Fintech industry to support quality reporting.

During the training, lectures were delivered via zoom on topics including "History of financial services in Africa" which dilates on the history of financial services, where they come from and where they are going now as digital technologies are enabling new ways of managing their finances.

Lectures were also delivered on the "Introduction to block chain for financial services" and it focused on the limitations of the internet and blockchain and how that technology is revolutionary especially for the financial service sector.

Another important topics that were covered during the training include Fintech technologies and the transformation in financial services, artificial intelligence in Fintech, open banking and Fintech, security, regulation, governance and inclusion.

NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

COP27 gets underway in Sharm el-Sheikh with emphasis on African nations



COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh - Copyright © africanews AFP

Delegates, organisers and observers were in the Egyptian coastal resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Sunday for the start of COP27.

Behind the picturesque setting, the venue has become a tightly controlled fortress as the climate conference gets underway.

COP27 is being branded an "African COP" where the positions of African countries on issues like finance for adapting to climate change or adopting renewable energy

sources will be central to the talks.

The UN weather agency says 116 million people in Africa's coastal states and islands face rising sea levels and by 2050 African nations will need to spend \$50 billion every year on climate-related impacts.

Nearly 200 nations will be in Sharm el-Sheikh but talks will be dominated by the growing need to support virtually blameless poor nations where lives are already being claimed and economies devastated.

COP27 will run from November 6 until 18.

Tanzanian PM to lead funeral of crash victims



Tanzanian Precision Air plane that crashed into Lake Victoria - Copyright © africanews SITIDE PROTASE/AFP or licensors

Tanzania's Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will lead mourners in paying their respects at a funeral service on Monday for the 19 victims of a plane crash in Lake Victoria.

The accident happened on Sunday morning when the plane overshot Bukoba's airport runway crashing into the water.

According to the operator Precision Air, the plane carried on board 43 people, of which 24 survived.

The funeral service will be held at the Bukoba football stadium, according to the area's regional commissioner Albert Chalamila.

"I am sending my condolences to you all for your great

loss. I also want to assure you that we won't rest until the investigation is done, and we know exactly what was the cause of this accident. Especially what really had happened for the plane to crash", said Tanzanian Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.

Precision Air is a publicly-listed company, partly owned by Kenya Airways and Tanzania's largest private carrier.

In March 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa to Nairobi plunged six minutes after take-off into a field southeast of the Ethiopian capital, killing all 157 people on board.

COP27: Agreement to discuss climate change damages payments



Envoys from around the globe gathered Sunday in the Egyptian seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. - Copyright © africanews Peter Dejong/Copyright 2022 The AP. All rights reserved

Envoys from around the globe gathered Sunday in the Egyptian seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh for talks on tackling climate change amid a multitude of competing crises, including the war in Ukraine, high inflation, food shortages and an energy crunch.

Notching up a first small victory, negotiators agreed after two frantic days of preliminary talks to formally discuss the question of vulnerable nations receiving money for the loss and damage they've suffered from climate change.

The issue has weighed on the talks for years, with rich nations including the United States pushing back against the idea of climate reparations.

"The fact that it has been adopted as an agenda item

demonstrates progress and parties taking a mature and constructive attitude towards this," said the U.N.'s top climate official, Simon Stiell.

"This is a difficult subject area. It's been floating for thirty-plus years," he said. "So that the fact that it is there as a substantive agenda item, I believe it bodes well."

More than 40,000 participants have been registered for this year's talks, reflecting the sense of urgency as major weather events around the world impact many people and cost billions of dollars in repairs.

Organisers say about 110 world leaders will attend, many of them speaking at a high-level event on Nov. 7-8, while U.S. President Joe Biden was expected to arrive later in

Ghanaians take to the streets demanding resignation of President Akufo-Addo

Hundreds of Ghanaians took to the streets of the capital Accra on Saturday 5 November calling for the resignation of President Nana Akufo-Addo following record inflation and the government's handling of the economic crisis. After once promising a "Ghana without aid," last week President Akufo-Addo urged Ghanaians to support his decision to seek an IMF loan.

The economic crisis is affecting people from all walks of life.

Anita Asamoah is a nurse and attended the protest.

"There is conflict of interest in the way our president is ruling with his cousin," she said. "When they go for loans, 9% of the money goes to his own private bank business, which is very wrong."

"We just want them to step down. It is not a matter of fight or just wanting to be on the street ranting for nothing. He should just step down so that peace will come and let someone else come and do it."

Lead Convener of the Kume Preko Reloaded movement which organised the protest, Martin Luther Kpebu, added: "For every cedi and dollar we borrow, the president's family benefits through a data bank which advises and helps to sell the government security. So, we are here to tell the president that he should step down. Enough of the cronyism, enough of the nepotism, enough of the corruption."



Protesters in Accra - Copyright © africanews AFP

Ghana is seeking a \$3 billion loan from the IMF to cope with record inflation of 37% and the collapse of its currency, the cedi.

Most of the demonstrators wore red T-shirts bearing the slogan "You might as well kill me."

Student Carlos Adams said everyone is suffering because of the economic situation. "Our educational system has been run aground. Our economy is in a ditch. You cannot buy a gallon of petrol. A bag of maize cannot be bought so three square meals now is a problem. Survival is for the fittest, and that is not what we voted for him for."

The president's move to seek IMF help has raised fears the government will impose austerity measures which will further burden a population already struggling with soaring prices.

In mid-October, shopkeepers in Accra shut down in protest at the soaring cost of living.

Young Cameroonians lead calls for an end to Biya's 40-year presidency



President Paul Biya - Copyright © africanews LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP or licensors

Two generations of Cameroonians have been born under the presidency of Paul Biya who, on Sunday 6 November, was marking 40 years of undivided rule.

Known as the "Sphinx", Biya is now 89 years-old and in poor health.

Some people think it may be a good time for a change but fear the instability that may follow.

Shopkeeper, Muriel Ewane, says: "After 40 years nothing has changed. It's getting worse and worse, worse and worse. With life becoming more and more expensive."

"We don't even live on hope anymore. You can't live on hope, you can't live on hope in this country."

Many younger Cameroonians have never known a leader other than Biya but, after seven re-elections, they are beginning to say it is time to see someone else in charge.

Michel Tsefack is a 34 year-old mechanical engineer.

"I was born in 1988 and I have only known His Excellency Biya in power," he says. "And I would like to know another president. For me it is important. I'm not in politics but I want to

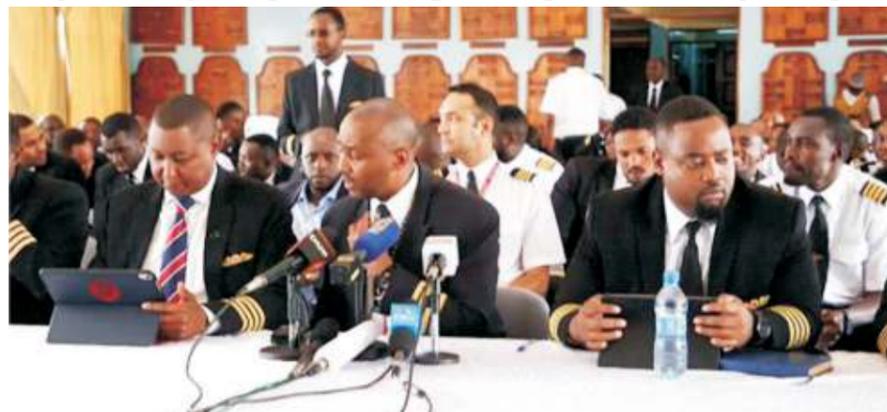
see at least another person governing."

But longevity in power can also provide stability; especially when compared to neighbouring Nigeria, Chad and the Central African Republic. And some citizens feel major change is a long way off.

Motorbike taxi driver, Carlos Toko, says: "There is tribalism and racism that must be eliminated in this country. Because as long as we don't get rid of that - even if the youth take over - it will always be the same thing."

Cameroon is not entirely stable. Bloody conflicts in the north and west and a population with more than eight million poor people is fuelling calls for a major change in leadership.

Kenya Airline pilots go on strike grounding thousands of passengers



KALPA announce strike action - Copyright © africanews cleared

A strike by Kenya Airways pilots led to dozens of flights being cancelled, affecting thousands of passengers.

The airline has faced years of losses and pilots are striking over retirement funds and the payment of all salaries stopped during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pilots announced the strike in defiance of a court order against industrial action and gave no indication of how long it will last.

General Secretary of the Kenya Alliance Pilots Association (KALPA), Muriithi Nyagah, had tried to negotiate with the airline.

"We worked tirelessly throughout last night and shared our revised proposals with Kenya Airways management," he said. "Until now, we are yet to hear back from them. This once again demonstrates that it is Kenya Airways management's failure that has gotten us to this point."

Kenya Airways is jointly owned by the Kenyan government and Air France-KLM and earlier warned the strike would jeopardise its recovery, estimating losses at \$2.5 million per day if the action took place.

Transport Minister, Kipchumba Murkomen, suggested the strikers were being unreasonable.

"We respect the views and the concerns of the pilots," he said. "We believe they went about it the wrong way and the company and the government of Kenya is willing to listen to the issues they are raising."

Angry passengers described huge queues at airports, with many only learning their flights were cancelled when they arrived to check-in.

Among them was the Chief Operating Officer, Mobex Africa, Alain Gbeasor, who complained about the lack of communication.

"I think that the least respectful thing KQ [Kenya Airlines] could have done to its passengers was to at least send us an email to notify us of this," he said.

"I checked out of my hotel room, I get to the airport and all they do is brandish this paper in front of me, I call back to the hotel and there is no accommodation and I have been standing here for 3 hours. Is that how you work in this country?"

The Kenya Airline Pilots Association said no Kenya Airways flight flown by its members had departed Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport early on Saturday.

Africanews with AFP

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LOCAL NEWS

Racheal Pessima discusses pathways to re-electing President Bio

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Racheal Desmond Pessima, wife of the Chairperson, Sierra Leone Peoples Party North America (SLPPNA), Washington DC, Metro Chapter, has during the occasion of a fundraising dinner & aance discussed pathway to ensuring the re-election of President Bio in 2023. The event was held on November 5th, 2022.

"Our past is limited, but our future is unlimited. That is why we believe that what is ahead of us is greater than what is behind us. For us to comeback, we have to overcome. For us to triumph, we must conquer. For us to give, we must receive. We believe that God has a better plan for us; a plan that will bring joy not only to our family, but to SLPPNA," she said.

Mrs. Pessima, who delivered the keynote address at the fund raising ceremony, said the re-election of President Bio is the most important project for Sierra Leone and all well-meaning friends of Sierra Leone, adding that after four years of transformative, honest, purposeful and transparent leadership by President Bio, one would say that his re-election is a foregone conclusion.

Madam Pessima noted that President Bio is running against an opposition that has made deceit into an art; an opposition that is evil in itself and extends its devilish tendencies to the people of Sierra Leone; an opposition that is so desperate for power that they are ready to say there are 26 hours in a



day as long as it is President Bio who has said 24 hours.

She said when dealing with such an opposition whose criminal responsibility and irresponsibility are two sides of the same coin, one wouldn't suggest that the sustainable democracy under the New Direction government is enough to see President Bio re-elected in 2023.

She said there was no straight jacket response to the question of ensuring that President Bio is re-elected in 2023.

"There are so many ways we can ensure the overwhelming re-election of our president but I want to challenge a specific group of people here...the Women of SLPPNA. So, let me rephrase the question: How can we, women of SLPPNA ensure that HE JMB is reelected in 2023?," she asked.

The wife of the SLPPNA Chairperson recognizes and encourages women to participate in governance at all levels. She informed the gathering that there was another aspect of President Bio's personality that they often overlook...his love and belief in women, adding that, President Bio is not just the Father of Democracy; he is also the Father of Women Empowerment in Sierra Leone Politics.

"He is on record as the ONLY presidential candidate of a major political party to have selected Dr.Kadi Sesay, a woman as his running mate in 2012 general elections".

She said fast forward to 2018, President Bio did not just appoint women to high positions of trust that were reserved or previously held by men but has vigorously fought for women representation across the board.

Pessima disclosed that next year's election is going to be based on Proportional Representation and because of that, irrespective of one's party affiliation, every woman in the hall must give a standing ovation to President Bio for pushing for the PR system.

With that system, she said be you SLPP, APC or NGC more women are going to be elected to parliament in 2023.

She said believing in SLPP and belonging to the New Direction movement is just the first step and averred that as women of that region they want to make sure President Bio is re-elected.

"When Aristotle wanted to destroy the

writings of his teacher Plato, the first thing he said was this: "Plato is my dear friend but dearer to me is the truth." SLPPNA women; you are my dear sisters but dearer to me is the truth. No matter how much dollars we raise here tonight; no matter how many megaphones or cars we buy for 2023; if none of those monies or articles is translated into votes, we have wasted our time. For those women who left their busy schedules, jobs and families to go home and register; thank you. For those of us who couldn't because of some unavoidable circumstances, we must ensure our fundraising translates into votes."

She emphasised the need for voter education if President Bio is to be easily elected.

She said the fight against corruption, electrification of Sierra Leone, establishment of universities, introduction of the free quality education, the Lungi Airport expansion, the 30% women representation in the next parliament and the abolishment of the death penalty among many more should be used as pointer as fertile materials for the sensitization and education of voters for the next election.

"The opposition is made up of loose cannons. We, SLPPNA women must be foot soldiers in 2023 to ensure the soul of our democracy is not destroyed. We are probably the most important constituency for the electoral mobilization of Team JMB 2023. Campaigns, Social Media outreach and donations are key areas we can be foot soldiers".

Chief Kadiru Kaikai entices APC stronghold with no-run-off message

In his consistent, calm and calculated unification message for the inevitable re-election of President Julius Maada Bio 2023, indigenes of Kabala District dubbed as the stronghold for the main opposition All People's Congress Party, were enticed and seduced by the visit of Chief Kadiru Kaikai, assured their supports for President Bio 2023.

Addressing the people of Kabala, Chief Kadiru Kaikai reminded that the only person Sierra Leoneans should give another responsibility to rule the country for the second term, is President Julius Maada Bio. He assured the People of Kabala that President Bio is the only President with a golden heart and has the people and country at heart.

Chief Kadiru Kaikai also admonished

stakeholders in Kakaba that President Bio cares about every citizen of Sierra Leone irrespective of tribal, regional and political stratification. Chief Kadiru Kaikai also edified the successes and challenges of President Bio-led Government. Chief also justified the momentous need why the people of Kabala should massively vote for President Bio and the SLPP come next year's general elections

"My fellow Sierra Leoneans, the only person we need to look up to for more sustainable development of the country is President Bio. President Bio is the only President who does not look to political, regional and tribal sentiment in his development agenda. All of these activities we are doing should be directed to the President for



Kadiru Kaikai sandwiched by elders

his indelible and charismatic leadership", said Chief Kadiru Kaikai.

Chief Kadiru Kaikai also assured the Kabala gathering that President Bio's Presidency is not only segmented for South-East or North-West, but for the generality of Sierra Leone. He therefore, made a clarion call on the people to join the bandwagon of being united through the SLPP mantra of One Country, One People. Chief Kadiru Kaikai edified that Kabala, Makeni, Portloko Bo, Kenema among others, constitute the one country, one people adage. Chief Kadiru Kaikai expressed tremendous elation

for his visit to Kabala and for the red carpet welcome accorded him by the people of Kabala.

Stakeholders in Kabala lauded Chief Kadiru Kaikai for his visitation and unification message. They acknowledged that after God, next are their leaders which is the more reason the people of Kabala will continue to support President Bio and his government. They equally promised Chief Kadiru Kaikai that they would not engage in any violence that will disrupt the Peace in the Country. The occasion was climaxed with a melodious traditional musical dance, performances, and also prayers for President Julius Maada Bio and the SLPP Party.





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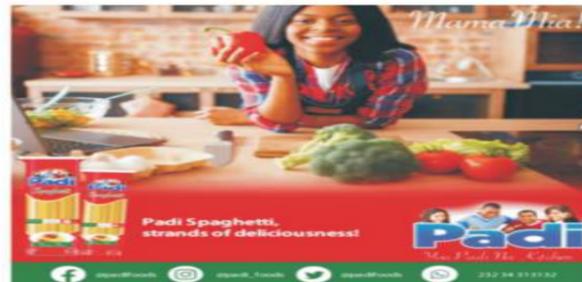
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LOCAL NEWS

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

James Cleverly, British Foreign Secretary for COP27 Climate Change conference in Egypt, has announced a range of investments worth over £100 million for developing countries to deal with climate change. He also urges international partners to speed up progress towards delivering on COP26 targets.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly was yesterday, November 7th, in Sharm el-Sheikh at COP27 to call for tangible action to deliver on the commitments made at COP26 in Glasgow and support developing economies to tackle the impacts of climate change.

The Foreign Secretary announced a range of significant UK investments to support developing economies to respond to climate-related disasters and adapt to the impacts of climate change, delivering on targets set at COP26.

According to a press release issued by the British High Commission earlier yesterday, November 7th, the Prime Minister is expected to make a raft of adaptation-related announcements at the conference, including that the UK will triple funding for adaptation programmes from £500 million in 2019 to £1.5 billion in 2025.

James Cleverly will also argue that long-term prosperity depends on taking action on climate change and ramping up investment in renewable energy across the world, pointing to the impact of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine on the global economy.

Climate change mitigation: British Foreign Secretary pledges new support for developing countries

"The Glasgow Climate Pact gave the world the tools to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees and build a secure and sustainable future. Now is the time for all countries to step up their action on climate change and deliver the tangible change needed. The UK will continue to play a leading role in this mission. The funding we have announced will support countries which are facing the devastating impact of climate change, to adapt effectively," James Cleverly noted.

It was also carved in the release that the Foreign Secretary will announce that the UK will provide £20.7 million in Disaster Risk Financing to support countries which face climate-related disasters, helping them to afford insurance and to access reliable funding, more quickly, after a disaster. □

"As an example, this funding will allow the World Food Programme to insure food supplies for almost 5 million people across 23 vulnerable countries in cases of climate-related disasters, and will help Small Island developing states build resilience to extreme weather events. This support is part of the commitment made in 2021 at the UK G7 in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, to spend £120 million on Disaster Risk Financing".

Nevertheless, the UK, according to the release, will also announce several new funding allocations to support countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change over the longer-term. The UK will spend £13 million to support vulnerable countries to adapt to climate impacts, and towards efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including

through new funding for the Santiago Network, an organisation set up to support vulnerable countries to access technical assistance on adaptation. More promises for Nigeria, Colombia were made.

"Under the UK's COP Presidency, almost

all developed country climate finance providers made new, forward-looking climate finance commitments, with many doubling or even quadrupling support for developing countries to take climate action. The Climate Finance Delivery Plan Progress Report has reaffirmed that the climate finance goal will be met by developed countries by 2023 latest, with over \$500bn mobilized over the 5-year period 2021-25". □

Rapist sentenced to 15 years imprisonment

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Alhaji Momoh Jah Stevens (JA) has on Monday sentenced one Ibrahim Sorie Mumu Jalloh to fifteen years imprisonment after he was found guilty of penetrating a fourteen-year-old child.

The convict was charged with the offence of sexual penetration contrary to Section 4(a)(ii) of the Sexual Offences Act 2019, as repealed and replaced by Section 4 of the Sexual (Amendment) Act of 2019 Act No.8 of 2019.

M.P. Sesay for state alleges that the convict on 31st May, 2022, in Freetown, engaged in an act of sexual penetration with the victim who was fourteen years.

The prosecution filed an instrument signed by the Attorney General dated the 6th day of July 2022, for the convict to be tried by a judge alone in accordance with Section 144(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act 1965, as amended.

Justice Stevens in his ruling stated that, after the prosecution closed their case, said an option was given to the convict to select whether he wanted to rely on his statement he made to the police, take the witness stand and call witness or testify in the dock. But he informed the court through his lawyer from the Legal Aid

Board that, he relied on the statement he made to the police.

Meanwhile, Justice Alhaji Momoh Jah Stevens immediately withdrew the file for judgment.

The judge recalled that the accused had pleaded not guilty to the offence as charged, adding that the prosecution brought four witnesses including the medical doctor.

He said the accused denied the allegation in its entirety, but didn't proffer any defence to corroborate the said denial.

"A substantiated defence by the accused will have been crucial for my consideration of his innocence but to merely deny and rely on same, I submit it cannot project a strong defence of the accused," Judge said.

He said according to the victim, she went to sell some stuff for her mother when the accused called her in a nearby bush with the help of her friend at Moira Village and sexually penetrated her.

"I submit that the prosecution has proven its case beyond all reasonable doubt against the accused person. I therefore hold the accused guilty as charged of sexual penetration. He is therefore sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment," he ordered.



Address of Registered Office:
25/27 Siaka Stevens Street
Freetown
Sierra Leone

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that THE FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of members of the above-named Company will be held at the FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE HALL, 3RD FLOOR, 17 WALLACE JOHNSON STREET, FREETOWN on Thursday 17th November, 2022 at 11:00 am to transact the following businesses:-

1. To receive the Chairman's Statement.
2. To consider the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 23rd July, 2021
3. To receive the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 2021 together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
4. To declare a dividend for the year ended 31st December 2021.
5. To elect/re-elect Directors and to fix their remuneration.
6. To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
7. To transact any other business proper to be transacted at an Annual General Meeting.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2022
By order of the Board



Company Secretary
Freetown Nominees Limited
55 Sir Samuel Lewis Road
Freetown
+232 88 215 804

NOTE: A member has the right to appoint a proxy to attend and vote for and on the Member's behalf. Such proxy need not be a member of the Company. A copy of the instrument appointing the proxy should reach the Registered Office of the Company, not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

1. **ADB/RFP/COSL/2022/0006 – PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR THE PROVISION OF INTERNET SERVICES FOR THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SIERRA LEONE COUNTRY OFFICE IN FREETOWN**
2. **ADB/RFP/COSL/2022/0007 – PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SIERRA LEONE COUNTRY OFFICE IN FREETOWN**
3. **ADB/RFP/COSL/2022/0008 – PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTOR MAINTENANCE OF COMPUTERS, PHOTOCOPIERS, SCANNERS AND OTHER ICT EQUIPMENT AT THE AT THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SIERRALEONE COUNTRY OFFICE IN FREETOWN**

The African Development Bank (hereafter designated as “the Bank”) is desirous to secure the services as per above listed tenders for its Country Office based in Freetown Sierra Leone. Only legally registered companies that have the competence, capacity and skills to carry out these activities are invited to bid.

1. The bid documents can be obtained from the security desk at the Bank's office at the above address , they can also be obtained from the Bank's website, <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/corporate-procurement/procurement-notice/current-solicitations/> . Bidders may also make enquiries from SLFO@AFDB.ORG should they encounter some problems with the forms or need clarifications. On all communications Bidders should state the bid number and its nomenclature.
2. The pre-bid meeting and site visit shall be on **9th November 2022** at 10:00 am, **local time in Sierra Leone**, at the African Development Bank Office located in Freetown.
3. The Closing date for these bids is **17th November 2022 at 15.00 hours local time in Sierra Leone**. It is the responsibility of the Bidders to ensure that the bids reach and arrive at the Bank's offices on time, and any late bids will not be considered by the Bank.
4. The sealed bids should be deposited in the tender box installed in the Bank's premises lobby and should be registered by the Security Personnel of the Bank. The Bank's postal address is PMB 355 Freetown Sierra Leone. The Banks address 5th and 6th floors Bishop Building 13 Lamina Sankoh Street Freetown
5. Bidders must originate from the Bank's member countries, a list of which is provided at <http://www.afdb.org/en/about-us/members/> and the list is also on the bid document.
6. Submission may be made by hand or by registered mail or courier and late bids shall be rejected.



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(*) All bets subject to Mercury International rules. In case of discrepancy terminal data prevails. Canceled fixtures pay 1:1. Bets placed after kickoff are void. Single bets permitted.

Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team	Home Goals	Draw	Home Goals	Away Team	1 / 1 (1)	1 / X (2)	1 / 2 (3)	X / 1 (4)	X / X (5)	X / 2 (6)	2 / 1 (7)	2 / X (8)	2 / 2 (9)
1	8/5/2022 13:55	Romania 2	UNIREA SLOBOZIA	12	v	14	FCM BAI A MARE	2.35	14.00	45.00	4.00	4.90	8.80	23.00	15.00	7.00
2	8/5/2022 15:40	Italy Cup	CAGLIARI	0	v	0	PERUGIA	2.85	16.00	50.00	4.40	4.60	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.80
3	8/5/2022 15:55	Poland	FKS STAL MIELEC	5	v	2	CRACOVIA	5.20	14.00	29.00	7.00	4.70	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.35
4	8/5/2022 15:55	Denmark	RANDERS FC	7	v	3	HORSENS	2.80	15.00	45.00	4.60	4.80	8.60	27.00	15.00	6.60
5	8/5/2022 15:55	Romania	UNIVERSITATEA CLUJ	13	v	15	PETROLUL	3.70	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.20	6.40	35.00	15.00	5.00
6	8/5/2022 15:55	Italy Cup	UDINESE	0	v	0	FERALPISALO	1.79	22.00	99.00	3.60	7.00	18.00	25.00	23.00	15.00
7	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	GREUTHER FURTH	15	v	18	KARLSRUHER	2.49	15.00	40.00	4.70	6.20	9.60	23.00	15.00	6.60
8	8/5/2022 16:25	Bundesliga 2	SANDHAUSEN	10	v	3	FORTUNA DUSSELDORF	4.70	14.00	28.00	6.80	5.00	5.60	35.00	14.00	3.45
9	8/5/2022 17:55	Denmark	LYNGBY	10	v	5	MIDTJYLLAND	7.00	16.00	23.00	9.60	5.80	4.50	45.00	15.00	2.49
10	8/5/2022 17:55	Croatia	VARAZDIN	8	v	1	DINAMO ZAGREB	12.00	20.00	22.00	16.00	7.40	3.85	80.00	20.00	1.85
11	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland	HEERENVEEN	16	v	17	SPARTA ROTTERDAM	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.80	5.00	8.20	29.00	16.00	6.40
12	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DEN BOSCH	4	v	6	FC EINDHOVEN	4.90	14.00	25.00	7.40	5.60	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.15
13	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	DORDRECHT	5	v	16	RODA	8.40	17.00	20.00	13.00	7.80	4.30	50.00	17.00	2.02
14	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	HERACLES	8	v	1	ADO DEN HAAG	2.65	15.00	40.00	4.70	5.80	8.60	23.00	15.00	6.20
15	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	BREDA	14	v	7	HELMOND	1.95	18.00	70.00	4.00	7.00	14.00	22.00	19.00	11.00
16	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	TOP OSS	17	v	11	JONG UTRECHT	3.00	14.00	35.00	5.20	5.80	7.60	24.00	14.00	5.20
17	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	VENLO	19	v	2	ALMERE CITY	4.40	13.00	25.00	7.00	5.60	5.80	30.00	13.00	3.35
18	8/5/2022 17:55	Holland 2	WILLEM II	20	v	12	JONG PSV	2.28	16.00	45.00	4.30	6.60	10.00	22.00	17.00	7.40
19	8/5/2022 17:55	Slovenia 2	TRIGLAV KRANJ	13	v	16	PRIMORJE AJDOVSCINA	1.94	16.00	60.00	3.65	5.80	12.00	21.00	17.00	9.20
20	8/5/2022 17:55	Hungary	VASAS	9	v	1	PAKSI	3.80	13.00	30.00	6.00	5.20	6.40	28.00	13.00	4.20
21	8/5/2022 17:55	Turkey	ISTANBULSPOR AS	13	v	18	TRABZONSPOR	7.40	15.00	25.00	9.80	5.20	4.50	50.00	15.00	2.50
22	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	XAMAX	10	v	1	YVERDON-SPORT	3.95	14.00	28.00	6.20	5.40	6.20	29.00	14.00	3.90
23	8/5/2022 18:10	Switzerland 2	THUN	9	v	6	AARAU	3.45	14.00	27.00	6.00	6.20	6.60	25.00	14.00	4.10
24	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland	LEGIA WARSZAWA	7	v	17	PIAST GLIWICE	3.00	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.70	7.80	28.00	15.00	6.20
25	8/5/2022 18:25	Poland 2	ODRA OPOLE	18	v	3	WISLA KRAKOW	5.20	14.00	27.00	6.60	4.30	4.40	40.00	14.00	3.00
26	8/5/2022 18:25	Bundesliga	EINTRACHT FRANKFURT	7	v	3	BAYERN MUNICH	9.20	18.00	20.00	14.00	8.80	4.50	60.00	18.00	1.96
27	8/5/2022 18:25	Slovakia	TRENCIN	12	v	7	MICHALOVCE	2.60	13.00	35.00	4.50	5.20	7.60	22.00	13.00	5.40
28	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland	DUNDALK	2	v	3	DERRY CITY	3.75	14.00	35.00	5.40	4.60	6.40	30.00	15.00	4.70
29	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	CORK CITY FC	1	v	9	ATHLONE TOWN	1.41	27.00	99.00	3.30	9.40	26.00	21.00	26.00	20.00
30	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	GALWAY UNITED FC	2	v	6	WEXFORD FC	1.92	16.00	50.00	3.75	6.40	11.00	19.00	17.00	8.40
31	8/5/2022 18:40	Ireland 2	TREATY UNITED	5	v	3	WATERFORD FC	7.20	15.00	21.00	9.60	5.60	3.95	45.00	14.00	2.17
32	8/5/2022 18:40	Scotland Championship	QUEENS PARK	6	v	8	AYR UNITED	3.75	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.40	6.20	35.00	15.00	4.90
33	8/5/2022 18:40	Championship	BIRMINGHAM	14	v	19	HUDDERSFIELD	4.10	15.00	40.00	5.60	4.50	6.40	35.00	15.00	4.80
34	8/5/2022 18:40	Belgium	CLUB BRUGGE	8	v	7	WAREGEM	1.61	24.00	99.00	3.80	9.40	22.00	22.00	24.00	16.00
35	8/5/2022 18:55	Ireland	FINN HARPS	10	v	8	DROGHEDA UNITED	3.50	15.00	40.00	5.20	4.70	6.60	30.00	15.00	5.00
36	8/5/2022 18:55	Premier League	CRYSTAL PALACE	7	v	2	ARSENAL	7.20	16.00	26.00	9.40	5.40	4.60	50.00	16.00	2.70
37	8/5/2022 18:55	France League 1	LYON	9	v	1	AC AJACCIO	1.85	22.00	90.00	3.90	7.60	17.00	24.00	22.00	14.00
38	8/5/2022 18:55	Italy Cup	LECCE	0	v	0	CITTADELLA	2.31	17.00	60.00	4.00	5.40	11.00	26.00	18.00	8.80
39	8/5/2022 19:10	Portugal	BENFICA	2	v	1	AROUCA	1.52	30.00	99.00	3.45	8.80	29.00	27.00	30.00	25.00
40	8/5/2022 19:10	Italy Cup	SAMPDORIA	0	v	0	REGGINA	2.04	19.00	80.00	3.75	5.80	14.00	26.00	20.00	12.00



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