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ALSO INSIDE

**American
University honours
President Bio**



Know your Presidential candidate

This column is dedicated to profile all thirteen presidential candidates that would participate in the June Presidential Elections. This is a deliberate attempt by Concord Times to help the public know who they would be voting for and how they stand to push the country's agenda forward. Running up to the elections, it is the right of citizens to receive sufficient information about people vying to lead the country into the next five years, so that they make informed decision when they get to the ballot box. In this edition, we are providing the public with a detail profile of the presidential candidate of the People's Movement For Democratic Change (PMDC), Charles Francis Margal. See Page 3

2023 elections: Journalists urged to be professional

By Jariatu S. Bangura

At the Media Reform Coordinating Group (MRCG) training, journalists across Sierra Leone have been urged to display professionalism in carrying out their duties during the upcoming June 24 general elections, so as to ensure their safety and security.

National Coordinator, MRCG, Dr. Francis Sowa said the training was a continuation of what they started in 2000 when a study was conducted and a report produced sometimes in 2001 & 2002.

Cont. Page 4



A cross section of journalists and facilitators at the training



Head of Governance at EU making her pledge to support youths

Strong democracy needs youth participation

- EU Head of Governance

Female customer wins motorbike in Ecobank's save and win promo



Africell presents NLe.300 Million to winners of 'Win Kopor' promo

UDM endorses voter ID cards

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PROFILE: Know your Presidential candidates

By Yusufu S. Bangura

Sierra Leoneans will go to the polls on June, 24th 2023 to elect new president and new parliament.

June, 24th 2023 poll is key that its conduct will underline the growth of democracy in the West African state of Sierra Leone. History will be made either way, whether the ruling party or the opposition wins the presidency. Veteran lawyer and politician, Charles Francis Margai, is seen on the ticket running for presidency and below is a brief profile about him.

Early life and Education

Charles Francis Kondo Margai was born on the 19 August 1945 in Bonthe district, southern part of Sierra Leone. He is the son of Sir Albert Margai, second Prime Minister of Sierra Leone.

Margai is the leader of the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) and was his party's candidate in the August 2007 presidential election, placing third with 10% of the vote though he received less than 3% of the votes in the 2012 and 2018 Sierra Leone presidential elections.

Charles Margai attended St. Edward's Primary School in Freetown and then preceded to Christ the King College in Bo. He completed his secondary school education at Blackrock College in Co. Dublin, Ireland. Margai received a Bachelor of Arts in civil law in 1970 from Trinity College Dublin.

Working Experience

Margai began working as a lawyer in 1971 as State Counsel in Freetown. He later established his private law office in 1973 in Bo and he served as Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone in 2018 under President Bio.

But, shortly after he received his appointment, a memo from him to President Bio was leaked during the first week of June 2018 requesting permission to dismiss the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, among other APC officials.

On 12 June 2018, a week after the memo was leaked, President Bio dismissed Margai without any official reason and he was immediately replaced by Dr. Patrica Schwartz.

With a tenure of less than two months, Margai is the shortest ever serving Attorney General and Minister Justice in the history of Sierra Leone and on till date he is a senior member at the Bar.

Meet PMDC's Charles Margai



Political Career

Margai was a member of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), which was co-founded in 1951 by his uncle Milton Margai. Both his father and his uncle had been leaders of the SLPP and in 1996 Charles Margai sought the nomination to stand as the party's candidate in the 1996 presidential elections, but when he failed to secure the nomination he left the SLPP.

In the aftermath of Margai's failure to become the SLPP presidential candidate, he joined the National Unity Party and ran in the 1996 parliamentary election.

He subsequently returned to the SLPP and in April 1998, Margai became Minister of Internal Affairs and Local Government following the restoration of late President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. From November 1999 he was Minister of Safety and Security.

Why Margai left SLPP party?

On the 9 January 2002, Margai confirmed his plans to seek the leadership of the SLPP and its presidential nomination, describing

himself as the best person for the position and saying that he had resigned from the cabinet "in the interest of good governance and for the people of this nation.

However, on March 8, the High Court ruled that he was not technically a member of the SLPP, preventing him from seeking the nomination, which was won by Kabbah.

What was Margai next plan?

In early October 2005, he broke with the SLPP to form a new party, the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC). Margai faced difficulty in getting the PMDC officially registered, but on 19 January 2006 the party was officially registered.

In the August 2007 presidential election, Margai stood as presidential candidate under his party where he took third place with 13.9% of the vote, behind Ernest Bai Koroma of the opposition All People's Congress (APC) and the SLPP's Berewa where Ernest and Berewa went for runoff.

At his birthday party on 19 August, he backed the APC's Koroma for the

second round of the election. On 24 August, Margai said his party would campaign together with the APC for the second round, due to his alliance APC won the 2007 election. What he achieved after the alliance with APC?

As part of the PMDC and APC deal, former President Koroma appointed 8 members of Margai's senior party officials to ministerial positions. Most of Margai's PMDC ministers lost their positions by 2010 and were replaced by APC supporters.

Margai was the PMDC candidate for Sierra Leone's 2018 Presidential Election. He chose educator Isata Dora Bangura as his running mate, making her Sierra Leone's second woman vice presidential candidate. During the 2018 election, PMDC won 9,864 votes with 0.4% of the vote with no seat in parliament.

What next for Charles Margai?

With Margai being the 13th Presidential Candidates who have been temporarily cleared to contest the June 24th 2023 Elections, where he selected a male Running Mate, Tony Bob Hindolo Songa will he win the 2023 election?



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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

Ahead of the June 24th general elections, Head of Governance and Civil Society Organisations at European Union (EU), Serena Bertaina has noted that strong democracy needs youth participation.

She made the above statement on Thursday, May 18, during the launch of the 3-days traineeship programme for youth in democracy at the Bintumani Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown.

The traineeship programme was launched by the European Union, International IDEA and Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) in order to mobilize and capacitate young Sierra Leonean university graduates to acquire theoretical and practical skills on electoral and democratic governance, and to develop their interest and participation in the political processes in Sierra Leone.

She said they were most pleased to provide financial support to the youth traineeship and internship programme and contribute to Sierra Leone's efforts to promote youth civic engagement and political participation.

"Strong, inclusive democracies need youth participation because in Sierra Leone like in Europe and elsewhere in the world, young people are politically actively engaged and often at the forefront of global movements and campaigns," she said.

She further noted that youth are also the generation most likely to be underrepresented in policy making because leaders tend to belong to older generations, leading to decisions that may not reflect the realities of young people.

Strong democracy needs youth participation - EU Head of Governance

"For these reasons, we are firmly committed to making sure that all young people have the right and are given the opportunity to participate in democratic processes, in order to increase their voices and leadership, and to become active citizens in Sierra Leone and across the world," she said.

She encouraged youths to take the programme serious because through mentoring and experiential learning they will be able to take active part in the governance and democratisation process of the country.

She added that they have not just been awarded an opportunity to learn, but an opportunity to act, to contribute to the critical work of PPRC and to become champions for development.

Head of the Sierra Leone Country Programme at International IDEA, Dr. Idrissa Mamoud Tarawallie said after the three-day training, the first batch of 20 youth trainees will be deployed at the PPRC office for a period of six months for both mentoring and experiential learning on the work of PPRC.

He said the youth will also work with the political party regulation and elections management to provide human resource capacity to the commission, adding that the trainees were selected through a competitive recruitment process led by the PPRC with technical support from international IDEA.

He further said it is expected that following the maiden deployment, another set of trainees will be recruited, trained, and deployed with other democratic

governance institutions in Sierra Leone.

"Today's launch event will be followed by a three-day induction and training program that will draw from International IDEA's youth academy curriculum, the mandate and functions of the PPRC, and the duties and responsibilities of the trainees," he said. Tarawallie continued that the training will also include 11 interns from the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) of the National Youth Commission which will bring it to 31 young trainees who will be deployed to the PPRC.

He also said young people from within the West Africa sub-region were also invited to share their experiences in youth democratic participation and leadership within the region, to inspire the trainees and to strengthen regional networks.

"Mobilizing and capacitating young people to be interested and meaningfully participate in democratic governance processes, is part of democracy nurturing and strengthening, which is an overarching objective of International IDEA, to nurture democracy across the world," he stated.

Chairman of PPRC, Abdulai Masiyambay Bangurah, said the youths they train will be deployed to places where they do not have offices for them to monitor the elections process, adding that they have talks with ECSL to provide accommodation for those that will send out.

He encouraged them not to take part in any political violence, but rather they should interact with all political parties and should have confidence in their work by not giving information that will undermine the peace of the country.

"The commission is pleased to be the



trailblazer in mobilizing and capacitating young people to meaningfully participate in electoral and democratic governance processes through internship and training programs that will allow us to nurture the next cadre of democracy defenders, especially considering our new mandate enshrined in the 2022 PPRC Act," he said.

In his key note address, Commissioner at National Youth Commission, Ngolo Katta said both the ministry and the commission were extremely pleased that their commitment to lifting the status of young people has been taken up in a more meaningful way by national institutions such as PPRC and development partners.

"This is laudable and we urge International IDEA and its donor, the EU to collaborate with the National Youth Commission in the future," he said.

2023 elections: Journalists urged to be professional

From Cover



He said they looked at the safety of journalists in Sierra Leone and current issues affecting the media landscape and made recommendations for a review of the study.

He cited that according to the report, there were issues of intimidation, arrest, harassment and detention of journalists, but noted that things have drastically changed as at now.

He said the law which initially gave the police the right to arrest was no longer in existence since the repeal of Part Five of the Public Order Act of 1965.

He further noted that even though most of the problems highlighted in the report have been reduced, but new happenings are also coming up that affect the smooth operation of journalists in the country.

President of Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL), Eastina Taylor, said the training will address the pressing issues of media professionalism and journalist safety, adding that by fostering a culture of professionalism, ethical conduct, and respect for press freedom, journalists

can rebuild public trust and strengthen the media's ability to serve as the voice of the people.

She stated that colleagues should work collectively to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the electoral process safely, while upholding the principles of integrity, accuracy, and fairness.

She said it is the duty of journalists to safeguard the vital role of journalism in the society, as it shapes public discourse, empowers citizens, and promotes transparency.

"We hope that all of us will have robust discussions, sharing best practices and experiences, with the goal of charting a path towards a more accountable, responsible, and secure media landscape in Sierra Leone," she said.

Executive Secretary of the Independent Media Commission (IMC), Khalil Kallon said media professionalism is always expected in the journalistic work at all time and accuracy, balance and credibility

need to be considered as well.

He said as elections draw closer, the security and safety of journalists should be considered and commended the MRCG for carrying out such venture as it is very important.

He implored journalists to take the training seriously as many a times they find themselves in front of the court, the IMC and other various committees for lack of professionalism.

Also representing the President of Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, Christian Conteh, said as it stands now, there are people who are professionals and non-professionals in the journalism field with social media is now on the rampage, but noted that it is high time media practitioners showed their professionalism based on reportage.

He urged IMC, MRCG and SLAJ to continue to capacitate journalists and make the difference and have very productive and vibrant practitioners.

LOCAL NEWS American University honours President Bio

By Alfred Koroma

The American University in Washington has awarded President Julius Maada Bio with its Global Alumni Leader Award 2023.

The President is an alumni of the University; there he attained his master's degree in International Affairs. He enrolled into the University after retiring from the Sierra Leone military service in 1996 and moved to the United States.

This recognition holds special significance for me as a proud alumnus of this great institution. Undoubtedly, my time at the American University better prepared me for the leadership roles I have taken on with humble confidence since my graduation over two decades ago, the President wrote on his Twitter Page after receiving the



award.

He said the education he received at the School of International Service in the institution has consistently guided his path through his second coming into public service as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

"My time at the American University left an indelible mark on me. It

broadened my mind and inspired my lifelong commitment to learning, which has come to define my administration's Human Capital Development agenda for the sustainable development and social progress of Sierra Leone," he said.

The President expressed delight for receiving the global award from his Alma Mater, noting his eagerness to

explore partnerships towards extending the academic excellence and ethos of the American University in higher institutions in Sierra Leone. "I am proud to be part of the American University family of CHANGEMAKERS who makes communities and the World more inclusive, equal, and, therefore, better."

CGSL National Debating Championship for Girls Kicks Off with Passionate Discussions on Gender Issues

Students engage in fierce debates on empowering topics at the Africell American Corner



Comprehensive Secondary School and Government Model Secondary School delved into the topic of whether marriage is more important than a career. Malama advocated for the motion, emphasizing the significance of marital fulfillment, while Government Model Secondary passionately argued for the prioritization of personal growth, independence, and self-fulfillment through a career. In this closely contested debate, Government Model Secondary School emerged as the winners, impressing the judges with their emphasis on empowerment and the ability to challenge traditional gender roles.

Date: 18 May 2023

The Chosen Generation Sierra Leone (CGSL) second National Debating Championship for Girls commenced with an air of excitement as students from various schools gathered at the Africell American Corner to participate in thought-provoking debates on pressing gender-related topics.

The event witnessed impassioned arguments, powerful public speaking, and the determination of young women to break barriers and advocate for change.

The day kicked off with two schools engaging in intense debates, showcasing their intellect, persuasive skills, and deep understanding of issues affecting women. Topics revolving around bias against women,

women's empowerment, and the challenges faced by girls in society took center stage.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary and International Secondary, the first schools to lock horns, debated whether pregnant girls should be allowed to attend school. Ahmadiyya argued against the motion, expressing concerns about potential consequences, while International Secondary firmly supported the idea of education as a fundamental right for all, emphasizing the need to address the underlying causes of teenage pregnancies. In a tight contest, International Secondary emerged victorious, showcasing their unwavering conviction and ability to sway the judges with their arguments.

The second debate witnessed a

clash of perspectives as Saint Joseph's Convent and Saint Helena Secondary School engaged in a passionate discourse on whether women and girls should be partly blamed for sexual harassment. Saint Helena argued for the motion, highlighting certain behaviors and choices, while Saint Joseph's Convent vehemently opposed victim-blaming and stressed the importance of holding the perpetrators accountable. In the end, it was Saint Joseph's Convent that emerged victorious, as their unwavering stance against blaming the victims resonated strongly with the judges.

The final debate of the day brought forth a topic that sparked intense emotions and heated discussions. Malama

These thought-provoking debates shed light on the complexities of gender issues and showcased the intellectual prowess, eloquence, and determination of the young participants.

The National Debating Championship for Girls continues to provide a platform for these exceptional girls to challenge societal norms, raise their voices on crucial matters, and pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable society.

As the championship progresses, the anticipation builds, with the quarterfinals on the horizon. The journey of these remarkable young women continues to captivate and inspire, as they strive to break barriers, shatter stereotypes, and champion change.



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LOCAL NEWS

Africell presents NLe.300 Million to winners of 'Win Kopor' promo

By Ishmael Dumbuya

One of Sierra Leone's leading telecommunication companies, Africell, has on Friday, 19th May, presented the sum of NLe.300 Million to 3 winners of the 'Win Kopor' promotion at their office on Wilberforce, Freetown.

Speaking on the "Win Kopo" promotion, the Media Manager at Africell Sierra Leone, John Konteh, stated that the promotion has daily, weekly and monthly draws, adding that points are calculated from every recharge done by subscribers before midnight the same day and that the more subscribers recharge, the more chances they have in the daily draw of which he said a daily electronic draw is done to select a lucky winner of NLe250 for the daily draw.

He said the second part is the SMS trivia, where questions are posed via SMS and for subscribers to participate, they need to Dial *4888# or send START to 4888 from an Africell line for NLe 0.80 or 80 cents daily, furthering that winners from the SMS trivia will be announced weekly and monthly; the grand prize

winner will be announced every 6 months.

John Konteh pointed out that subscribers must have received at least one chance during the week and month leading to the weekly and monthly draws to qualify, and that the participant also must have received one chance during the monthly draws to qualify for the grand draw.

He maintained that the promotion has a weekly cash prize of NLe 6,000 (Le 6,000,000); NLe 25,000 (Le 25,000,000) monthly and a grand prize of NLe 250,000 (Le 250,000,000) are up for grabs by Africell subscribers.

Presenting the first grand draw winner from the Africell "Win Kopo" Trivia Promotions, the Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Joe Abass Bangura, on behalf of Africell Sierra Leone congratulated the first grand draw winner of the "Win Kopo" promotion, Abdulai Bah, whom he described as NLe 250,000 rich.

In closing, he encouraged subscribers not to respond to calls from numbers claiming to be representatives of



The winners, flanked by JK, Joe Abass, and Nancy

Africell.

Joe Abass Bangura noted that the lottery laws of Sierra Leone make provision for a stipulated percentage to be deducted from every cash prize won. An amount will be deducted from the total won by Abdulai Bah and that the money will be paid to him on his Afrimoney account.

"It can be your time too, recharge more today or dial *4888# or send START to 4888, on behalf of the Management and Staff of Africell Sierra Leone congratulations once more Mr. Bah, he concluded.

Abdulai Bah, a driver who won the promotion said he has been with Africell for quite a long time, and has never won until lately after recharging several times. Bah described his winning as a total turn around for him and his family, who are residing in Guinea.

He thanked Africell for the promotion and promised to be an Ambassador for them.

The other winners were Lamin Kondeh a student at IPAM, who won NLe. 25,000, and Nicholas Nduka, who also won the same amount.

UDM endorses voter ID cards

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The leadership of the United Democratic Movement (UDM) party has endorsed Voter ID cards, saying it's suitable for use in the June 24th general elections.

"As a party, we have participated in all the processes leading to the elections and have through the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC) meetings raised concern on many issues surrounding the conduct of the elections, the ID cards being one of them. We are of the firm conviction that those issues in our estimation have been addressed to satisfaction," a statement from the party reads.

The party drew reference to concerns raised by the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) party about the ID cards, but noted that they as a party have contrary view that those concerns are not significant enough to call for a halt of the process and or a peaceful protests.

"As political party stakeholders, our focus at this defining moment should be geared towards voter mobilization as we approach the campaign period. Let us desist from statements and or utterances that would derail the political process or undermine the peaceful conduct of the elections on



Chairman and Leader of UDM Mohamed Turay

24th June," the party states.

They stated that the party is at the moment preparing for the campaign period and use the opportunity to popularize its manifesto to the people of Sierra Leone as the alternative force.

"We are committed to the conduct of the elections in June and we just can't wait to start the campaigns. Fellow Sierra Leoneans, change is coming and the answer is the United Democratic Movement (UDM) Party. God bless you all and may Mama Salone win after June 2023."

Female customer wins motorbike in Ecobank's save and win promo

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma

One Isatu Jalloh with account number 6364008354 last week Friday, May 19, won a brand new motorbike at the second raffle draw of the Ecobank Sierra Leone 'Kapu gentri' save and win promotion.

Seven other customers also won other attractive prizes including cash, Samsung smart phone, expensive Bluetooth speakers and others.

The promotion was launched by the bank in October 2022 with lots of attractive prizes including cash, phones, Bluetooth speakers, motorbikes, tricycle (kekeh) and a brand new car as grand prize to be won by its customers.

However, in December 2022, the bank held its first raffle draw and many prizes were won including a brand new motorbike again.

Speaking at the draw ceremony at the Lightfoot Boston Street Head Office, Executive Director who also doubles as Head of Corporate Bank, Winston Williams, said the promotion was launched in order to encourage saving culture among Sierra Leoneans.

He explained that for someone to qualify to be part of the raffle draw, that person first need to have an savings account with the bank and most be able to save at least NLe



20,000 and above in within the promotion period to win a brand new car as a grand prize.

He noted that for a customer to win the second big prize, which is the tricycle (kekeh) that customer needs to save at least up to NLe 10,000 and above within the promotion period and a customer who saves at least NLe 5,000 and above to win motorbike, smartphones and other prizes.

We save money for many reasons especially for emergencies. We actually don't know what will happen tomorrow, in case you lose your job, to pay school or college fees and a sudden sickness," he started.

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VOX POP with: Yusufu S. Bangura & Mohamed J. Kargbo

Fixing the economy, security, education and justice are what citizens say they will vote for

Ahead of June 24th general elections, citizens have vowed to cast their vote for a presidential candidate that they believe will change the economy of the country.

According to the International Monetary Fund, Sierra Leone's economic development has been constrained by concurrent global and domestic shocks. Macroeconomic management remains weak. Fiscal pressures have progressively intensified, the debt burden has worsened, and inflation has soared,

driven by global supply shocks, exchange rate depreciation, and deterioration in terms of trade.

Over the years, Sierra Leoneans have been struggling with so many issues, but for most of them the economy has been their main challenge.

In this Vox Pop, Concord Times' Yusufu S. Bangura & Mohamed Kargbo, on Thursday took to the streets of Freetown to gauge the views of citizens on why they will vote for a certain presidential candidate in the June 24th elections.

Shaka Bangura, Mercury Retailer



As it remains few weeks to elections, one reason I will vote is that it is my right as a citizen to vote for change to happen and if I fail to vote in this election there won't be

any change. My wish is that we vote in the right person that will bring that change so I wish the next government will address our challenges like electricity, food and security for our nation to be attractive to more investors.

I hope every Sierra Leonean will vote for a president that has the country at heart. As a youth, I want to advise my colleagues not to engage in any violence activity that will destroy their future. During election let go out and vote peaceful and go home because Sierra Leone is our country. If anything bad happens we will suffer the consequences and if it is better everyone will enjoy.

Abiebatu Y. Kamara, Chairlady at Dwazark Market

As a senior citizen of this country and a longtime voter, it is my right to vote, so am praying for God to give us a right leader that will solve the economic crisis in this country. As it stands now, things are getting harder every day for us as prices of basic commodities continue to increase.

I am 100% sure that the candidate I am going to vote for on that day will change the face of this country, so am asking God to help my candidate deliver on his or her promises.



William Zaidan Sonjor, NYS Corps



One main reason why I see it necessary to vote is because I want to see a change that everyone desires and I will also vote to exercise my franchise as a citizen and to make sure that democracy exist.

I am that kind of citizen that cannot easily be moved by propaganda or manifesto, but I just believe in the will of God that, whosoever is the chosen one after we have cast our vote, that person is chosen by God. We are not expecting Sierra Leone to develop overnight because it is just a process.

Hawa Turay, Rubber Vendor



As a senior citizen, I have seen so many elections and change of government and we are fast approaching the elections. I will vote for good governance, peace and stability of the economy.

I want a leader that will have the country at heart and a leader that will lead the people not for his or her political gains, but for him to fix the economy of this country and amend this bread and butter issue that current government said they will amend in their manifesto, but never work towards that. However, I believe that this time it will be deferent.

My message to all Sierra

As a Sierra Leonean, I know that my vote is my life, so it my right to vote. And the main reason I will be voting is for justice to prevail in this country. I want the next government to hear our cries and find solutions to these cries. I want to encourage Sierra Leoneans, more especially traders, to come out on that day and cast their votes for the right president that will bring peace and sanity in our beloved nation.

James Sankoh, Trader



Leoneans is for them to go out on that day and vote wisely and go back to their homes and not to involve in any sort of violence and wait on the outcome of the elections. I have trust in my candidate that he will not disappoint us and he will deliver.

Munda K. Sama, pupil



This is my 3rd time of voting and this time it is going to be different because I will vote for the development of this country and it's my right to vote.

I will cast my vote in this 2023 election because I want to see a change in the education sector, not that the education system is not good, but the Ministry of Education needs to do more by bringing more facilities in the education sector.

For me, the economy of this country is going astray, therefore I have 95% sure that my candidate will bring a change in that area for the betterment of this country.

Shedrack Bangura, Student at FBC

As a student and a first time voter, I am going to vote wisely for a president that will bring positive change to this country and for the development of our nation as that is what matters to me as a youth.

In the area of education, I will vote for more development to be done because we are facing some challenges. For, example the classrooms are not spacious to accommodate over 70 students. I am not 100% sure that the candidate I will vote for will amend all these challenges, but he will do his best to restore Sierra Leone back to his past glory and make it a better place to live.



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Global temperature may pass 1.5 °C limit

By Alfred Koroma

The world is likely to get warmer, exceeding the 1.5°C limit, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) warned last week.

If the world's temperature goes higher than 1.5°C, it would make the world warmer than it was in the second half of the 19th Century. This will be calamitous, having a far-reaching effect on health, food security, water management and the environment.

The issue of global temperature hitting 1.5°C has been a key topic in climate change negotiations since nations agreed in 2015 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. The Paris Agreement sets goals that guide all nations to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit global temperature increase. But last year, the United Nations Framework to the Convention on Climate Change warned nations are not doing enough to hit the Paris target.

Now, WMO has predicted there is a 66% chance that the annual average near-surface global temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one year, and the five-year period will almost break all temperature records.

"We need to be prepared," said WMO



Secretary-General, Prof. Petteri Taalas," the El Niño weather pattern, combined with human-induced climate change, will "push global temperatures into uncharted territory."

"This report does not mean that we will permanently exceed the 1.5°C level specified in the Paris Agreement which refers to long-term warming over many years. However, WMO is sounding the alarm that we will breach the 1.5°C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency," the WMO chief said.

The likelihood that global temperature will exceed 1.5°C has risen steadily since 2015. In 2022, the average global temperature was about 1.15°C above the 1850-1900 average. But WMO predicts the annual global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 to be 1.1°C and 1.8°C, higher than the 1850-1900 average.

Former Skye Bank manager, Ikubolaje Nicol at High Court

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

The Former Skye Bank General Manager, Ikubolaje Nicol has made his first appearance at the High Court of Sierra Leone before Justice Adrain Fisher to answer to one count of murder contrary to the laws of Sierra Leone.

It is alleged that the accused conspired with other persons unknown to murder Sinnah Kai Kargbo.

He is facing three count charges of conspiracy to murder, murder contrary to law and perverting the course of justice contrary to law.

Earlier, Justice Adrain Fisher ordered that the prosecution team properly do their application for a judge alone trial.

Lead Prosecutor for the Attorney General, GM Bockarie had earlier on Friday 19th May submitted to the High Court Judge that their application for a judge alone trial instead of a judge and jury was formal after lead defense Lawyer for the accused objected, saying that as far as procedures are concerned, there's no formal application of a motion before the court in that regard.

Lawyer Wright was concerned that all murder trials after the abolition of the death penalty has been with a jury. So, a deviation from that, he said will set a new precedent that will have serious consequences on similar cases in the future.

He said there's a palpable inconsistency in that case.



Former Skye Bank general Manager Ikubolaje Nicol

Justice Fisher ordered that the prosecution to go back and do re-application against Tuesday May 23rd and return to court on Friday May 26th for his ruling.

It was the first hearing at the High Court on the allegations against Ikubolaje Nicol of conspiracy to murder Sinnah Kai Kargbo between 15th and 16th October 2022, at Leicester in the Western Area, and fabrication of evidence with intent to pervert the course of justice.

On Monday 15th May, during the call-over to commence the May Criminal session of the High Court, the matter was assigned to a Supreme Court Judge Justice Ivan Sesay but was transferred two days later to High Court Judge Justice Adrain Fisher.

The matter was committed in March this year by Magistrate Mark Ngegba of the Pademba Road court in Freetown.

Market Watch with: Elizabeth J. Kamara

Market Watch is a column that looks at the prices of commodities and other materials in various markets across Freetown. It seeks the views of traders as well as customers on the sale of their goods and prices at which the last consumer buys.

Ahead of the June 24th 2023 elections, business people have expressed frustration and disappointment over the snail pace at which their goods are being sold.

In this edition of market watch,

Concord Times Elizabeth J. Kamara interviewed some shop owners dealing in stationeries in Freetown to know the changes that have taken place over time.

Speaking to this medium, Abdulai Kamara is a shop owner at Regent road who deals in school materials. He observed that increase in the prices of stationery was becoming alarming as prices have doubled since last month making business very slow for them.

Below are the current prices of stationeries at Regent Road Market:

80 pages books	Per packet	Nle55.00	
200 pages books	Per packet	NL 90.00	
Verbal reasoning	Per set	NLe50.00	
Quantitative reasoning	Per set	Nle50.00	
Chalk	Per box	Nle15.00	
Pen	Per box	Nle60.00	
A4 paper	per box	Nle500.00	
Ruler	Per packet	Nle50.00	
Erasers	Per packet	Nle40.00	
Aki-olla series	Each types	Nle180.00	
Spiral	Per box	Nle90.00	
Marker	packet	Nle40.00	
Pencils	cartoon	Nle20500.00	
Crayon	box	Nle200.00	
Stamp pad	packet	Nle200.00	
A3 paper	Per box	Nle1000.00	
Oxford dictionary	Large size	Nle250.00	
Stapper pin	For 100	Nle1000.00	



EXTERNAL JOB VACANCY

Sierra Diamonds Limited is looking for a qualified candidate for the following position:

Position: Paramedic
Department: HSE
Hours: 44 per week
Location: Tongo Field, Sierra Leone
Reports to: Mine Risk Manager
Contract Type: Fixed Term

Key deliverables:

- Providing emergency and routine medical support and patient care services including primary, occupational medical care to ensure a healthy and "fit for purpose" workforce in support of SDL operations.
- Adheres to the policy, procedures and protocols related to advanced life support guidelines that is in accordance with the HPCSA schedules.

Key Duties Include:

- Plan, initiate and control medical emergency preparedness (ambulance and clinics), and response services 24/7,
- Arranging and coordinating medical evacuations in accordance with Company medical insurance guidelines and continually updating management accordingly,
- Occupational health surveillance and screening processes and administration (entry/ annual/ exit),
- Plan and manage primary health care and preventative medicine services,
- Plan and coordinate First Aid Training,
- Conducting weekly hygiene and health inspections, and reporting appropriately,
- Drawing up of weekly medical statistics and reporting to the HOD timeously,

Skills and Qualifications required:

- Demonstrated competency in advanced airway management inclusive of intubation, mechanical ventilation, ECG monitoring/ defibrillation, cardiac pacing/ cardio inversion, administration of scheduled medication, setting up and monitoring of continuous intravenous infusions (IVAC machine attachments)
- Advanced Life Support Paramedic (ALS Certification);
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS Certification);
- International Trauma Life Support (ITLS Certification);
- Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers (Certification).

How to apply:

To apply for this role, please submit your updated CV and copies of certificates to any of the following addresses depending on your location: For the attention of:

The Human Resources Department
Sierra Diamonds Limited
Tongo Camp Site, Tongo Field

The Human Resources Department
3 Cole Street, Murray Town, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Or

sd_recruitment@newfieldresources.com.au

Please indicate the job position in the subject line

Closing Date: Wednesday 31st May 2023

Applications will be treated as and when they are received.

opportunity statement:

All posts are advertised on an equal opportunity basis and qualified women and men are encouraged to apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.



The advertisement features a woman with dark curly hair wearing a purple sweater, standing at an ATM and holding a smartphone to the screen. The ATM is a light grey machine with a blue screen and a keypad. Above the ATM, a white sign displays the Union Trust Bank logo and name. To the right of the ATM, a blue box lists four benefits of the cardless service. At the bottom, the title 'ATM Cardless Transaction' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline. The background is a light blue gradient.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Unlocking Africa's debt solutions: experts champion investment in its digital economy



A Logo of the G7 with national flags in the background are pictured during ... - Copyright © africanews HANNES P ALBERT/© dpa-POOL

G7 leaders convene in Japan to tackle urgent global concerns including the Ukraine invasion, climate change, and food insecurity. Simultaneously, African nations prioritize economic recovery from the pandemic and debt risks, with the digital economy emerging as a pivotal driver of employment and growth, projected to dominate the global workforce by 2100. A recent report by the World Bank titled "Digital Africa: Technological Transformation for Jobs" highlights Sub-Saharan Africa's significant gap between digital infrastructure availability and actual usage. Bridging this gap would unlock enormous potential for job creation and economic recovery in a highly digitalized world. The fintech industry in Africa is emerging as a vital player in this digital transformation. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of tech startups in Africa tripled, with nearly half of them operating in the fintech sector. These companies are leveraging digital technology to address challenges in healthcare, agriculture, and e-commerce. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the trend towards digitalization, providing opportunities for new technology players to thrive. African companies and governments are actively partnering with counterparts from the global south to develop innovative solutions and build digital infrastructure. These partnerships aim to provide digital public goods and expand

access to essential services for citizens, particularly those in remote and underserved areas. By investing in digital public goods, governments can overcome traditional obstacles and reach a broader percentage of the population. Creating a favorable legal and policy climate is crucial for developing Africa's capital markets and digital economy infrastructure. Governments must enact policies that attract domestic and foreign investors while safeguarding property rights and fostering transparency and accountability. Collaboration and partnerships among African governments, international organizations, and private sector firms are essential for sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources to drive the expansion of Africa's digital economy. Promoting south-south cooperation is key to addressing common challenges and sharing best practices. Elevandi, a company established by the Monetary Authority of Singapore in partnership with Rwanda's Kigali International Financial Centre, is hosting the inaugural Inclusive Fintech Forum in Kigali. This event aims to facilitate the transfer of digital technologies and knowledge across regions, enabling countries in the global south to learn from successful implementations elsewhere. Harmonizing digital infrastructures will further facilitate capital movement and potential investment between countries in the global south.

Zimbabwe frees over 4,000 prisoners

A large presidential amnesty saw the release of about a fifth of all prisoners in the Zimbabwe Thursday (May 18). A total of 4270 inmates were let out, according to the country's correctional service, which described the amnesty as a "noble gesture" by the president. The move brings down overcrowding in the country which numbers over 50 detention centres, that have capacity for about 17 000 people but held more than 22 000 before the amnesty. The amnesty was granted to various categories of prisoners including those who are terminally ill, those who have served at least three-quarters of their

sentence, or one tenth if over the age of 60. Violent criminals as well as those serving time for robbery, treason and public order and security offences/ were excluded. The Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Service appealed the society at large to accept the inmates who've been released. The former prisoners will be able to vote in presidential and legislative elections that are to be held in August, although no date has been announced yet. The government has struggled to alleviate poverty, end chronic power cuts and rein in inflation.

Kenyans brace for higher taxes as new finance bill targets petrol, beauty products



A client has her hair plaited at a beauty salon in Nairobi on May 15, 2023. - Copyright © africanews SIMON MAINA/AFP or licensors

What do artificial nails, crypto currencies, spaghetti and social media influencers have in common? They are all being targeted by Kenya's taxman in a raft of new proposals aimed at filling the coffers of President William Ruto's cash-strapped government. Ruto is seeking to repair a heavily-indebted economy inherited from his predecessor Uhuru Kenyatta, who ramped up borrowing to fund a splurge on costly infrastructure projects. Despite pledging to improve the lot of impoverished Kenyans during last year's election campaign, Ruto is now taking the politically unpopular step of raising taxes. Ruto's government has drawn up a 3.6-trillion shilling (\$26.2 billion) budget for 2023/24 with the proposed new taxes expected to generate 289 billion shillings. Opponents have warned the measures will hit small businesses at the very heart of the economy as well as households struggling to make ends meet in the face of soaring prices and deep-seated poverty. "It will affect our livelihood because life is already difficult," said Rebecca Nyalesa, 45, who has been a hairdresser for 30 years. "Every time you go to the shop, you find prices have gone up. But our earnings haven't increased. Life is very difficult." She said her Nairobi salon was already suffering from a drop in customers and feared worse was to come with plans for taxes on all manner of beauty products including wigs, false beards, fake eyelashes and nails. "Back in the day, I could braid six people in a day, but now it's down to two or three." Mother-of-two Rose Achieng, 29, said she used to get her hair done three or four times a month but now it's just once. "We are headed to the stage where you have to decide if you have to do your hair or buy food." - Debt mountain - East Africa's most dynamic economy has been hit hard by a regional drought and the fallout from the Ukraine war that sent inflation soaring and GDP growth sliding. The central bank in March trimmed its 2023 GDP forecast to 5.8 percent, slower than the 6.1 percent predicted earlier. Kenya is also labouring under a \$70 billion debt mountain, spooking credit ratings agencies including Moody's which last week downgraded the country's sovereign debt rating further into junk territory. Ruto insists he is making the "right decisions" to get the economy and government finances back on track in the face of pressure for reforms from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Many people are saying you can't tax yourself into prosperity and that is correct, but you cannot accumulate debt into bankruptcy as an option," he told reporters

Sunday. "We are not overtaxing ourselves," - IMF playbook - Kenyan economist Reginald Kadzutu told AFP the finance bill appeared to have come from the "IMF playbook". "When you are near debt default, and you might have to negotiate, you have to prove that you have enough revenue-generating capacity and the only way is to tax anything that has a figure on it." One of the more controversial provisions is a three percent deduction on the salaries of all tax-paying Kenyans to fund an affordable housing programme. Among foodstuffs, imported fish, locally manufactured sugar confectionery, powdered juice and locally produced pasta will attract new excise duty. The government also plans to double value-added tax on most petroleum products to 16 percent. Retail prices of fuel already jumped this week by up to nine percent after the government scrapped kerosene and diesel subsidies. Other proposals include a three-percent tax on the transfer of digital assets such as crypto currencies and an increase in tax on gambling to almost 20 percent of the amount wagered. Social media influencers and content providers have not been spared either, with their earnings facing a 15 percent tax. - 'Tsunami of taxes' - Veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga is threatening to call Kenyans back onto the streets over what he has branded a "tsunami of taxes". Earlier this year, he led a series of sometimes deadly anti-government demonstrations over the cost-of-living crisis, claiming that victory was stolen from him in last year's election. "We will have no option but to mobilise all the social sectors and take all the necessary political actions to stop this blow and burden," Odinga said. There had been speculation of a rapprochement between Ruto and his arch rival after the two men were spotted together at three events at the weekend. But Odinga has dismissed talk of any "handshake" with the president, referring to a surprise alliance he forged with Ruto's predecessor Kenyatta in 2018 that changed the political landscape. The public has until May 20 to comment on the finance bill before it is debated by lawmakers. If passed, it will need presidential approval to become law. For 52-year-old motorbike courier Josiah Burudi, Ruto has reneged on his promise to improve the lives of ordinary Kenyans or so called "hustlers". "It's like we are being taken for a ride. Life is becoming worse."

South Africa: Ex-Convicts face joblessness

South Africa has a prison population of over one hundred fifty thousand. Some of those held behind bars await to be released and reintegrated in their communities. However, one of the major challenges ex-convicts face in South Africa is unemployment. Criminologist and Researcher, Africa Monyal explains that the country's law stipulates that an ex-offender can apply for the expungement of their criminal record ten years from the date of conviction provided they have not been convicted of any other offence during the ten-year period. "According to our engagement with ex-offenders, the challenge find is that ex offenders normally obtain certain skills whether they become artisans but when they come out of prison, they can't find employment because of the criminal record issue. Even when they apply for funding for their businesses, they can't get funding because of their criminal records," he highlighted. In countries like the US, businesses that hire former inmates are given tax breaks by the government. In South Africa, some believe that this type of model could persuade employers to hire former prisoners. Monyal appeals to government to collaborate with the private sector in efforts to create employment opportunities as part of the reintegration programme.

"If the government can engage with companies and say to them that if you employ these people we will cut your tax then that will encourage companies to employ ex-offenders. Companies now do not have a motive and they are asking themselves why they should employ ex-offenders. Unfortunately, until that issue is solved, crime will not go down in South Africa," he said. Former inmate, Robert Molefe spent close to 5 years behind bars after being found guilty of robbery. Molefe, now reformed, is one of the lucky ones. He got a job as soon as he was released in prison in 2001. "I think I was lucky. There are guys who come out with well skilled but when they come out they come out with criminal records. Unfortunately, you have to stay ten years before you go and clear your criminal record and that's why you find that people go back. Remember, in prison you have a free meal, shelter and it is one of the things that might make them go back. It is so difficult because when you are hungry, you'll do whatever it takes to feed yourself," explains Molefe. According to a study on challenges faced by ex-offenders in South Africa by Professor Victor Chikadzi it is estimated that between 80% to 94% of released prisoners reoffend. This is attributed to ex convicts being ostracised in the job market. Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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INT'L SPORTS

Pep Guardiola believes winning the Premier League is more important than winning the Champions League as his Manchester City side look to reclaim their crown with a victory over Chelsea at the Etihad on Sunday.

Speaking after his side booked their place in the Champions League final with an emphatic 4-0 second-leg win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, Guardiola said: "It's non-stop [playing after the Real Madrid game]."

"[But,] the most difficult thing [is coming]. Tennis players say [serving] to win Wimbledon is the most difficult one. On Sunday, the game is in our hands."

"The Premier League is the most important competition, because it's over 10-11 months. We are lucky to finish at home with our people to take it."

"The last one is the most difficult because there are a lot of emotions. We would not forgive ourselves if we became distracted."

"Now, we know, we have three games to win the title. Every game we win helps the next one."

"We cannot forget reality, what happened against (Manchester) United

Pep Guardiola: Man City manager hails Premier League as top priority after beating Real Madrid to reach Champions League final



and (Aston) Villa in the past. Football is emotion, in the moment. If we can win at home, we have to do it."

"As a manager, I feel part of something. I never think it belongs to me - I'm part of it. [Success is not possible] without the incredible work from the sporting director, board... [and] the players are the most important thing."

Kevin De Bruyne was spotted shouting back at Guardiola during the faultless win over Madrid, but the City boss was keen to encourage flashes of

confrontation between the pair. "I love it...[when] we shout at each other," he added.

"Sometimes, in some games, it's a little bit flat. I like this energy. It's not the first time [he shouts at me], you don't see it: how many times he shouts at me on the training ground."

"This is what we need. After that, he becomes the best."

Chelsea interim boss Frank Lampard heaped praise on his upcoming hosts but was hesitant to rank them among the

best in history.

"I don't know [whether Manchester City are] the greatest [team] ever, but they are clearly a fantastic team and they have been for a good while now," said Lampard.

"Huge credit for [their] consistency. On those levels, they are coming close to the greatest team. The form they are in at the minute, you wouldn't want to bet against them on anything. I think they are the best team in the world [at the moment]."

City's top scorer Erling Haaland has scored a record-breaking 36 goals in the Premier League this term - exactly the same number of goals as Chelsea has mustered as a team.

"I've got huge respect for [Haaland]," added Lampard. "He is a player I tried to bring to Chelsea when I was here. I was very keen to get him but obviously that couldn't happen. His level was clear when we played against him at Salzburg."

"Credit to him I love seeing players of that level. In terms of having to deal with him you have to have a plan and an idea but players of that level can make anything happen at any moment."

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/>

Phil Jones: Man Utd defender to leave in summer after 'difficult' few years



Phil Jones will leave Manchester United when his contract expires this summer, after a "very difficult" few years because of injuries.

The 31-year-old, who has been capped 27 times by England, made 229 appearances for United and scored six goals.

The defender joined in 2011 from Blackburn Rovers and was part of the Premier League-winning team in 2012-13.

"I've worked tirelessly hard - I literally left no stone unturned," Jones said in a club interview.

"I tried to get back as quick as I could, every time I was out in the last couple of years."

His final appearance for United came in a 3-0 win over Brentford at the end of last season, and he has been sidelined with injury during this campaign.

"I wish I could have played more. I wish I could have given more to the many squads I played amongst. I will say, from

the bottom of my heart, I did everything I could," Jones wrote in an open letter to Manchester United fans.

"It's been very difficult, the last couple of years, there's no denying that," he added in his club interview.

Jones admitted he felt like he was "letting people down" and that he "found it hard to even speak to my team-mates" because he was "hurt that I couldn't help them".

"My family has been absolutely instrumental in keeping me on the

straight and narrow and keeping me focused, to try to get fit and try to play more."

"I think the highlight for me would have to be the Wolves game [returning from injury last season], when I came back."

"That was just a moment that I'll never forget. It gives me goosebumps now, thinking about it. I mean I worked so, so hard to get to that stage of fitness."

"That was a huge, huge moment in my career and the fans, that day, were incredible. The love that they showed me for that game, the passion that they showed, was sensational."

"I can't thank them enough for that. They've been a constant support throughout my time here."

During his 12 years at the club, Jones won the Premier League in Sir Alex Ferguson's final campaign with United. He also won the FA Cup in 2016, the League Cup and Europa League in 2017 and the Community Shield in 2011 and 2013.

Speaking in 2021, Jones said had "been through hell and back over the last couple of years" after struggling with injury and lockdown.

He described breaking down in tears and feelings of "rage" and helplessness over being labelled a figure of ridicule by some of his own supporters, and described once being verbally abused in the street in Hale while out with his two daughters.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/>



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Fix No.	Sales Close	Competition	Home Team				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	5/19/2023 14:25	Romania	FC HERMANNSTADT	4	v	5	UNIVERSITATEA CLUJ	2.48	18.00	60.00	3.95	5.20	9.60	27.00	19.00	8.20
2	5/19/2023 15:55	Cyprus	OLYMPIAKOS NICOSIA	8	v	5	DOXA KATOKOPIAS	16.00	25.00	29.00	17.00	6.00	3.45	99.00	24.00	1.85
3	5/19/2023 15:55	Cyprus	AKRITAS CHLORAKAS	7	v	1	ANORTHOSIS	6.80	16.00	25.00	8.80	5.60	4.40	45.00	16.00	2.60
4	5/19/2023 16:25	Bundesliga 2	DARMSTADT	1	v	11	MAGDEBURG	1.96	18.00	60.00	4.10	7.60	13.00	21.00	18.00	9.40
5	5/19/2023 16:25	Bundesliga 2	HOLSTEIN KIEL	9	v	5	ST. PAULI	4.40	13.00	24.00	7.40	6.20	5.80	29.00	13.00	3.20
6	5/19/2023 16:55	France League 2	GRENOBLE	7	v	13	RODEZ	3.95	15.00	35.00	5.60	4.50	6.00	35.00	15.00	4.50
7	5/19/2023 16:55	Portugal 2	BENFICA B	13	v	2	SC FARENSE	5.20	14.00	25.00	7.60	5.60	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.00
8	5/19/2023 16:55	Portugal 2	LEIXOES	14	v	6	VILAFRANQUENSE	4.10	14.00	35.00	5.80	4.50	6.00	35.00	14.00	4.30
9	5/19/2023 16:55	Romania	CHINDIA TARGOVISTE	8	v	3	FC VOLUNTARI	3.60	16.00	45.00	4.80	4.10	6.60	35.00	16.00	5.60
10	5/19/2023 16:55	Romania	FC ARGES	9	v	2	PETROLUL	3.70	16.00	40.00	5.00	4.30	6.20	35.00	16.00	5.00
11	5/19/2023 16:55	Romania	UTA ARAD	7	v	1	U CRAIOVA 1948	3.50	14.00	40.00	5.20	4.20	7.20	30.00	14.00	5.40
12	5/19/2023 17:25	Austria	RIED	5	v	6	ALTACH	3.20	15.00	40.00	4.90	4.90	7.20	28.00	15.00	5.40
13	5/19/2023 18:10	Switzerland 2	AARAU	5	v	7	SCHAFFHAUSEN	2.19	16.00	50.00	4.20	6.40	11.00	22.00	17.00	8.40
14	5/19/2023 18:10	Switzerland 2	THUN	6	v	2	LAUSANNE	3.30	13.00	30.00	5.60	5.60	7.20	25.00	13.00	4.60
15	5/19/2023 18:10	Switzerland 2	XAMAX	10	v	8	AC BELLINZONA	2.95	14.00	35.00	5.00	5.60	7.80	24.00	14.00	5.40
16	5/19/2023 18:10	Switzerland 2	LAUSANNE OUCHY	4	v	1	YVERDON-SPORT	3.05	13.00	35.00	5.20	5.40	7.80	25.00	14.00	5.20
17	5/19/2023 18:10	Slovenia	ND GORICA	9	v	10	TABOR SEZANA	3.20	13.00	40.00	4.60	4.10	6.40	28.00	14.00	5.00
18	5/19/2023 18:25	Poland	KORONA KIELCE	14	v	4	LECH POZNAN	6.80	16.00	24.00	9.40	5.80	4.50	45.00	15.00	2.55
19	5/19/2023 18:25	Bundesliga	FREIBURG	5	v	6	WOLFSBURG	3.60	14.00	35.00	5.80	5.60	7.00	28.00	14.00	4.60
20	5/19/2023 18:25	Hungary	KISVARDA	6	v	12	VASAS	2.50	15.00	50.00	4.40	5.40	9.60	25.00	16.00	7.40
21	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	REGGINA	10	v	11	ASCOLI	3.20	14.00	40.00	5.00	4.80	7.40	28.00	14.00	5.40
22	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	GENOA	2	v	3	BARI	2.55	16.00	50.00	4.30	5.00	9.40	27.00	17.00	7.60
23	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	PERUGIA	18	v	20	BENEVENTO	2.50	15.00	50.00	4.40	5.20	9.80	26.00	16.00	7.80
24	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	PALERMO	8	v	17	BRESCIA	2.90	14.00	40.00	5.00	5.20	8.20	26.00	14.00	5.80
25	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	COSENZA	16	v	5	CAGLIARI	5.20	14.00	27.00	7.20	5.00	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.20
26	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	CITTADELLA	15	v	12	COMO	3.00	14.00	40.00	4.90	4.80	8.00	27.00	14.00	6.00
27	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	TERNANA	14	v	1	FROSINONE	5.40	14.00	26.00	7.80	5.20	5.20	35.00	14.00	3.05
28	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	PISA	9	v	19	SPAL FERRARA	2.31	15.00	60.00	4.30	5.40	11.00	25.00	16.00	8.60
29	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	MODENA	13	v	4	SUDTIROL	4.20	14.00	35.00	5.80	4.30	6.00	35.00	14.00	4.30
30	5/19/2023 18:25	Serie B	PARMA	6	v	7	VENEZIA	3.45	14.00	40.00	5.40	4.60	7.00	30.00	14.00	5.20
31	5/19/2023 18:40	Serie A	SASSUOLO	13	v	9	MONZA	3.35	14.00	35.00	5.40	5.40	7.40	28.00	15.00	5.20
32	5/19/2023 18:40	Ireland	CORK CITY FC	9	v	7	SLIGO ROVERS	5.20	15.00	28.00	7.00	4.90	5.00	40.00	15.00	3.25
33	5/19/2023 18:40	Ireland	DERRY CITY	2	v	10	UNI COLLEGE DUBLIN	1.42	40.00	99.00	3.35	10.00	40.00	30.00	40.00	35.00
34	5/19/2023 18:40	Ireland	DUNDALK	4	v	3	BOHEMIANS DUBLIN	4.10	15.00	35.00	5.60	4.40	6.00	35.00	15.00	4.40
35	5/19/2023 18:40	Ireland	SHELBOURNE FC	5	v	6	SAINT PATRICKS ATHLETIC	4.10	15.00	35.00	5.60	4.50	5.80	35.00	15.00	4.30
36	5/19/2023 18:55	France League 1	LYON	7	v	4	AS MONACO	3.40	14.00	30.00	5.80	6.40	7.20	25.00	14.00	4.40
37	5/19/2023 18:55	La Liga	CADIZ CF	16	v	17	REAL VALLADOLID	3.55	16.00	40.00	5.20	4.70	7.00	30.00	16.00	5.40
38	5/19/2023 18:55	Ireland	SHAMROCK ROVERS	1	v	8	DROGHEDA UNITED	1.81	22.00	99.00	3.60	6.80	17.00	26.00	24.00	15.00
39	5/19/2023 18:55	England League 1	BARNLEY	0	v	0	BOLTON	2.95	15.00	45.00	4.70	4.90	7.80	28.00	15.00	6.00
40	5/19/2023 19:10	Portugal	MARITIMO	16	v	9	VIZELA	2.70	15.00	45.00	4.50	5.40	8.40	25.00	16.00	6.40

Wrestling: Ibrahim Bunduka wins silver at African Championship



Sierra Leone's United States of America-based wrestler, Ibrahim Bunduka wins the silver medal for Sierra Leone at the ongoing Africa Wrestling Championship in Hammamet, Tunisia.

Bunduka settled for the silver medal in the 60 kg Greco-Roman category and joined the list of Sierra Leoneans to have secured the African Championship medal in the continental stage.

The Marymount men's wrestling assistant coach made it to the finals with a win against Tunisian's Mohamed Yassine Hkiri 6 - 5 in the Quarterfinals and set up a semi-final contest against Romio Ricardo Goliath of Namibia who he also defeated 7-5.

The Gold medal battle proved tough for the Sierra Leone American-based wrestler as he lost to Haithem Mahmoud Ahmed Fahmy Mahmoud of Egypt 12-0.



Bunduka is no stranger to the international wrestling scene as he has previously had success with the United States in the Greco-Roman discipline. He finished fourth at the 2019 US Open and World Team Trials at 55 kilograms and finished second at the Junior World Team Trials back in 2014.

Bunduka is the latest Sierra Leonean to win a silver medal on the African

stage, in May 2012, Wrestler Abdulai Salam has become the first Sierra Leonean wrestler to win silver medals in the traditional category at the 8th Community African Wrestling tournament CAWT hosted in Niger. He also won a bronze medal in African Oceania Championship in Marrakesh in Morocco in March of the same year.

Sierra Leone U-20 Women heightens training ahead of WAFU Zone A tourney

As the U-20 West Africa Football Union (WAFU) Zone A women's tournament draws near, Sierra Leone U-20 female team has braced up for the forthcoming competition.

Twenty-two players and fourteen officials left Freetown on Tuesday afternoon for Kenema for onward preparations.

According to social media post shared by the team's Media Officer, Hawa Dauda, the team commenced training on Wednesday morning at the Kenema Town Field and will continue their training there.

The competition is expected to commence on Wednesday 24th May 2023 with four nations (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal and Guinea Bissau) likely to compete for the prestigious trophy.

The draw will be held on Tuesday ahead of the showpiece in Bo.

