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ALSO INSIDE

Four alleged drug dealers arrested at Waterloo



Supreme Court: Charles Margai demands Chief Justice to recuse from panel

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



Professor Alhaji Umar N'jai

Telling people to move on without healing is like telling them to accept wrongful acts

-Prof. Alhaji Umar N'jai



Charles Margai says the Chief is not free from bias

Charles Francis Kondo Margai has demanded that the Chief Justice, Babatunda Edwards and Justice Ivan Sesay, recuse themselves from the panel of judges in the matter between the People's Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC), the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL), and Anthony General and Minister of Justice at the supreme Court of Sierra Leone. He said the Chief Justice sworn in the president elect-Maada Bio, with such rapidity, pre-supposing that he was aware of the result before it was officially declared by the Chief Electoral Commissioner.

He submitted that the process leading to the declaration of President Bio as the elected president was irregular, noting that in the public interest, the Chief Justice should not be a member of the panel, let alone a presiding Judge.

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Sierra Leone receives first malaria vaccine

Africell sets to build Afri-city

WIMSAL calls for 30% quota reflection in all sectors

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KALANGBA ECHO

By Alusine Sesay

The Judiciary and democratic governance in Sierra Leone

I was in the Supreme Court in 2012 when the court threw out President Bio's Petition he had filed, challenging the 2012 presidential election results. President Bio and the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) had filed the petition after feeling dissatisfied with the outcome of the elections, claiming irregularities. The matter was thrown out on the basis that Bio and the SLPP failed to follow procedures in filing the petition in the Supreme Court.

Like any other state institutions expected to uphold democratic good governance, the Judiciary had long been polluted with the latter always working in the interest of the powers that be.

Unlike late President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah who, to a certain extent, was regarded as a true democrat, allowing state institutions to operate independently, President Ernest Bai Koroma set out series of precedencies that are today haunting his party, the All People's Congress (APC). Under his watch, President Ernest Bai Koroma seriously misused the judiciary and by extension the police. He used the judiciary to unlawfully sack his Vice president, a decision that was wronged by the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

Like I said earlier, the APC under

Ernest Bai Koroma set out several bad precedencies that are haunting the party today. Initially, the appointment of the Speaker of Parliament was provided for through an entrenched clause in the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone and it was the sole prerogative of the President to appoint a Judge with vast experience of over ten years standing in the Judiciary. But, in 2013, the APC dominated Parliament amended the constitution and replaced Appointment with Election. By then, Hon. Abel Stronge, who was an experienced Judge appointed by Ernest Bai Koroma and presiding as Speaker, was replaced by Hon. S.B.B Dumbuya.

Fast forward in 2018 after the SLPP won the presidential elections, but hadn't majority in Parliament, the party used that particular law to sack ten APC Members of Parliament.

Since the Speaker of Parliament should now be elected by 2/3rd majority in parliament, the SLPP was left with no option but to remove ten APC Members of Parliament with marathon speed, using the Judiciary.

In their July 3rd press statement, the APC catalogued series of petition cases they filed to the court, but

were not assigned to judges.

The party has resolved outright boycott of governance going forward. While the SLPP will openly not accept the fact that a boycott by the opposition will significantly affects governance, they should be worried because that would seriously questioned the legitimacy of any decision they will make going forward.

For the APC, it would be a disservice not to participate in governance because that would sound as a betrayal to their supporters, who queued on June 24th, under raid, and voted in protest. It is a fact the APC created a monster (Judiciary), which is now fighting back against them and they should learn to live with it while in opposition.

In as much as they do not trust the judiciary, they should have still gone to court, armed with their evidences, to prove the wrong of the Judiciary in the eyes of the public. For sure, the June 24 elections had series of shortfalls, but that could only be proven by a competent court of law.

The APC under Ernest Bai Koroma had the opportunity to reform the Judiciary through the Constitutional Review Committee, but he refused and the party has to live with that. Like the APC, the SLPP too, will suffer similar dire consequences



after they shall have been in opposition because President Bio has set out several bad precedencies that would not only haunt the party, but also his immediate family.

Aside from the physical reforms which have taken place under the watch of the current Chief Justice, Babadtunde Edwards, the Judiciary needs serious baptismal cleansing confirmed by the appointment of judges (especially the Chief Justice) not by the president, but by a league of civil society and other credible institutions, with thorough vetting. We could only save our peace and democracy if only the judiciary stands to be independent with credible leadership.

COMMENTARY

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Stand-off between the opposition APC and the SLPP government: Suggesting ways of handling it going forward

Since the conclusion and announcements of the June 24th elections results, which placed Bio as the winner with over 56%, the country has been clouded with series of disagreements concerning the credibility of the elections, as it was alleged by the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) that the election was marred with rigging, intimidation and a lot of other related electoral malpractices.

The APC has in a press release emphasised that they won't go to court, doubting that the judiciary won't administer justice, as it's an instrument of President Bio. They, however, stressed that all their MPs and mayors will not participate in the governance system of the country.

That statement has shocked a lot of Sierra Leoneans, who envisaged a One Party State if the APC decides to boycott. Various institutions so far have

been trying to create a platform for dialogue between the two giant parties, with some saying the decision to boycott governance will undermine the democracy and peace of the state.

Earlier this week, the National Commission for Democracy summoned a meeting at its headquarters with political parties, CSO's and pressmen in attendance. The meeting was geared towards chatting the way forward and bringing up recommendations that will ensure that the political tension in the country be addressed. The PPRC and other state institutions have earlier undertaken such endeavours.

So what should really be done to enable a cohesive and tolerant existence?

First and foremost, dialogue and persuasion are two very pivotal aspects that need to be initiated trying to build an inclusive government. It's not a

secret that opposition parties across Africa mostly cry foul whenever elections are conducted, but the ability and expertise to bring everyone on board by the incumbent government plays a key role in healing the wounds of the opposition.

The government should also ensure that their supporters are admonished to stop creating anger through the unnecessary provocation. Elections are over, what we should be thinking now are ways of working together and to addressing the current hardship in the country.

Government should open a clear line of communication and be listening to all views expressed and by citizens by so doing, what's in the heart of people will genuinely come out.

In as much as the government has a role to play, but however, citizens have responsibilities that come with those

duties as well. Political party leaders and supporters should be law abiding and refrain from acts that might culminate in chaos.

The decision by APC not to seek a legal redress is considered to be inappropriate. They should have tested the system by going to court if there were any legitimate grievances. It's so early for them to brand the judiciary as partisan even though they haven't tried the process yet.

Finally, the hate speeches, incitement, and division have also greatly contributed to the political stalemate in the country. Social media influencers have recently helped in dividing the country. This country has gone through 11 years of civil unrest and the experiences were bad, it very much rational to not do things that might undermine the security and democracy of the state and reminds us of the past.



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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

He added that the issue and the determination bother on the propriety of the process leading to the president's declaration and that it would be a conflict of interest characterised by bias, if the Chief Justice is part of the said matter.

For Justice Ivan Sesay, he cited Section 28 (6) of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone, which says only Supreme Court Judges should sit on Supreme Court cases. The People's Movement Democratic Change (PMDC), led by Charles Margai, filed a case in the Supreme Court against the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone and the Anthony General and Minister of Justice, seeking for various declarations under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, citing violations of constitutional and electoral laws.

The case filed under the constitutional instrument and Electoral Acts, aimed to address several issues related to the just concluded June 24th elections. The

PMDC's application for relief includes challenging the appointment of Mohamed Konneh as Chief Electoral Commissioner, arguing that the appointment violates constitutional provisions.

They are asserting that failure to publish candidate's nomination deadlines in the gazette effectively disenfranchised voters, as intending candidates were unaware of the timeline, contrary to the Public Elections Act.

Margai was questioning the fairness, credibility and transparency of the electoral process due to the unreliable "Portal System" introduced by ECSL. The PMDC highlights multiple system breakdowns reported to the commission.

He cited Sections 154 and 155 of the Public Elections Act, which are mandatory and not discretionary, urging strict compliance from the ECSL.

He said the PMDC called for fundamental rights cases pending in the Supreme Court, to be heard by five substantive Supreme Court Justices, challenging any hearings conducted otherwise as unconstitutional and decisions reached as null and void.

The PMDC further urged an appraisal of the electoral process conducted by ECSL, deeming it unsatisfactory and potentially unsafe for the June 24 elections.

The plaintiffs, represented by Patrick John and Tony H.B. Songa, have provided affidavits in support of their application.

Charles Margai, as a Sierra Leonean citizen, registered voter, and concerned individual, brought the action, while the PMDC represents one of the thirteen political parties that contested the general elections.

The case filed by the PMDC against the



ECSL will now be considered by the Supreme Court, which will play a crucial role in determining the validity of the allegations raised and their impact on the elections.

The matter has been reserved for judgment.

Telling people to move on without healing is like telling them to accept wrongful acts

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

-Prof. Alhaji Umar N'jai

Professor Alhaji Umar N'jai has noted that telling people to move on after an incident without healing is simply telling them to accept wrongful acts in society and normalising those behaviours without delving into the root causes of those acts.

Professor Alhaji Umar N'jai was on Thursday, July 6th speaking in an interview on the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation (SLBC) during their popular radio talk show 'Gud Morning Salone'.

The acclaimed Associate Professor, who is also a social commentator, was speaking with regards to the outcome of the June 24 multi-tier elections, which the All People's Congress Party (APC) rejected outright, stating that the process was marred by irregularities.

"Everyone is crying out for peace in Sierra Leone, but no one is crying out for social justice and equity, which is fundamental for creating and maintaining peace. Crying out for peace when that peace is based on your neighbour's oppression will not bear good fruit or lead to a healthy progressive peaceful society," he said.

He averred that since the country's independence, war, Ebola, Landslide to the present elections debacle, people seem to normalise wrongful acts with "how for do, nah for biya" mentality.

He continued that in effect, at each time there is an opportunity to make things right, nothing is done, the nation moves on without addressing the problems or root cause analysis.

"Hence, we keep developing a society with deep wounds and emotional mental scars or trauma with no support, healing mechanisms or therapy in place. We simply left to cope with the mental or psychological trauma of our social ills,



with substance abuse becoming a favorite mechanism for a large segment of society," he said.

He said injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere, adding that unfortunately Sierra Leonean society is now one of too many compromised people and no statesmen or institutions serving as moral guarantors.

The Associate Professor assured that when the right things are done with integrity, fairness and transparency, peace will be assured at all times in our society.

Professor N'jai quoted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) post-war report which found injustices, human rights abuses, greed, corruption, bad governance, lack of accountability and transparency, and leadership failures as the roots causes of the war.

"We must never forget the things that led us to years of brutal war. The lessons of the war must serve as our daily reminder to work assiduously towards developing a thriving, socially just, and equitable Sierra Leone. Upholding the truth, fairness, integrity and transparency at all times, thus matters," he advised.

WIMSAL calls for 30% quota reflection in all sectors

By Jariatu S. Bangura



President Eastina Taylor

President, Women in the Media -Sierra Leone (WIMSAL), Eastina Taylor, has called on President Bio to ensure that the 30% women representation be reflected in all governance sectors, just as it has been done in Parliament.

Madam Taylor told Concord Times in an interview that, women representation in Parliament is welcoming news as they have been advocating for such development over the years.

She reiterated that development should not only be limited to Parliament, but should be reflective in other areas of decision making.

"As it is now, we have moved from level one to level two. We are looking forward for it to reflect in all other sectors in governance, cabinet and parastatals. We commend the President for such venture and we continue to remind him that the 30% needs to be reflected in all areas," she said.

She noted that the number of female MPs is a good start for women in the fight for equal representation, adding that if the 30% is fully reflected in all sectors, it will ensure more women have a lot of support to be empowered and be able to build the capacity of female journalists and other women groups.

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

What citizens say about the decision of the main opposition APC?

After the announcement by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) that President Julius Maada Bio won the June 24 elections, the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) questioned the credibility of the elections results, stating that the election was not free, fair and transparent. The party has vowed not to take a legal redress against ECSL, as they have doubt in the judiciary and also maintained not to participate in the governance of the

country.

The APC also demanded the resignation of election commission officials, a rerun of presidential and parliamentary elections within six months.

In this Vox Pop, Concord Times' Yusufu S. Bangura and Mohamed J. Kargbo, on Saturday, took to the streets of Freetown to gauge the views of citizens on what they think about the decision of the opposition and what it's mean for the country's democracy if they boycott governance.

Seiku Bundu, Student

As a citizen, I think this will affect the state negatively because we as Sierra Leoneans have made our own contributions by voting them in, and we are expecting them to come together and move the country forward. But, if they decide not to participate in the development of this country, it would not be favourable to us as citizens.

I want the International Community and Civil Society to look into this matter and talk to the two political parties to come together and work as one for the betterment of our beloved country. Let them put



everything aside and work because they were voted and not selected. Let them forget about colour or political parties and work for the nation that they have pledged their loyalty to serve.

Hassan Kamara, dealer in Kola nut



I want the international community that was here to observe the election to come back and initiate dialogue between the two political parties, because we voted them and we need them to take our voices to parliament. But, if they don't, then our voices can't be heard and the ruling party will do as they like because there will be nobody to check on their excesses.

Sulaiman Boya, Bike Rider

This is not a good decision taken by the opposition not to participate in the 6th Parliament, council, mayor and chairperson. In any parliament, there must be an opposition to provide checks and balances, but if the opposition is not there the ruling party will do anything they feel like doing.

So, I think this will be bad for the country's democracy because it will send a very bad signal to the international community that we are not in peace and it will dent the image of the country.

I want the two parties to enter into dialogue



and see how they can amend the issue amicably. They should know that Sierra Leone is bigger than those political parties, so they should put aside their personal interests and work as one to develop the country.

Lamin Kalokoh, Businessman



In my own opinion, I think the decision of the opposition is not a good one, because there is no ruling government without an opposition. If the opposition say they will not participate in governance, it will not be good for the peace of the country.

To me as a citizen, these politicians should have the country at heart first before anything else. They should put politics aside and work as one family. Let them find a way to solve the issue among themselves.

Mohamed Korgi, Businessman



As a citizen of this country, I think this will affect us greatly because we have played our part by voting them in as Members of Parliament, so they should honour that. Besides, a democratic government can't run without an opposition and this will not go down well with us as citizens because we see it as we wasted our time to vote them into parliament and they don't want to honor our rights.

I want the opposition party to accept this result and work with the ruling party to build the country. Let them forget about political parties and put the country's interest first.

Ibrahim Bah, dealer in Baby Food (Benin Mix)

This is the first time I am hearing this since I was born for only one party to be in the Well of Parliament should the opposition fails to attend sittings on Thursday 13 July. I think if this happen it will be the first and I believe that not only one party can make decision in parliament. In my own view, if they do not participate, then we have smaller parties that took part in the elections and they should be given the appointment for us not to have one party in parliament.



I want the opposition party to realise that they are working for the country and not for their own personal interests and they have given us their words that they will serve us, so we want to see that happen.

James Koroma, Businessman



Democracy to my own understanding is based on two sides, an opposition and ruling party and I think what the opposition party wants to do is undemocratic. We want the international community to bring the two parties to one table and iron out issues, so that they can work as one big

family to develop the country.

And my final message is that the government sits and thinks wisely and dialogue with the opposition party, not for political gains or anything else, but for the betterment and peace of the country they claim to have at heart.

Salifu Kabia, Businessman

As a citizen, I think this will kill our democracy. The opposition MPs think they are serving their own interests that's why they vowed not to participate in governance. I believe they will represent us, if only their intention is to serve the country and people.

I want the opposition to forget about their political gains and focus on the country and they should think about the campaign promises they made to us that they will not let the country go back to the dark days.

It will not be the ruling party that will be blamed, but everyone in the country will be blamed. I am pleading with the government to dialogue with the opposition for the betterment of the country.





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LOCAL NEWS

Sierra Leone receives first malaria vaccine

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Sierra Leone has been selected among the nine Africa countries that have received the first set of malaria vaccine from the Alliance GAVI and WHO. The disclosure was made during a press conference by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, WHO, and the UN Children's Agency, UNICEF, at the ministry's conference room in Freetown.

Alongside its partners, the organizations said in a joint statement that 18 million doses of the Real Time Simulation System (RTSS) vaccine, which was developed by UK pharmaceutical firm, GSK, will be delivered to a total of 12 countries over the next two years.

They said RTSS is the world's first malaria vaccine and the first approved vaccine to combat a human parasitic disease, and

WHO approved it for use in July 2022.

Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have been receiving the vaccine as part of a pilot program funded by GAVI, since 2019. Under this programme, more than 1.7 million children in the three countries will receive doses, according to the statement. Malaria is considered as one of the highest killer diseases on the African continent, especially deadly for children. It is responsible for the deaths of nearly half a million children each year under the age of five, according to WHO, which also shows that the continent accounted for about 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of deaths in 2021.

Chief Medical officer, MoHs, Muspha Kabba, said WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus first disclosed the news about the vaccine



Malaria vaccine

expansion project at a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland earlier on Wednesday. He said that at least 28 African countries had expressed interest in receiving the vaccine.

"It has been shown to be safe and effective, resulting in a substantial reduction in severe Malaria and a fall in child deaths," said Dr. Kabba

"With the climate crisis changing weather patterns, mosquitoes that carry these diseases are increasing in density and spreading further afield," he said.

He said second malaria vaccine is under review for pre-qualification, noting that if successful, it could provide additional supply in the short term.

"Sierra Leone has one of the highest burdens of malaria in the world, with the country's entire population said to be at risk of the disease, and Malaria is responsible for nearly four in ten hospital consultations countrywide, according to data from the Ministry," said Kabba

Sierra Leone's neighbor, Liberia is among the nine countries to receive the vaccine. The other countries Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, and Uganda.

Africell sets to build Afri-city



In an exclusive interview with the Chief Administration Human Resource Officer of Africell Sierra Leone, Andrew S. Fatorma said that most of their staff are challenged with housing problems which has been a perennial constraint for most staff members.

According to Mr Fatorma, Africell as a company that seeks the welfare of its staff, wants their long serving staff to own their own houses. Adding that their first target is to secure the land which will eventually be improved as long as the company stays in business. "It's a loyalty program and employees that have been providing dedicative service to the company for couples of years will be the beneficiaries", he affirmed.

He continued that during the launched of the project they were able to identified fifty one (51) staffs that were qualified in terms of years of service.

He disclosed that the land for the Afri-city is located at the York village in Freetown Peninsula, furthering that the land has been acquired by the

company and very soon the staff will be assigned their plots of land, adding that they will meet all necessary conditions the government and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require.

"we're basically looking at large plots by dividing it into various portions and so far we have about seventy four and staff will benefit from these portions" he Lamented.

He reiterated that they will reserve some plots for basic amenities such as a playground, sports club, kids playing ground etc.

He pointed out that it's too early to name a price tag, adding that the initiative has just started and it's an ongoing expense with a huge capital that will be beneficial to their employees.

He concluded that the staff of Africell Sierra Leone will be the beneficiaries, adding that it will only be a brand for the company where the employees are the owner of



this Afri-city.

He noted that the engagement process with the beneficiaries is quite clear as to how they will be maintaining the Afri-city which will be communicated

to them as time goes on, stating that as a company one of their goals is striving to meet their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Four alleged drug dealers arrested at Waterloo

By Ishmael Dumbuya

According to ASP Allieu Jalloh, Head of Waterloo Police Media, they have four suspects under their custody.

The said four alleged notorious drug dealers – Isatu Manley, Idrissa Koroma, Abdul Conteh, and Chernoh Jalloh, all from different addresses within Waterloo, who operated the biggest drug cartels in Tombo Junction and Gbensha (along Kandia Road), Lumpa, were arrested after police received an intelligence and subsequently a raid that lasted for several hours by the Operations Team of

Waterloo Police Station.

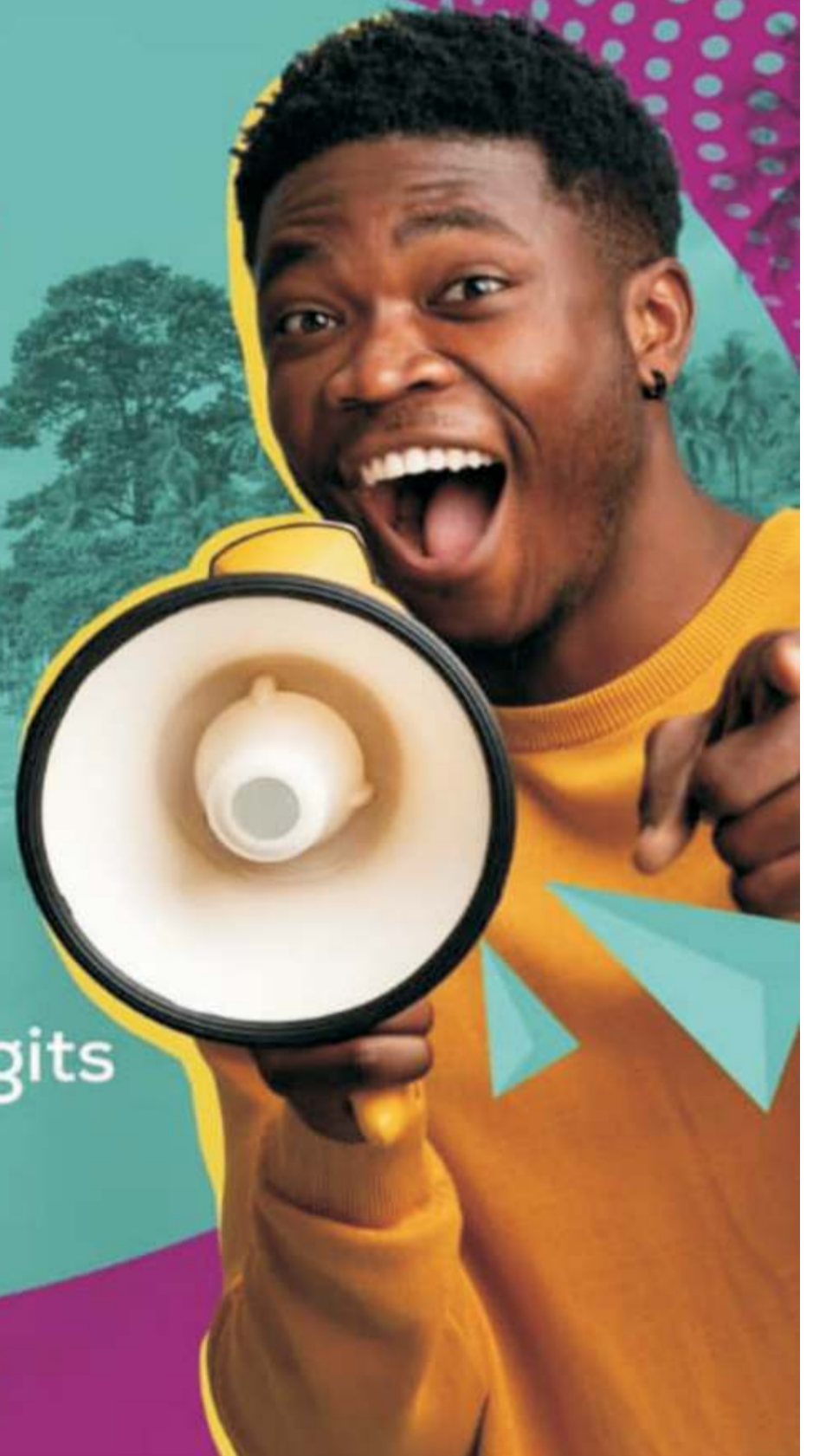
This happened just a day after the Waterloo Police Division had reported that they found a 59-year-old -petty trader lifeless at the Bofla community with some body parts cut off and both her feet tied and, her body was hidden under her mattress, with multiple lacerations.

Meanwhile, the police stated that they have demolished the makeshift structures where the drug dealers operated and the said drug dealers will be charged to court as soon as possible.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

Election expert questions NEW's projection of the June 24th election

Professor Adam Stevens, an election and data analyst, has used the Ministry of Information's weekly press briefing to question and educate pressman on the inaccuracies surrounding the National Election Watch (NEW) projection of the just concluded election, wherein it was projected that President Bio and Samura Kamara will go to a run off and no political party with secure 56% of the votes cast.

Professor Stevens admitted that despite attempting to contact NEW directly concerning their projection which has been widely circulated on social media, he had not received any response from the organization, expressing hope that they would step forward to address those concerns.

Steven proposed a comparative analysis between NEW's quick count results, which he believed to have been generated from a limited number of

districts such as Kenema and Bo, and an analysis by the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL). He suggested that if either institution was found to have misled the public, he would take legal action.

During the conference, several officials, including the Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rahman Swaray, welcomed Steven's PowerPoint presentation. However, some journalists questioned the expert's position and the introduction of his presentation by the minister.

In response, Steven clarified that his motivation stemmed from his identity as a concerned Sierra Leonean, seeking transparency and accuracy in the electoral process.



Professor Adam Stevens

MARKET WATCH WITH ELIZABETH KAMARA



Market watch is a column that looks at the prices of basic commodities in various markets across Freetown. It seeks the views of traders as well as costumers about the sales of their goods at which the least consumer buys.

In this edition of market watch, Concord Times's Elizabeth Kamara conducted interviews with some shop owners and petty traders at various markets in Freetown.

Below are the various prices of cosmetic commodities in the market.

Items	Prices
Ideal	Nle18.00
Claire men	Nle37
Cocoa pulp	Nle50.00
Secret white	Nle70.00
Perfect line	Nle35.00
Carotone	Nle20.00
Day by day	Nle18.00
Pure skin	Nle20.00
Detol small bottle	Nle10.00
Soulmate hair food	Nle45.00
Lemon clear	Nle65.00
Touch	Nle20.00
Bubble gum spray	Nle25.00
Zenta detergent	Nle640.00

Four robbers await sentencing

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Four accused persons, Mohamed Kamara, Abu Sesay, John Pessima, and Augustine Bangura are awaiting sentencing to be handed down by Justice Morfred Sesay for robbery with violence and conspiracy.

The accused persons were arraigned before the court on three counts of conspiracy to commit robbery with aggravation, robbery with aggravation and wounding with intent.

According to the charge sheet, the accused persons on the 25th May 2020, in Freetown, conspired together with other persons unknown to commit a felony to wit robbery with aggravation.

It was further alleged that the accused persons on the 26th May, 2020, in Freetown, being armed with a gun, robbed Randolph John of one blue bag valued 70,000 Old

Leones, one leather purse valued 40,000, one drivers' license valued Four Hundred thousand Leones, assorted medicines valued one hundred and twenty thousand Leones, one vehicle key valued 5Million Leones, One United Bank of Africa identification card valued one hundred thousand Leones with a Cheque face value of sixty million Leones.

Justice Monfred, in his summoning up to the jurors, summarised and explained the evidences produced by the prosecution against the accused persons in rendering a fair judgment.

The Jurors retired at 3:00pm with a verdict on all count indictments respectively, and the accused persons were all found guilty on all count indictments.

Lawyer R.S Bangura from Legal Aid Board, pleaded on behalf of the accused persons that they are young and have long ways to go. .

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Police disperse protesters lamenting high cost of living

Protests took place in Nairobi on Friday where more than 20 anti-government protesters were arrested and other parts of the country also witnessed demonstrations called by the opposition against newly imposed taxes.

Hundreds of protesters turned out in Kenya's capital, as well as in the coastal city of Mombasa and the lakeside city of Kisumu where the opposition enjoys huge support, but were dispersed by police who fired tear gas canisters at them.

The protesters had lit bonfires and barricaded some major roads. "He (William Ruto, Kenya's president) is increasing taxes on people who have nothing," said protester Emmanuel Wafula.

"If one has money, it is okay to be taxed. We have nothing." The implementation of the newly signed law that increased taxes has been suspended by a court pending the hearing of a case filed by an opposition senator challenging its legality.

The government has, however, implemented the tax on petroleum products.

Nairobi police commander Adamson Bungei told The Associated Press on Friday that "more than



Protesters in Nairobi - Copyright © africanews cleared

20 people had been arrested by midday" but did not disclose what charges they will face.

The opposition had called for the demonstrations to protest the newly imposed taxes on petroleum products, salaried workers and businesses.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga last week announced "civil disobedience" asking his followers not to pay the new taxes.

Opposition supporters are expected to congregate at a rally in Nairobi where Odinga said he would announce further steps towards fighting against the new taxes.

Police said the planned rally was legal but the ongoing demonstrations were illegal.

On Friday, some businesses in major cities remained closed.

In Côte d'Ivoire, artisanal fishermen forced to halt work to protect fish

On a shady corner of the beach in the south of Abidjan, men are playing cards: all are fishermen and were forced to stop their activity in July to abide by a government measure for the biological rest of fish.

"We do nothing, we do nothing at all," says Patrick Ange Yao annoyed. He's worked as an angler for more than twenty-two years.

"We are here, we are talking" but "we don't even know where to go, we go around in circles," he doubled down, looking around.

The Ivorian Ministry of Animal and Fisheries Resources has established several biological rest periods for both artisanal and industrial fishing, to protect resources and increase fish production.

Like the majority of men in Aleya, a village wedged between the sea and the city, Patrick Ange Yao comes from a family of fishermen and cannot imagine doing anything else.

He thus respects the tradition of the Alladian community, from which he originates and which inhabits part of the coast of Côte d'Ivoire. And Aleya's families only depend on that. "We fish, our wives sell fish, so when it's blocked it's blocked," the man notes.

To survive these days, women buy and sell frozen fish. "If we sell the boxes of frozen fish we gain nothing," Gladys Donco, the wife of a fisherman and trader for thirty-two years, lamented.

"Between 2,000 and 3,000 [francs CFA, entre 3 et 4,50 euros] per day "or 60,000 CFA francs (some 90 euros) for the month, specifies her friend Alice Koffi.

Fish, a scarce resource

A fruitful month of fishing between July and December, sea bream, carp and mostelle can bring in up to 500,000 CFA francs (about 760 euros), almost nine times more.

The sum is divided between the fishermen, usually five, who pocket a salary higher than the Ivorian minimum wage, set at 75,000 CFA francs (114 euros).

"We wanted to catch up" June, the peak of the rainy season, which makes access to the sea difficult, says Roland Djété, another fisherman.



Artisanal fishermen, mend their nets on Abidjan's Port-Bouet beach on July 7, 2023. - Copyright © africanews ISSOUF SANOGO/ AFP or licensors

A few meters further on, other fishermen are sitting on canoes. With their backs to the sea, they wave their mending needles to repair nets, while a huge tuna boat taunts them on the horizon. These industrial vessels will suffer the same fate early next year.

"We are fathers, we don't know how we are going to feed the children, pay for the house," Kouamé Benjamin Kouakou still stunned and worried, confesses.

And no way to break the rules. Patrols "come by boat from 11 p.m. every evening", noted Ismaël Emmanuel Maniga. However, the impact of artisanal fishing on fish reproduction is much less than that of industrial fishing.

"You can have up to 500 or 600 kilos" of fish per fishing over several days, during "good times" while trawlers recover several tons over the same period, says Patrick Ange Yao. "Those who fish with nets" embark "little fish" which do not have time to grow and reproduce, and "it takes at least three months for the fish to come back" after their passage, he explains, referring to the sometimes illegal practices of Chinese ships since 2010.

Artisanal fishermen are forced to reach more distant areas, "to the border of Ghana" Or "from Liberia," Roland Djété adds. And "100 kilometers from the coast," Patrick Yao clarifies, sometimes after a whole day of travel, without stopping.

Less visible than the giant trawlers, global warming also impacts fishing. According to the World Bank, the warming of the oceans and the carbon dioxide they absorb will "to fall" the plugs "more than 40% in Côte d'Ivoire (...) on the horizon 2100."

Human Rights Watch urges Tunisia to stop expelling migrants to desert

Human Rights Watch on Friday urged Tunisia to put an end to what it called the "collective expulsions" of black African migrants to a desert area near the Libyan border. Hundreds of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa have been left stranded in dire conditions in the south of Tunisia since being driven out of the port city of Sfax in the past week.

The rights group's statement comes against a backdrop of violence after the funeral of a 41-year-old Tunisian man who was stabbed to death in Sfax on Monday in a brawl between Tunisians and migrants.

Sfax, the North African country's second-largest city, is a departure point for many hoping to reach Europe by sea, often the Italian island of Lampedusa about 130 kilometres (80 miles) away.

"Tunisian security forces have collectively expelled several hundred Black African migrants and asylum seekers, including children and pregnant women, since July 2, to a remote, militarised buffer zone at the Tunisia-Libya border," HRW said.

"Many reported violence by authorities during arrest or expulsion," the New York-based watchdog said in its statement.

HRW's Lauren Seibert urged Tunisia's government to "halt collective expulsions and urgently enable humanitarian access to the African migrants and asylum seekers already expelled to a dangerous area".

The group said migrants it interviewed alleged "several people died or were killed at the border area" between Sunday and Wednesday, "some shot and others beaten" by Tunisian security forces.

"No time to waste" -

"They also said that Libyan men carrying machetes or other weapons had robbed some people and raped several women," HRW reported, adding it was unable to independently verify the accounts.

HRW called on the government in Tunis to "investigate and hold to account security forces implicated in abuses".

"African migrants and asylum seekers, including children, are desperate to get out of the dangerous border zone and find food, medical care, and safety," Seibert said. "There is no time to waste."

Tunisia has seen a rise in racially motivated attacks after President Kais Saied in February accused "hordes" of undocumented migrants of bringing violence and alleging a "criminal plot" to change the country's demographic make-up.

Some migrants forcibly taken to the desert told AFP by phone on Thursday that hundreds, including women and children, had been abandoned there and left destitute.

Video footage shared on Friday by an African association shows dozens of visibly exhausted people, including mothers with babies, sitting or lying on the sand in the desert by the Mediterranean near the border with Libya.

One begs for help, saying: "We have nothing to eat. How many days can we survive?"

In Sfax itself, hundreds of migrants gathered in a park on Friday to demand "peace and security", an AFP journalist said.

"I no longer have a place to live and I'm not safe any more. I just want to go home to Burkina Faso," said Abdelatif Farati, 18, who has been in Tunisia with his four brothers for four years.

"Black lives matter" read the slogan on pieces of cardboard held up as placards.

Some Tunisians have expressed solidarity with the migrants, providing food and medical help to those now living on the street after being chased from their homes.

On Friday, the head of Tunisia's main opposition coalition, Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, described the incidents as "a black page in our history".

"People are arrested just for the colour of their skin. This is a disgrace," Chebbi told AFP.

Twitter threatens legal action against Meta over its new rival app Threads



This photo, taken in New York, Thursday, July 6, 2023, shows Meta's new app Threads. - Copyright © africanews Richard Drew/ Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved

Twitter has threatened legal action against Meta over its new text-based app called Threads, which has drawn tens of millions of users since launching this week as a rival to Elon Musk's social media platform.

In a letter Wednesday to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Alex Spiro, an attorney representing Twitter, accused Meta of unlawfully using Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property by hiring former Twitter employees to create a "copycat" app.

The move ramps up the tensions between the social media giants after Threads debuted Wednesday, targeting those who are seeking out alternatives to Twitter amid unpopular changes Musk has made to the platform since buying it last year for \$44 billion.

Meta spokesperson Andy Stone wrote Thursday on Threads: "No one on the Threads engineering team is a former Twitter employee — that's just not a thing."

In the letter, which news website Semafor first reported Thursday, Spiro said Twitter "intends to strictly enforce its intellectual property rights" and

noted the company's right to seek civil remedies or a court injunction.

He said the letter marked a "formal notice" for Meta to preserve documents relevant for a potential dispute between the companies.

In a reply to a tweet about the possibility of legal action against Meta, Musk wrote: "Competition is fine, cheating is not."

The Associated Press reached out to Spiro on Thursday for further information. Twitter responded to an email seeking comment with a crude automated reply, its standard response to journalists.

New Twitter CEO Linda Yaccarino has not publicly commented on the letter but appeared to address Threads' launch.

"We're often imitated — but the Twitter community can never be duplicated," Yaccarino tweeted.

Some analysts say Meta's new offering, billed as a text-based version of the photo-sharing app Instagram, could be a significant headache for Twitter — pointing to the excitement surrounding Threads' launch and impressive download numbers so far.

But success isn't guaranteed. Industry watchers point to Meta's track record of starting standalone apps that were later shut down and note that Threads is still in its early days.

Besides some glitches and gripes about missing features, Meta's new app also has raised data privacy concerns. While Threads launched in more than 100 countries, it is notably unavailable in the European Union, which has strict data privacy rules.

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Public Notice Increase in Advert Pricing for Newspapers

24th March, 2023.

The general public is hereby informed that the Guild of Newspaper Editors – Sierra Leone (GoNE-SL) has reviewed the advert pricing for newspapers as follows:

Black & White

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Quarter Page (¼)	700	800
2	Half (½)	800	1,200
3	Full Page	1,000	1,500
4	Centre Spread	2,000	3,000

Coloured

No.	Description	Old Price (NLe)	New Price (NLe)
1	Full Page	2,500	3,000
2	Centre Spread	5,000	6,000

The cover price remains the same.

Please note that the new pricing takes effect on Monday, 3rd April, 2023.

Your cooperation is highly solicited.

Signed:
Donald Theo-Harding
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Happy Birthday Samuella Naomi Koroma



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Your glowing personality will never fail to cheer up the people around you. You have a spirit that shine brighter than the sun. You are awesome, remain blessed. I love you.

From your beloved father, Joseph Bunton Graden Clinsting.



World Population Day 2023- UNFPA Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 11 July 2023 - On 11 July, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joined the global commemoration of World Population Day, a day set aside to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, including their relations to development and the environment.

In November 2022, the world's population reached 8 billion people, marking a landmark demographic moment. The 2023 World Population Day theme, *Unleashing the power of gender equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities*, highlights the need to advance gender equality to help realize the dreams of all eight billion people.

While women and girls make up half of the global population, their desires for their lives, families and careers are often ignored in discussions on demographics and their rights violated in population policies. The result is a world that excludes, marginalizes and limits the potential of women and girls, hindering the achievement of a more prosperous, peaceful and sustainable future for all people.

Around the world, gender inequality impacts on women's and girls' participation in education, employment and leadership positions, limits their ability to make decisions about their health and sexual and reproductive lives, and heightens their vulnerability to violence, harmful practices and preventable maternal death. More than 40 per cent of women around the world cannot make decisions on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and only one in four women across low and middle income countries are realizing their desired fertility.

In her statement marking World Population Day, UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem highlighted that the day is a "reminder that we can achieve the prosperous, peaceful and sustainable future envisioned by the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if we harness the power of every human being on the planet. When we unlock the full potential of women and girls, we galvanize half the leadership, ideas, innovation, and creativity to better society."

UNFPA Sierra Leone Country Representative Nadia Rasheed noted that investing in gender equality today is an investment in our shared future. "Empowering women to exert their rights, make decisions about their reproductive health, and shape the families they want results in stronger and healthier communities and societies," she stated. Echoing UNFPA's 2023 State of World Population report, she called for women and girls to be empowered by societies to exert autonomy over their lives and bodies in order to enable individuals and families to thrive and to contribute to a better, more inclusive world.

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INT'L SPORT PSG 'activate buyback clause' to sign Newcastle and Arsenal target

PSG have activated a buyback clause to sign an Arsenal and Newcastle transfer target, according to a report.

PSV's Xavi Simons left the club for the Netherlands last summer, but the French champions are thought to be keen on regaining their former player.

The clause is said to be just £5.1million, and PSV have no say in the matter after signing off on the agreement when they signed the midfielder last year.

Simons may yet not return to France however. It is up to the player whether he wants to return and he only has 25 days to decide on his future.

According to Fabrizio Romano, the release clause expires at the end of July, causing PSG to move quickly and put the decision in the player's hands for the rest of the month.

Simons has impressive in his debut season in his homeland at PSV, scoring 21 goals in 44 games as PSV finished second in the Eredivisie table.

His performances attracted interest from the Premier League, with Arsenal's Mikel Arteta and Newcastle's Eddie Howe monitoring his performances closely.

The 20-year-old could still move to the Premier League if he rejects the chance to move back to Ligue 1.

A move back to PSG would represent an insane bargain deal for the French side after his performances in the 2022-23 season seemingly caused his market price to sky rocket.

That fee would be a staggering contrast to the £41m figure Simons is valued at by CIES.

The midfielder has reportedly



recently changed agents and is now being advised on new career moves by English pair Darren Dein and Stuart Peters.

It's a move that, according to former Eindhoven manager Aad de Mos, may steer him towards Arsenal.

He explained: 'His agent change indicates that he is searching [for a new club].

'Maybe he's thinking about Arsenal. His new agents have a lot of contacts there.'

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

Arsenal 'reach a £40m agreement' with Ajax for defender Jurrien Timber



Arsenal have reportedly reached a full agreement with Ajax to sign defender Jurrien Timber.

The Gunners are hoping to complete deals for both Timber and Declan Rice by the end of the week.

Mikel Arteta's side have already reached a £105m agreement with West Ham for Rice, and now the Athletic have reported that they have also come to a full agreement for Timber.

It is claimed that negotiations have been completed on an initial £34.3m fee, plus £4.3m in 'largely realistic bonuses'.

The 22-year-old is also said to have been granted permission to undergo a

medical and finalise personal terms. Arteta's side made an improved offer for the highly-rated Dutch defender last week, after their initial £30m bid was rebuffed.

Ajax were thought to value their academy product at £50m, but the 22-year-old's desire to move meant both clubs were keen to come to an agreement despite him having two years left on his current deal.

Kai Havertz has already been secured for £65m while another of the club's priority targets Rice also looks set to join after Arsenal reached a full agreement with West Ham over his move to the Emirates.

The two London teams had been haggling over the payment structure linked to the £100m guaranteed portion of the fee.

But the clubs have now settled on the fee being paid in three instalments over 24 months, with Rice now due to undergo a medical ahead of signing his contract.

Timber was heavily linked with Manchester United last summer after his former manager, Erik ten Hag, moved to Old Trafford from Ajax at the close of the 2021-22 season.

But despite the Red Devils making significant strides towards signing the defender, Timber ultimately rejected the club's advances.

The Netherlands international plays a mutable role in defence, comfortable

Moises Caicedo: Chelsea set to formalise interest in Brighton midfielder

Chelsea continue to explore the market for a midfielder and are expected to formalise their interest in Brighton midfielder Moises Caicedo soon.

It is thought Chelsea are getting encouragement the player would join if a deal can be agreed between the clubs, with personal terms not expected to be a problem.

Chelsea were interested in signing Caicedo in January but the 21-year-old Ecuador international opted to sign a new deal at Brighton before helping deliver a sixth-place finish in the Premier League and European qualification for the first time in the club's history.

One source has told Sky Sports News that Chelsea are also looking at Southampton midfielder Romeo Lavia, who has been linked with Liverpool and Arsenal this summer.

Inter Milan continue to work on a deal to sign Chelsea striker Romelu Lukaku.

Chelsea's stance remains unchanged and they have no intention of allowing the 30-year-old Belgium international to leave on a straight loan.

Inter are thought to favour a loan with an obligation to buy Lukaku, who wants to return to the San Siro after spending last season on loan at the



Champions League finalists. AC Milan are still working on a deal for Chelsea forward Christian Pulisic. No official offer has been made yet, but it's thought Pulisic would favour a move to Milan over Lyon.

Lyon have an offer on the table worth €25m for the 24-year-old United States international.

Chelsea are close to agreeing a mutual termination of the final year in captain Cesar Azpilicueta's contract. The 33-year-old will then be a free agent and is expected to join Atletico Madrid.

Negotiations have been excellent with strong mutual respect between club and player, who captained Chelsea to their second Champions League title in 2021.

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

as a centre back or right back, and could come into Arsenal's starting XI in the wake of possible moves for Rob

Holding and Kieran Tierney. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football>



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Bo Rangers to compete in West Africa Championship

Sierra Leone's back-to-back Premier League Champions, Bo Rangers, will feature in the second edition of the West Africa Champions Cup.

The tournament will take place from 07 to 13 August 2023 at the Sports Center in Yorokogua Dubréka in Guinea.

In the first edition, Académie SOAR in Guinea, Djoliba Athlétique Club from Mali, Casa Sports from Senegal and Horoya Athletic Club participated.

Bo Rangers clinched their second consecutive Sierra Leone Premier League title after round 30 of the Sierra Leone Premier League, defeating Wusum Stars Football Club 2-0 on Sunday at the Southern Arena.

Their second straight title in the club's history. A remarkable achievement for the Southern Province outfit with four games to spare.

Abu Komeh netted the first goal in the



Bo Rangers (Sierra Leone)
Champion de la Premier League 2022-2023
participera à la WACC 2023.

72nd minute from the penalty spot before Suffian Kaloko sealed the all-important win in the 78 minutes.

The Elephant Boys are the fifth team in

the Sierra Leone Premier League history to win a back-to-back title after Mighty Blackpool in 1978 and 1979, Real Republicans in 1983 and 1984, and Diamond Stars in 2012 and 2013.

The title means they have qualified to compete in the next CAF Champions League after their debut in the last continental club competition.

SLFA to launch female Div. 2 league



President of Sierra Leone Football Association, Thomas Daddy Brima says the new Football Ecosystem in the country will see his administration formally launch the female Division 2 league amongst other planned actions to be taken.

Addressing delegates at the just concluded Football Association Ordinary Congress, the SLFA boss said they intend to introduce a new football ecosystem which will also accomplish a uniform maximum number of teams in the First and Second divisions in all regions and districts.

"Reduce the number of teams in the female premier league to 10 by 2024/2025 league season and reduce the number of

teams in the male premier league to 12 by 2026/2027 league season.

He said they will also launch a new league to be called the National Championship comprising 10 teams, and the said league will abolish playoffs to the Premier League.

Thomas Daddy Brima further said they will launch the National U15 boys' tournament and work on introducing U12, U14 & U16 in the next two years.

"We will launch the football for schools' program in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Education, the SLFA boss stated.