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**Indian national,
others in court
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Alleged coup plot: former police chief detained in Liberia

By Alhaji Haruna Sani



ANAIM's founder, Sheku Bangura addressing the press

**Current political
instability amplifies
irregular migration**

-CSO

**US Defense Attaché,
administrative
officers pays
courtesy
calls to SLPA**



Group photo visiting team and SLPA officials

Former Chief Superintendent of Police, Mohammed Yaetey Yaetey Turay has been arrested and detained in Liberia.

His detention is not unconnected to a recent allegation by the Sierra Leone Police of an attempted coup by some senior military personnel and other civilians.

Few days ago, police issued a press release claiming that some civilians including senior military personnel were planning to stage a demonstration, thereby undermining the peace and tranquility of the state by unleashing violence on the country.

Cont. Page 2



Mohamed Turay aka Yatey Yatey may be sent to Sierra Leone

**ACC engages Lungi, Kambia
government hospitals on corruption**

WIMSAL commends President Bio for fulfilling provisions in GEWE Act

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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

Lieutenant General Peter K Lavahun, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) also admonished senior military officers to abstain from national politics.

The Chief of Defence Staff was on Friday, August 3rd advising some senior military officers at the Hockey Pitch, Wilberforce Barracks in Freetown.

He disclosed that six military officers and five Order ranks and some other civilians were arrested following intelligence and credible evidence of wrong doings.

He cautioned members of RSLAF and the general public to refrain from politicising the arrest or associating the arrest to regional and tribal lines.

According to information, the former Chief Superintendent of Police, Mohamed Turay aka Yaetey Yaetey had been in Liberia before the 2023 elections. He was among several

other officers who were dismissed in May 2020 while others were forced into retirement.

Their dismissals were, however, highly criticised and condemned, with many stakeholders believing the dismissal was based on politics and ethnic differences.

However, Publication on a popular Liberian newspaper, 'Front Page Africa' revealed that Turay was apprehended by the Liberia National Police on Friday August 4th at around "On Friday around 2-3 O'clock.

The arrest came in response to a request from Sierra Leonean President Julius Maada Bio, who accused the ex-police officer of involvement in a recent foiled coup plot.

According to the publication, CSP Turay's relative in Monrovia (name withheld), informed Front Page Africa that the Liberia National Police refused to allow her to serve him



food on Sunday when she visited the Liberia National Police headquarters where he is being held in custody.

Further revealed in the publication, was that the Liberian Police told Turay's relative that he was part of the people who were planning coup against the Sierra Leone Government, "so, they arrested him and carried him to Central and this morning I carried food to him but they refused to allow

him to receive the food from me, they said they're not allowing anybody to see him," the relative said.

According to relatives, they were informed that the Liberian government wants to send him back to Sierra Leone at President Bio's request.

Last week, the Sierra Leone Police disclosed that some senior military officers

Current political instability amplifies irregular migration

By Ishmael Dumbuya

-CSO

Advocacy Network Against Irregular Migration (ANAIM) has observed that the heightened political tension in the country is largely contributing to the increase in the number of youth embarking on irregular migration.

Executive Director and Founder ANAIM, Sheku Bangura, reiterated that the issue of irregular migration has worsened over the years largely because of the political instability in the country.

He disclosed a good number of Sierra Leonean migrants are stranded in North Africa and the Middle East.

"ANAIM is also worried about the growing political tension especially between officials and sympathisers of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) and the All People's Congress Party (APC). After the June 24 elections, we have realised a further divide among Sierra Leoneans which has directly impelled more youth to embark on a deadly journey

known as irregular migration," he emphasized.

He maintained that smugglers were now fully manipulating the situation to their advantage by trafficking vulnerable youths to a dangerous journey that exposes youths to death, slavery and other life-threatening risks.

He called on international organizations and embassies in Freetown to help initiate peaceful settlement between the two main political parties in the country; the APC and the SLPP.

"As an organization that advocates on behalf of Sierra Leonean migrants across the globe, we are troubled by the continuous calls and messages we are receiving from migrants in the Arab States, most of whom complained being enslaved, imprisoned and tortured. They also complained seizure of their passports and other documents by wicked citizens of those countries," Bangura stressed.

He therefore called on the Sierra Leone Police, border guards, and



everyone to tighten up surveillance against smugglers who are currently exploiting the present difficulty to their advantage.

Bangura concluded by appealing to the president and his government to repatriate thousands of Sierra Leonean stranded migrants in North Africa and Middle East.

"As a President that put human capital at the forefront of his government development agenda, we are of the conviction that President Bio, as he did in

Lebanon in 2020 will also consider evacuating all Sierra Leoneans presently stranded abroad," he appealed.

ANAIM urged young Sierra Leoneans, home and abroad to support the youthful appointees in President Bio's cabinet so that they can succeed in driving the country to pathway we all wanted it.

"We believe that those youthful appointees would work in line with the aspirations of the general Sierra Leonean youths," he expressed hope.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Jariatu S. Bangura

Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL) has commended President Julius Maada Bio for his government's unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in Sierra Leone, as evidenced by the recent election of 41 women to Parliament and the appointment of 20 women to serve as Ministers and Deputy Ministers in his Cabinet.

In an open letter written to President Bio, WIMSAL states that the milestones are a testament to Sierra Leone's significant progress in promoting women's participation in

leadership and decision-making roles.

"We urge your government to take proactive measures to ensure that women's representation is not limited to numerical quotas but extends to decision-making roles. It is essential to empower and promote capable women to leadership positions in the Civil service, government boards, Committees, and Commissions, as Ambassadors and High Commissioners, as well as within the security sector, including the Police and the Armed Forces," the letter states.

The organization drew the attention government to the crucial next steps

in fully realising the Act's objectives, and that whilst considerable progress in the political spheres has been made, it is vital that the 30% representation of women is also reflected in other critical public offices and institutions.

They also stated in the letter that when creating opportunities for training and employment, it is imperative that the 30% gender quota be consistently applied and reflected in order to encourage gender diversity in all spheres of public service will contribute to a more holistic and equitable society.

"It is believed that women entrepreneurs and business owners



President of WIMSAL, Eastina Taylor

deserve equal access to financial services and credit facilities, therefore WIMSAL urged the government financial institutions, such as the Bank of Sierra Leone and the Ministry of Finance to enforce equal access and right to finance across all financial institutions," the letter reads.

US Defense Attaché, administrative officers pays courtesy calls to SLPA



The United State Defense Attaché and the Administrative Officer of the United States Defense Attaché paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed General Manager and Deputy of the Sierra Leone Ports Authority (SLPA).

In a way of showing diplomatic goodwill aimed at fostering stronger bilateral ties, the US Defense Attaché and the Administrative Officer visited the Sierra Leone Ports Authority last week.

The main purposed of the visit was to extend congratulations to the newly appointed General Manager and Deputy General Manager, as well as introducing the new US Embassy Defense Team.

During the meeting, the US delegation warmly congratulated Mr. Yankuba Askia Bio, the newly appointed General Manager, and

Mrs. Judith Boi Kosseh, his Deputy, on their recent appointments to lead the Sierra Leone Ports Authority.

The US representatives acknowledged the pivotal role of the Ports in facilitating trade, economic growth, and regional connectivity. In addition to conveying their felicitations, the US Defense Attaché took the opportunity to discuss matters of interest in Maritime Security (ISPS CODE), trade facilitation, and Ports Management.

Both parties emphasized the significance of collaboration in enhancing port operations, fortifying security measures, and addressing challenges related to piracy, illegal marine activities, and environmental concerns.

In his response, the General Manager, Mr. Yankuba Askia Bio warmly welcomed the US delegation and expressed gratitude

Indian national, others in court for alleged larceny

By Jeneba A Conteh

An Indian national, who identified himself as Dilip Peshwani, Samuel Isaac Bangalie, Mohamed John Kamara and Isata Ansumana made their second appearance before magistrate Mark Ngegba of the Pademba Road Court No 1 for allegedly entering into the office of the National Revenue Authority and stole assorted items worth over two hundred thousand new Leones.

The accused were arraigned before the court on a count charge of conspiracy contrary to law and office breaking and larceny contrary to Section 26(1) of the Larceny Act of 1916.

The charge sheet indicated that the accused on Saturday, 3rd September, 2022, at Wellington in Freetown, conspired together to commit a felony to wit office breaking and larceny.

The charge sheet further indicated that the accused on the same day and place, with intent to steal, broke into and entered the office of the National

Revenue Authority and stole one hundred and eleven chairs, valued ninety- nine thousand nine hundred new Leones (NLe 99,900), six office fridges valued ten thousand, eight hundred new Leones (NLe 10,800), twenty -eight conference chairs valued at thirty - two thousand, four hundred new Leones (NLe 32,400) and other valuable items totaling two hundred and one thousand, six hundred and thirty- nine new Leones (NLe 201,639) property of the National Revenue Authority.

Shortly after the matter was mentioned, the prosecutor ASP Ibrahim Mansaray sought for a short adjourned date, saying that he subpoenaed the witness to be but that but did not comply.

Defense Counsel, Derick Attacho asked for a discharge of the matter, indicating that the prosecution was not ready to proceed with the matter.

His application was denied by the Magistrate and the matter was adjourned to the 14 August 2023 for hearing.

for the thoughtful gesture.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining good international relations that promote peace, stability, and improved common basic interests.

Mr. Bio highlighted that the Sierra Leone Ports Authority is keen on developing strategic partnerships to improve economic cooperation and promote trade between the two countries.

He emphasized that the commitment to Port Security Excellence at the Authority, citing accelerated increases in the

implementation of the ISPS over the past years.

Furthermore, the US Defense Attaché Team informed the General Manager of a proposed visit by a US Naval Ship to dock at the Port in September 2023.

Overall, the visit served as a testament to the strong and enduring relationship between the United States and Sierra Leone, symbolizing their shared commitment to prosperity and security in the Maritime domain and beyond.

LOCAL NEWS

Dr. Alfred Seawright Boosts Njala University with Another 70 KVA Solar Power & Fish Feed Extruder

In line with his dream of contributing in the transformation of Sierra Leone's Mining and Aquaculture sector, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Seawright Mining Company, Dr. Alfred Seawright has donated 15 KW Fish feed extruder machine and 70 KVA Solar Panel, Gel Solar Battery Power to Njala University School of Natural Resources Management, Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management in Moyamba District, South of Sierra Leone.

The donated items were received by the Head of Department for Aquaculture and Fisheries Management who is also the Technical Coordinator for Dr. Seawright RAS, Dr. Matthew D. Kpundeh and his team.

After receiving the items, Dr. Kpundeh described the day as a happy one as one of their greatest challenges as a nation in the area of aquaculture feeds has been solved.

Dr. Kpundeh recalled that during the visit of Dr. Seawright together with Madam Mollie R. Smith from the Auburn University in the United States after the installation of his self-funded fish farming project at the University, the issue of electricity was among their top discussion and he promised to address the energy crisis for the growth of the industry.

"Though we can produce our feed but we don't have the power that will produce the quantity of feed we want," Dr. Kpundeh said.

He added that "Today, we have seen the consignment of the solar energy facility

that will be installed at the department for power, a total of 70KVA with Gel Batteries and advance solar panel to provide the energy that is needed to run the facility of the feed."

He disclosed that about 10 years ago, through another project they got fish feed extruder machine but that Dr. Seawright has also provided additional 15 KW Fish feed extruder machine to help in the increase of production.

He also said that before this time Dr. Seawright donated 30KVA generator for the running of the department but they were in need of additional power because the University is running two phase power while they needed three phase power to run those machines.

He said the donated power will help them to provide more feed for Sierra Leoneans as they have been training their students on how they can produce more feeds among others.

Dr. Kpundeh on behalf of the University administration and his department extended their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Alfred Seawright for such support not only to Njala University but to the Eastern Technical University and Kono with a state-of-the-art Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) facility.

"Dr. Seawright investment in Sierra Leone is laudable, it is one that stretches all his arms on things that has to do with fish production as well as mining," Dr. Kpundeh stated.

He maintained that Njala University is already ahead of fish farming as the donated items is going to scale up their activity as well as their productions.

He said the mindset of Dr. Seawright is for Sierra Leone to be the center of excellence in the sub region when it comes to fish farming.

"All his donations are state of the art modern technical equipment. No doubt Sierra Leone through Njala will be on top. Very soon we are going on full scale productions," he stated.

Njala University Procurement Officer, Lamin Bangura confirmed that Dr. Seawright has been making donations to the Aquaculture Department and quite recently they received a consignment of solar panels, inverters and charge controllers among others.

He said he always admires Dr. Seawright based on the quality of items he donates as most times when people donate, they donate things of less quality but that it is not the case for Dr. Seawright's donations.

"In fact, the batteries are one of the best



batters that can last up to ten years, far better as compared to what we have in the market," he said.

He disclosed that last year they received other sets of equipment which are supposed to be the recycling system but they were challenged with power.

"Now we have the power from Dr. Seawright, it can put us ahead of Aquaculture productions in the country," he said.

He advised the department to take full care of it and also get the right expert to do the installation and for them to maintain it.

"If we can put it into proper use, I believe Njala University and the department will be in a better position to disseminate the information across the country and even benefit neighboring countries," he concluded.

Ladies with vision edngages women on equality

Ladies With Vision (LWV) has successfully ended a day engagement on women equality in the Southern City of Bo. The engagement which brought together women from all walks of life has the theme: "Equality for women, is progress for all: The contributions and challenges of women in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals." LWV Founder and President, Madam Madiana Mensah-Gborie disclosed that the essence of the workshop is to bring women together from all walks of life, and those who are contributing to national development to discuss the problems of gender inequality and give possible solutions to combat such problems.

She furthered that LWV wants to inspire those women and for that reason, they invited women farmers, market women, vocational students, teachers, nurses, police women, women in the media, female students in tertiary



institutions, and women with disability among others.

To further motivate and inspire women who attended the workshop, Ladies with Vision had expert speakers who discussed various

topics such as: The role of women in politics, the role of women in Agriculture, Maternal Health Care, the role of women in the field of Communication and Journalism, Challenges women face in

instructional institutions and the role of men in promoting Gender Equality.

"Have we achieved the sustainable development goal in gender equality? What can be done to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal in Gender Equality," Madam Madiana questioned, adding that they conducted the workshop bringing women together in other to achieve their desired goal.

Various presentations were delivered and group work was done and the trainers disembarked with messages to their various communities.

Participants were pleased with the interaction and described it as an eye-opener for them. They promised to take the message back to their communities and ensure that they come out with proactive solutions within their communities.

LWV is a non-profit organization geared towards empowering and advocating for young women and girls in Sierra Leone.



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ACC engages Lungi, Kambia government hospitals on corruption



In its drive to address corruption issues in the health sector, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) North West Regional Office has engaged management and staff of Lungi and Kambia Government Hospitals on various corruption issues.

The customized meetings held on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th August 2023 were part of ACC's prevention drive aimed at addressing and identifying corruption risks and vulnerabilities in the health sector and its effects on the country's growth and wellbeing of the people.

Speaking at the respective meetings, the Regional Manager Fatu Florence Kamara said corruption in the health sector adversely impact the quality of service delivery as well as compromise the ability of the state to provide healthcare to citizens. Explaining the importance of a service charter, Manager Kamara informed all that as part of the commission's approach to addressing numerous concerns from the public, the ACC will focus on corruption prevention which includes among other things the urgency for the development and review of the citizen's service charter for both hospitals and to enhancing transparency and accountability of services rendered by both facilities. She pointed out that these preventive actions will address unofficial payments, soliciting of bribes, mitigate corruption loopholes and will significantly enhance access to services.

The Regional Head called on both hospital management to put in place internal controls and a robust monitoring and supervision mechanisms and implement sanctions to mitigate the malfeasance.

Speaking on corruption issues in the health sector, Public Education Officer Mohamed Thullah gave an overview of the offences in the Anti-Corruption Act as amended in 2019, including but not limited to misappropriation of public funds and property, protection of public revenue, abuse of office and position and Offering, soliciting and accepting advantage among others. He informed them that ACC has been working with the Ministry of Health on examining practices and procedures relating to Medical stores, the National Emergency Medical Services, HIV/AIDS, IHPAU, NMSA, Sierra Leone Health Service Commission, Nurses Board and will continue to work with the ministry in other areas of importance. He pointed out that complaints and intelligence gathered indicate a lack of accountability mechanism and absence of a request based system from the Wards to the In-Charges, and the use of discretion in the laboratory systems among other things.

On the part of the heads of institutions, they thanked the ACC for the timely intervention on the said matter and registered their commitment to working with the commission to providing better service to the public. Representing the Medical Superintendent in Lungi, Dr Isaac Gibril Sesay described the engagement as timely and stated management's position in terms of supporting the fight against corruption adding, that management had been communicating similar messages to staff. The District Medical Officer in Kambia Dr John Yillia expressed similar sentiments and emphasized the importance of maintaining accountability measures in the overall operations of the hospital.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Country: Sierra Leone

Project: Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

Assignment Title: **CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ANNUAL OUTCOME SURVEY**

Reference No. SLE-2000001544-0008-CS-QCBS

Selection Method: Quality and Cost Based Selection Method

The **Government of Sierra Leone** has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Adaption Fund (AF), OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and Toni Blair Institute (TBI) towards the cost of **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project** and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consultant for the **Consultancy Services for Annual Outcome Survey**

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with the **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**

The overall purpose of this study is to assess the annual achievement of the project in the respective four value chains and cross cutting areas against the project interventions and provide quantitative and qualitative interpretations on specific indicators as reflected in the project M & E matrix (logframe) and provide suggestions to the project to improve project's supports to get the targeted outcomes during the project implementation. More specifically, the study strives to achieve the following objectives:

- To measure the positive and/or negative changes/outcomes taking place on relevant indicators at the household/group/FBOs/agribusiness level;
- To measure the AVDP second and third level results at beneficiaries/local producers and household level;
- To provide timely project performance information so that corrective actions may be taken to implement the project activities, if required;
- To provide early evidence of project success, changes or failure.
- As assess the project's risks/assumptions and proffer recommendations

The **Agriculture Value Chain Development Project**, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security ("the client") now invites eligible consulting firms ("consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services. Interested firms should fill the template for expressions of interest found at the following link: <https://bit.ly/44yVwW7> or request for the EOI template by sending email to

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The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The consultant shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. A consultant with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. A consultant including their respective personnel and affiliates are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, b) participate in more than one EOI under this procurement action, c) have a business or family relationship with a member of the Purchaser's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of this REOI, (ii) the shortlisting or selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. The consultant has an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection Method** set out in IFAD's project procurement handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at www.ifad.org/project-procurement.

The shortlisting criteria can be found in the template for expressions of interest the aforementioned weblink.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to avdppmu@gmail.com no later than 4th August, 2023. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 7th August, 2023

Expressions of interest must be delivered in written form using the forms provided for this purpose. EOIs shall be uploaded to the link below no later than **15th August, 2023 at 16:00 GMT**.

Link to upload EOI: <https://bit.ly/3NXwUjR>

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

2023 Women's World Cup: Nigeria falls with honors

The adventure of the Women's World Cup is over for the Super Falcons who fall with honours after the fateful penalty shootout against England.

Nigeria came so close to making history of becoming the first ever African nation to win a knockout match at the Women's World Cup. They fell 2-4 against the Lionesses of England in a penalty shootout.

Nigeria will be left rueing all the spurned chances it had throughout the game that ran up to 120

minutes before heading to penalties. While it can be proud of its efforts, the Falcons failed to capitalize on their one woman advantage after England saw Lauren James red carded in the 87th minute. James stamped on Michelle Alozie's back after losing possession.

England, the Euro 2022 champions were given an almighty scare but they go through and will face Colombia or Jamaica in the quarter finals on Saturday.

Mali, Burkina to send delegation to coup-hit Niger



Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga, Mali's Minister of Territorial Administration and...
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The Malian army announced on Monday the dispatch to Niamey by Mali and Burkina Faso of a joint official delegation in "solidarity" with Niger, the scene of a military coup at the end of July and under the threat of a West African military intervention.

"Burkina Faso and Mali are sending a delegation to Niamey, led by the Malian minister" Abdoulaye Maiga, one of the strong men of the Malian junta, indicated the Malian army on social networks. "Objective: to show the solidarity of the two countries to the brotherly people of Niger", she added.

The delegation is expected in Niger on Monday, according to Nigerien Foreign Affairs.

The announcement of this visit comes just after the expiry, Sunday at midnight, of the ultimatum set by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to the Nigerien soldiers to restore the ousted president Mohamed Bazoum. ECOWAS threatened to use force after the deadline expired.

Mali and Burkina Faso, where military forces also

Ethiopia: humanitarian aid "hindered" in Amhara, denounces the WHO

"Ongoing violence" in Amhara is hampering humanitarian aid in this region of northern Ethiopia, the director of the World Health Organization (WHO) deplored on Sunday, calling for peace and asking for "access uninterrupted" to the area.

The clashes between local fighters and the army in Africa's second most populous country come just nine months after the end of a devastating conflict in neighboring Tigray region, which also involved Amhara fighters.

The government of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced on Saturday that it had made arrests linked to "the security crisis in the Amhara region", after having imposed a state of emergency there the day before.

On Sunday, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, from Ethiopia, said his organization was "concerned about the ongoing violence".

"Humanitarian access is difficult due to blocked roads. Communications are difficult due to internet suspension," he said on Twitter, renamed X.

"We call for the uninterrupted access and protection of the health system in Amhara so that the WHO and its partners can continue to work there. And above all, we call for peace," he said.

he adds.

On Saturday, fighters from the nationalist Amhara Fano militia controlled three major towns in the region, according to residents: Lalibela, Gondar and Dessie.

And if no new clashes were recorded in Lalibela, residents of Gondar and Bahir Dar, the administrative capital of Amhara said they heard gunshots at nightfall on Sunday.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said on Friday that civilians had been attacked, property damaged and transport and internet services suspended in several areas of Amhara.

The national airline Ethiopian Airlines has suspended its flights to Dessie, Lalibela and Gondar. The United States for their part are declared "concerned" by this violence.

Tensions in the region have been growing since April when the government announced that it wanted to dismantle the "special forces", paramilitary units created by many regional states over the past fifteen years. Amhara nationalists protested against this measure, believing that the government wants to weaken their region.

In recent weeks, clashes between the army and Fano fighters have intensified, leading foreign countries to advise against travel to the area.

12 Ghanaians successfully complete 10,000km drive from Accra to London



A group of intrepid explorers from Ghana, led by Kwabena Peprah, has undertaken a remarkable cross-continental road trip spanning over 10,000 kilometers.

Starting from Accra, the capital of Ghana, their expedition took them through numerous African countries and European destinations, culminating in a journey from one continent to another, according to reports.

The travellers, known as Wanderlust Ghana, are a diverse group of philanthropists and tourism enthusiasts. The team initially consisted of 12 members, including individuals such as Richard Anim, Kwadwo Saka, Kwame Peprah, Kofi Peprah, and others. One member dropped out due to work commitments in Senegal, and two others left the expedition in Morocco.

Their route began in Accra, weaving through various Ghanaian cities including Aburi, Nsawam, Kumasi, and Sunyani, before crossing into neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire. From there, they ventured through Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, and Morocco, finally entering Europe through Spain via a Mediterranean ferry. Their journey showcased the diverse terrains and climates of Africa and Europe.

The expedition involved an array of vehicles, including a Mercedes Benz G-Wagon, a Toyota Landcruisers (V8), Lexus RX 350, and a Ford F150 Raptor. The team covered an average of 800 to 900 kilometers per day, consuming around 250 liters of fuel daily. Their progress was documented through videos shared on social media, revealing the challenges faced, including brake pad changes and interactions with local authorities.

A unique addition to the team was Nana Afua

Serwaa, nicknamed "Shecanic," an auto repair technician aiming to master automobile mechanics across various landscapes and climates.

The journey not only showcased the team's adventurous spirit but also aimed to raise funds for rural primary schools in Ghana. The adventurers were inspired by stories of people travelling from Europe to African nations by road and decided to reverse the journey, with the goal of generating media attention and support for their philanthropic cause.

Upon reaching the outskirts of Monaco, Kwabena Peprah emphasized their motivation for the expedition, citing their passion for exploration and their desire to contribute to underserved communities through their philanthropic organization, EduSpots.

Despite encountering challenges, such as an extended delay due to an encounter with authorities in Mauritania, the team expressed admiration for certain countries along the route, particularly Senegal and Morocco, for their beauty, cleanliness, infrastructure, and friendly locals.

As their journey neared its end, the team anticipated a warm reception in London, where they planned to engage with the Ghanaian community and the Ghana High Commission to further their philanthropic endeavors.

With this epic journey serving as a testament to human determination and a drive to make a positive impact, Wanderlust Ghana's road trip from Accra to London stands as an inspiring example of adventure, philanthropy, and cross-cultural exchange.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

Congolese woman sentenced to death for murdering young girl

A Congolese woman has been sentenced to death for the murder of a girl whose mutilated body was found near a river in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, her lawyer said on Sunday.

Ombeni Malekera, a 30-year-old mother of three, was arrested on Thursday after the body of the five-year-old girl was discovered two days earlier in Bukavu, capital of South Kivu province, on August 1.

Three days earlier, the child had attended a birthday party at Ms Malekera's home with other neighborhood children.

She returned there on Tuesday to play with a child of her age, and then disappeared. His body was found about 40 minutes later. Ms. Malekera was suspected "we do not know on what evidence", explained to AFP her lawyer, Me Guy Bauni-Masimango.

Tried from Friday by the Bukavu High Court, she was "sentenced to death" on Saturday evening after two hearings, he said.

"We are frustrated by this court decision taken in the absence of any proof of our client's guilt. We appealed immediately," added Bauni-Masimango.

The lawyer considered that "there was no serious investigation into this case" and that no one had seen her commit this murder nor had been able to specify "when, where, under what circumstances" he was perpetrated. He also wondered why justice had authorized the burial of



File photo from Tuesday, April 16, 2019, a child suspected of having the Ebola virus. Copyright © africanews Al-hadji Kudra Maliro/Copyright 2019 The AP. All rights reserved.

the girl's body when "the medical report (autopsy) was not yet available".

Prosecuted for "criminal association" in this case, her husband, Christian Mufarji, was "acquitted, for lack of evidence", explained Mr. Bauni-Masimango.

The civil party is for its part "satisfied" with this judgment "which was able to relieve the family of the child, at the end of a trial of an educational nature for the community", reacted to AFP Me David Bugamba Amani, lawyer for the child's family.

Although pronounced in the DRC, the death penalty is no longer applied there, it is systematically commuted to life imprisonment, he recalled.

In South Kivu, as in the whole of eastern DRC, which is plagued by violence, children but also adults are kidnapped, sometimes for ransom, by armed men and militias. Cases of mutilation of children are also sometimes reported.

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James McArthur announces his retirement from football

Former Crystal Palace star James McArthur has announced his retirement from football aged 35.

McArthur made 253 appearances and scored 19 goals in all competitions for Palace after then-Eagles boss Neil Warnock signed him from Wigan for £12million in September 2014.

The midfielder would swiftly become one of the most beloved stalwarts at the club, consistently giving his all from central midfield as he developed from an forward thinking box-to-box player before adopting more defensive responsibilities in his later years.

Despite being limited to just four appearances last season, McArthur was given a dream farewell in front of the Selhurst Park faithful on the final

day of the campaign, being handed the armband after coming on as a second-half substitute against Nottingham Forest.

'After 18 years of playing professional football, the game I love, today I am announcing my retirement. McArthur wrote in a statement shared on social media on Monday.

'After playing for three amazing clubs in Hamilton, Wigan & Crystal Palace, and representing my country, I can only look back on the past 18 years with immense pride.

'I cannot thank the players, managers, coaches, owners, staff members and fans enough for always supporting me and being a huge part of my journey.

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



© Getty Images

Crystal Palace 'are looking to sign Southampton striker Che Adams'



Crystal Palace are looking to sign Southampton striker Che Adams as the Eagles look to boost their forward line ahead of the new campaign, according to reports.

Adams came off the bench to score the winner for the Saints in their 2-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday on Friday night and could now be in line for a top flight return.

According to the The Sun, the Scotland international would be allowed to leave St Mary's for the right price, and is also attracting interest from fellow Premier League sides Wolves and Bournemouth.

An Adams arrival at Selhurst Park could come as a replacement for frontman Jean-Philippe Mateta, who could leave the South London club before the end of the window.

Bundesliga side RB Leipzig are keen on signing Mateta, along with Italian's Genoa who have already had an offer for the Frenchman rejected by the club.

Both Adams and Mateta are priced in

the same £15m bracket, meaning any sale of the 26-year-old would fund a move for the Saints hitman.

Adams signed for Southampton from Birmingham in 2019 and has scored 32 times in 146 games for the club, and is strong running is said to something that Roy Hodgson is looking to bring to his Palace side.

The striker also has international experience having won 23 caps for Scotland, scoring 5 goals.

The Eagles have switched their attention to the 27-year-old Southampton man after losing patience with Arsenal in their interest over both Eddie Nketiah and Folarin Balogun.

So far this summer Palace have recruited Jefferson Lerma from Bournemouth and signed young Brazilian midfielder Matheus Franca in a £26m deal from Flamengo.

The club are also keen on Chelsea's Lewis Hall, but are reluctant to make a bid because they do want to enter negotiations with the Blues while they remain interested in Palace's Michael Olise.

Olise has been linked with a move to Stamford Bridge as well as Manchester City, but is believed to be happy at the club.

Losing the young Frenchman would be a further blow to Palace, having already seen Wilfried Zaha leaves the club for Galatasaray last month.

The Eagles get their Premier League campaign underway next weekend when they travel to newly promoted Sheffield United.

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New Man United goalkeeper Andre Onana EMBARRASSED on his Old Trafford



© Action Images via Reuters

New Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana was left embarrassed after conceding from distance in a pre-season friendly at home to Lens.

Onana was making his first appearance at Old Trafford since signing for United from Inter Milan last month.

Lens' Florian Sotoca spotted Onana off his line and proceeded to go for goal from just inside the United half. Onana scrambled back towards his goal as he looked to keep the ball out but it was to no avail as he ended up conceding.

The 27-year-old will hope to fare better when the real action gets underway, with United starting their Premier League campaign at home to

Wolves on August 14.

United signed Onana as a replacement for David de Gea, who left the club following the expiry of his contract.

It has been a busy summer at United, with Mason Mount joining from Chelsea, while striker Rasmus Hojlund has arrived from Atalanta.

Erik ten Hag fielded a strong side against Lens as United continued their preparations for the new campaign.

Marcus Rashford, Bruno Fernandes, Mount, Raphael Varane, Lisandro Martinez and Luke Shaw were amongst the players who started.

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