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Potholes, gutter without slabs and vehicles struggle to make their way through spotted during the interview



Chief Superintendent of Police, Mohamed Turay is alleged of having a hand in an alleged coup plot

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

Inspector General of the Sierra Leone Police has confirmed the extradition of former Chief Superintendent of Police, Mohamed Turay aka as Yeatey Yeatey from the Republic of Liberia to Sierra Leone.

IG William Fayia Sellu also disclosed that five military personnel and three police officers suspected of having a hand in the alleged aborted coup are on the run and that police have launched a manhunt for them.

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LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura & Blessing C. Cole

Freetownians have called on the Sierra Leone Roads Authority to fix the potholes, which have characterised major roads in Freetown.

During the rainy season, several roads within Freetown including Circular Road, and A.J Momoh Street, which houses Statistics Sierra Leone, Fire Force, Institute for Public Administration and Management (IPAM), West Africa Examinations Centre (WAEC), have been damaged.

Isatu Bangura, a pedestrian, narrated how the potholes have affected movement of people and vehicle with the risk of accidents.

She said during school hours, students face the challenge of making their way to their learning centres due to the deplorable road condition.

"I am pleading with government to amend the roads for us, so that we enjoy a smooth movement. Government also needs to control the disposal of garbage. In Freetown,

Potholes engulf Freetown



most residents dispose garbage in the drainages," she said.

Alpha Sesay, a bike rider at Fire Force Junction, A J Momoh Street, said the road has been damaged for quite a long time now and that the condition is seriously disturbing their trade.

"As a bike rider, I am calling on the authorities concerned to construct not only Circular Road, but other roads within the city. We are heavily constrained to use the roads," he pleaded.

Mabinty Sesay is a trader, who does

doing nothing about it.

"It is really an embarrassing situation for us the traders, pupils, pedestrians especially as it is now rainy season. I am also calling on the government to fix the potholes within the city," she complains.

Minister calls on mayors, chairpersons to participate in governance

By Ishmael Dumbuya



Former police superintendent extradited, eight on the run

From Cover

The extradition of Yaetay Yaetay came after the Government of Sierra Leone requested from the Liberian to arrest and send him to Sierra Leone to face allegation of subversion.

The Sierra Leone Police issued on July 31st issued a press statement in which its claimed that some military personnel including civilians and Sierra Leone police officers were planning to undermine the peace and security of the state.

On Monday, August 7th, news broke out that the former Police Chief had been arrested in Liberia.

Yesterday, during a maiden weekly press conference organised by the Ministry of Information and Civic Education held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tower Hill in Freetown, I.G William Fayia Sellu affirmed that the ongoing arrests have been meticulously predicated on substantial evidence.

He disclosed that the apprehended individuals include a total of 17 suspects, comprising 8 middle-level officers (ranking from Lieutenant to Major, 6 non-commissioned officers of the RSLAF, 2 police officers, 1 retired police superintendent, and 2 civilians).

He allayed the fears of citizens that the



security sector is on top of situation at the moment and that there is no cause for alarm.

He said those on the run pose no security threat to the country, and that the police have tightened border security with a heightened internal intelligence gathering involving civilians as well.

The relatives of Yete Yete had earlier claimed that he is innocent of being involved in the recent alleged coup plot against President Bio. They also insisted that they are yet to see any proof or evidence from the Liberia National Police to validate the allegation.

"They further state that since he went to Liberia in 2022, he has never been to Sierra Leone. He only travelled once to Ghana to see his grandchildren. Since then, he has not gone anywhere," the relative said.

The Minister of Local Government and Community Affairs, Tamaba Lamina, has called on all elected chairmen, councillors and mayors to take part in the swearing in ceremony or oath taking, as they have been duly elected.

The minister made the call during an interview with the popular Radio Democracy 98.1 'Gud Morning Salone' program.

According to him, it's now the time that government wanted to work with the elected representatives so that continue with the business of service delivery for the people that elected them.

He states that the swearing in is a requirement that should be met and fulfilled by all councillors, chairmen, and mayors, according to the Revised Local Government Act 2022.

He added that they would not be considered councillors until they subscribe to the oath of office.

He disclosed that they will embark on the induction process from the provinces to the Western Areas,

adding that the oath taking ceremony will be administered by the Inter Ministerial Council, wherein the vice president is the overseer and chairman of that council.

He said the induction process is geared towards making the elected representatives aufait with the operations and activities of the councils, as well as highlighting the relationship between local governance and central governance.

He concluded by admonishing all elected councilors, chairmen and mayors to stand up for the people that voted them in and represent them democratically instead of deciding not to participate in governance.

The APC intimated that they will not be partaking in governance due to disagreement with the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) on the June 24th elections results.

Days after the presidential election were announced, a dossier containing signatures of APC MPs, mayors and chairpersons surfaced indicating that the APC will not be partaking in governance.



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LOCAL NEWS

By Ishmael Dumbuya

All People's Congress (APC) Member of Parliament, Hon. Abdul Kargbo has claimed that after the June 24th elections in the country, hundreds of APC supporters were taken to prison and still detained, with a lot of houses belonging to their supporters vandalized.

According to Hon. Kargbo, the elections were marred with fraud and unfairness and that it has the propensity of undermining the democratic values and will not set good precedent for governments on the waiting.

He stated that the entire

APC MP: Hundreds of our supporters incarcerated after election

electioneering process was stage-managed from the onset hence its outcome didn't reflect the will of the people.

He noted that in a democracy people should have confidence in institutions and should know that the outcomes of elections results should reflect their wishes.

He said that the APC is always open to dialogue, indicating that dialogue is key to highlighting some critical concerns of the party.

He said the APC will not sweep their concerns under the carpet all in the name of Sierra Leone, and if they do, the people's confidence will be eroded, and the ECSL won't take them serious.



Sexual Penetration: Convict gets 15-year imprisonment

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Alhaji Momoh-Jah Stevens has sentenced 19-year-old Abu Bakarr Bundu to 15 years imprisonment after he was found guilty of sexually penetrating a 12-year-old pupil.

Bundu was before the court on a two counts indictment of sexual penetration contrary to Section 19 of the Sexual Offences Act 2012, Act No. 12 of 2012, as repealed and replaced by Section 4 (a) (ii) of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2019, Act No. 8 of 2019.

State Prosecutor, Paius Sesay had alleged that the accused on the 29th

January, 2022 in Freetown, sexually penetrated a child.

The state earlier made an application upon the accused arraignment for the accused to be tried by a judge alone instead of a judge and a jury.

Justice Momoh Jah Stevens granted the said application.

The convict denied the allegation upon his arraignment and the state prosecutor led in evidence and a number of witnesses including the victim in support of their case.

In his judgment, Justice Momoh Jah Stevens said the accused tried to make an allegation against the detective police when he read his

confessional statement in court that, the officer forced him to confess to the crime.

Justice Momoh Jah Stevens

cautioned the accused on his choice of words that he was not forced to do anything, rather he made a confessional statement to the offence. Justice Alhaji Momoh Jah Stevens sentenced the accused person to 15 years imprisonment.

First ever video-assisted thoracic surgery done in Sierra Leone at Connaught Hospital

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



Deputy CMO Dr. Kabba and Dr. Diego Gonzalez Rivas, Thoracic Surgeon from Holland

Connaught Hospital, in partnership with Diego Gonzalez Rivas Foundation, has for the first time in Sierra Leone, performed a Video-assisted Thoracic Surgery on a patient.

VATS is a minimal invasive procedure wherein patients with lungs/chest conditions, that require surgery, will no longer be cut wide open but instead get smaller cuts to the chest. Compared to an open chest

surgery, VATS is less painful, has shorter recovery time and fewer complications.

The first operation was a huge success and in less than 24 hours, the patient was bright and back on his feet. Some local surgeons already have prerequisite knowledge about navigating around this ground-breaking technology and others

will be trained and equipped as soon as possible.

Speaking to Journalists, Dr. Mustapha Kabba, who also doubles as Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said that was first ever in Sierra Leone to have performed minimally invasive surgery to the chest wall.

He said the first case of the new normal technology were successfully done and that the patients were in perfect conduction.

APC MP: I was under duress to sign abstinence resolution

By Jariatu S. Bangura



Member of Parliament representing the All people's Congress (APC), Hon. Alfred Ayodele Thompson from Western Rural, yesterday, after taking the oath of office, stated that he was under duress from the leadership of his party to sign the abstinence resolution, calling on them not to participate in the current governance system.

Hon. Thompson has joined Hon. Mohamed Bangura to defy the APC party and took the oath of office after the June 24th elections.

Speaking in an interview, he said he met with his people regarding his decision to take the oath of office and his plans to adhere to the national call.

He said some of his constituents consented whilst others advised him not to defy his party's stance.

He said he had to take the oath to work for his people as a fulfilment of his dream.

Presiding Speaker, Dr. Abass C. Bundu, commended the MP for answering to the call to national duty and the bold step to take his oath of office.

He said the MP was duly elected by his people and that there was no valid reason as to why he should abstain from taking his seat.

He said both MPs of the opposition has demonstrated beyond all that doubts to prove the promises made to their people that voted them to Parliament.

"From now on, consider yourself to be under the protection of this House and you will duly discharge your function as duly elected Member of Parliament," he assured.

LOCAL NEWS

Petty trader wins Africell's mega promo

Africell Sierra Leone launched another promotional campaign for their subscribers nationwide on 31st July 2023.

A former housekeeper and a petty trader called Madam Saudatu Koroma was called on Friday 4th August and informed that she has won Africell Mega Promo with a brand-new TVS Motorbike and was told to come to Africell headquarters at Wilberforce on Monday the 7th of August 2023.

According to Madam Saudatu Koroma, when the news broke her, she informed her husband and the neighborhood that she had received a call from Africell about her winning a TVS motorbike, her neighbors said it might be a fake call. She got discouraged at first but later Madam Nancy Toure of Africell called her again on Sunday night informing her to come to the Africell office at Wilberforce at 9 AM on Monday 7th August 2023. "I was still discouraged based on an early story I got from my neighbors about scams, but they told me to take along someone when going to the office for any eventuality, so I decided to take along with my eldest son."

Abdul Aziz Kamara who acted as the Master of Ceremony continued to emphasize the opportunities or different prizes they have in store for

their subscribers and he further encouraged their subscribers to continue buying 10 new Leone recharge on a daily basis as this will enhance subscribers' chances of winning the different categories of prizes they have, including the Suzuki cars, TVS Motorbikes, and cash prizes which he said people are winning on daily basis. He said that with the 24 TVS bikes, one bike is won each week and one car each month. He mentioned that the promotion will last for a six-month period that is to say the Mega Promo shall end in January 2024.

However, Mr. John Konteh attested that the only Africell number that subscribers must adhere to whenever they are called for a win is 077 777-777, and the public must as well be informed that Africell will never tell their winners to send recharge cards or demand for anything before releasing your surprise package to the fortunate winner (s).

In inclusion, Madam Saudatu Koroma applauded Africell for their timely Mega Promo.

"As a mother of four children, I was a housekeeper before, but I was sacked last year December 2022 and I have been at home doing some petty business, with this Motorbike which I have won I will look for someone reliable to be riding it for us so that



the money could be used to educate my children of which two of them have

sat to the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations (WASSCE)," she said.

Parliament approves Oman Bangura, others

By Jariatu S Bangura

Members of Parliament have approved Mohamed Oman Bangura as Minister of Youth Affairs and three others appointed by President Bio to serve in various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The other nominees includes Rtd. Col Ambassador Alhaji Fanday Turay Esq, as Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mrs. Franciss Piagle Alghall as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Amb. Dr. Michael Imran Kanu as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Sierra Leone Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York, respectively. Deputy Leader of Government Business, Hon. Emerson Lamina, commended Orman Bangura for his hard work during his last tenure and urged him to work towards achieving the President



Minister of Youth Affairs, Mohamed Oman Bangura

desire of providing 10,000 jobs to the youth yearly. He said the pronouncement by the

President to employ 5000 youth has given the Youth Minister more workload.

He said one of the ways to control the intake of drugs among youth across the country is to create more jobs.

Hon. Tamba Simeon Johnny commended Amba. Fanday Turay for his hard work, especially ensuring the country wins the non-permanent member seat of the United Nations Security Council.

He described Orman Bangura's political career as one which knows no bound or colors in the discharge of his duty.

Hon. Sylvester Boima also commended Orman Bangura for investing so much in the fish farm project and assured him that his constituents will make sure to achieve value for money in the project.

Hon. Mohamed Bangura advised the nominees to note that they were taking up the position in a very difficult time, therefore they should do all they could to fulfill the desires of the President for the people.



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LOCAL NEWS

Professor Francis' ECO Rice hits market today

The ECO Rice Production Company Ltd. is all set up to officially put out to the public the 2023 "Hard-up" sales with a highly nutritious locally produced rice in both 50kg and 10kg for an affordable price today.

The sales point will be at Blama Centre and in the Ahmadiyya Junction in Kenema at a cost of NLe 600 for 50kg and NLe 120 for the 10kg.

The EcoRice Production Company is owned by the Former Chief Minister and Foreign Affairs, Professor David John Francis. The farm is located at Ngovokpahun village, Small Bo Chiefdom, Kenema District, in the Eastern Region of Sierra Leone.

In a bid to revitalize its yearly marketing activities, the EcoRice Production Company Limited will be engaging in extensive sales of affordable and high-quality 50 kg bags of rice via its "August Hard-up" sales of 10 kg bags of rice to meet low-income earners.

As the then Chief Minister of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Professor David John Francis was the first minister that implemented the mandate of H.E President Doctor Julius Maada Bio by engaging in large-scale farming.



It could be recalled that few years back, EcoRice Production Company harvested and packaged 444 acres of farmland rice which was sold out to members of the public at affordable costs in the Eastern Region and beyond.

Professor Francis said it is important for the public to know that in this short period, the EcoRice production company has showcased that Sierra Leone has the potential to feed its people.

He stressed that the company is also engaged in guava, pineapple, and

other varieties of plants all of which have medicinal and economic benefits.

He asserted that all of these are ways to make agriculture fashionable and to promote food sufficiency in line with President Bio's development agenda to "feed Salone", an initiative that possesses the ambition to boost the country's staple food production and drastically minimize our reliance on food imports, thereby increasing the level of our exports, creating jobs, fostering economic growth, and henceforth reducing

poverty.

Currently, the EcoRice Company has set the pace for mechanized farming in the country with the biggest rice milling machine in Sierra Leone. Recently, the company milled about one thousand bags of parboiled rice for the country's Ministry of Agriculture, and also provided machinery and technical support for other farmers in its Region of operations, and provided standard seedlings for farmers in the entire country which has empowered farmers to engage in large-scale farming.

Professor Francis further stated that the EcoRice company seed nursing is being supervised by intern students from both Njala and Eastern Technical Universities.

He explained that his vision is to promote the human capital development of the country through student participation on his farm. One of the things that impressed him most is the presence of the women who work on the farm as both labourers as well as operators of the machines.

He stressed that he want to make EcoRice the most accessible and affordable organic rice brand in Sierra Leone.



HRCSL Mobile Complaint Hearing in Boajibu Town



With support from UNDP and Irish Aid, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th August, 2023 took its complaints hearing session to the people of Boajibu Town, Simbaru Chiefdom in the Kenema District.

The objectives were to increase the Commission's visibility in hard to reach communities, engage in public education on the Commission's mandate and functions, and the receipt of complaints of human rights violations from residents.

At the commencement of the hearing at the Court Barray, the Commission delivered public education to the community leaders and ordinary people within and outside the township on the work of the Commission over the years, especially Complaint Handling and the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 as amended in 2019.

A total of 100 community people

were in attendance with seventy-three (73) male and twenty-seven (27) female. They raised issues about gender-based violence and sexual penetration and urged the Commission to continue its public education drive on human rights issues.

A resident, Iye Diemma said "I am happy that the HRCSL is here. I never knew that we have an institution with the responsibility of ensuring our rights are always protected. The knowledge I have gained today will improve my understanding about human rights." She urged the Commission to replicate such engagement in other communities within the district.

A total of eleven (11) complaints were received; seven (7) male and four (4) female. Some of the complaints bordered on marital dispute, police neglect, destruction and deprivation of property,

domestic violence, high fine and property (land) rights.

Chiefdom Speaker, Vandi Kimbo said they were pleased to welcome the Commission, adding that before this time, several individuals were claiming to be human rights workers without consulting traditional leaders.

"Whatever will be said here today by the HRCSL will be of great value to the people and it can be disseminated to others who are not fortunate to attend," he assured.

Oversight Commissioner for Complaints, Investigation and Legal Services, Commissioner Hassan Samba Yarjah said human rights is about discipline and respect for the rule of law and added that God is the first human rights defender.

"During the monitoring of prisons and detention facilities across the country, the Commission discovered that large numbers of

people in those facilities are youths and this cause for concern both at national level and at our local community level," he said.

Commissioner Yarjah encouraged residents, especially the youths to make use of opportunity by bringing to the notice of the Commission issues affecting the full enjoyment of their rights.

The engagement helped to increase the knowledge of the community people on the work of the Commission, especially its mandate and functions, as well as provisions in the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 as amended in 2019.

The HRCSL team also conducted monitoring visits to the police station and the healthcare center.

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Burkina: at least 20 dead in an attack by suspected jihadists

Twenty people were killed in Burkina Faso on Sunday in an attack by suspected jihadists in Nohao, near the town of Bittou, in the Center-East region bordering Togo, AFP learned on Monday.

"The attack killed around twenty people, mainly shopkeepers," a security source told AFP. A trader reports for his part a balance sheet of "25 people killed" and "more than fifteen transport trucks looted and then set on fire by the terrorists".

Another merchant reported "ten wounded", evacuated to Bittou, where traders were returning after going to the market in Cinkansé, a trading town on the Togo border.

"We deplore the loss of life whose bodies were deposited" at "the morgue of the CHR (Regional Hospital Center) of Tenkodogo", capital of the Center-East region, said in a press release a local official, Sami Beranger Pooda, who does not specify any figures.

Another attack occurred "Thursday around 6 p.m.", according to the same security source, and "targeted a convoy of several dozen vehicles carrying goods".



A photo taken on October 30, 2018 shows Burkinabe gendarmes sitting on a white pickup truck with "GENDARMERIE" written on the side. Copyright © africanews ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP or licensors

Since 2015, Burkina has been caught in a spiral of violence perpetrated by jihadist groups affiliated with the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. action (Aled), including more than 5,000 since the start of 2023.

This violence has also led to the displacement of more than two million people inside the country. In mid-July, President and Captain Ibrahim Traoré, who came to power in September 2022 by a coup d'état, deplored "increasingly recurrent attacks against civilians", believing that the jihadists were showing "cowardice".

Niger junta appoints new prime minister

Niger's military coup leaders announced the appointment of Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine as prime minister on Monday evening in a statement read out on national television, at a time when the international community is seeking to restore constitutional order.

"Mr (Ali Mahaman) Lamine Zeine has been appointed Prime Minister", Colonel Major Amadou Abdramane reported.

As soon as he came to power, former president Mamadou Tandja appointed Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine cabinet director in 2001, then finance minister in 2002, to turn around a chaotic economic and financial situation.

This was a situation inherited from the military who came to power after the assassination in 1999 of General and President Ibrahim Baré Maïnassara, in a country whose history is punctuated by seizures of power by force.

Mr Zeine was Finance Minister until Mamadou Tandja was overthrown in a coup d'état in 2010 by Major Salou Djibo, before a presidential election won by Mahamadou Issoufou, predecessor of Mohamed Bazoum, who was deposed on 26 July. Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine, an economist by

training, was also resident representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Gabon.

Born in 1965 in Zinder (south), the country's second most populous town, he joined the Ministry of Economy and Finance in 1991 after studying at the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA) in Niamey. He is also a graduate of the Centre d'études financières, économiques et bancaires in Marseille and Paris-I.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Habibou Assoumane" has also been "appointed Commander of the Presidential Guard", added Mr Abdramane. These appointments come a day after the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) gave the ruling military an ultimatum to restore President Mohamed Bazoum to office. The organisation did not rule out the use of force if this demand was not met.

Niger's Western and African partners are divided on the question of military intervention to return power to civilians, before ECOWAS meets again on Thursday in Abuja, Nigeria.

President Bazoum has remained sequestered in his private residence since the day of the coup.

South Africa: transport strike paralyses Cape Town, three dead



A bus burns on a motorway in the suburbs of Cape Town, South Africa, 7 August 2023 - Copyright © africanews AP/Copyright 2023 The AP. All rights reserved.

The port and tourist city of Cape Town has been paralysed for several days by a collective taxi strike, which has taken a violent turn in South Africa's largest city with three deaths reported, the police announced on Monday.

Thousands of commuters were stranded after a work stoppage on Thursday by drivers of minibuses, the main means of transport for millions of working-class South Africans, who are blocking many roads.

On Monday, on the road to the airport, "one person was shot and three others injured" after throwing stones at a motorist, the police said.

The authorities then said that another body, that of a 28-year-old man who had died from several gunshot wounds in an attack "presumed to be linked to taxis", had been found nearby.

On Friday evening, a policeman was shot dead while on patrol some twenty kilometres from

Cape Town.

Here again, "we cannot rule out the possibility that this attack was linked to the ongoing taxi strike", commented the police, as officers were "patrolling (...) to contain incidents linked" to the strike.

The airport road, which had been regularly disrupted and blocked the previous night, was finally cleared on Monday afternoon.

The British Embassy in South Africa posted a notice on Facebook last weekend advising travellers to delay their journeys "to and from the airport until the route has been cleared".

UN confirms first humanitarian convoy to reach East Darfur

The United Nations says the first humanitarian convoy to reach East Darfur has arrived, delivering 430 tons of agricultural seed.

Briefing reporters in New York, UN spokesperson Farhan Haq informed that "The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs negotiated the movement of these trucks from White Nile to EdDaien, the capital of East Darfur.

"According to Haq, "the convoy delivered 430 tons of agricultural seeds provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, to be distributed to farmers across the state by the Ministry of Agriculture."

The Spokesperson added, "Further humanitarian access is urgently required so that all agricultural areas in Darfur can benefit from the provision of

seeds. All parties must also provide farmers access to agricultural lands and ensure their protection as they plant and harvest their crops."

The delivery last week came as U.N. officials say the conflict in Sudan has left 24 million people — half the country's population — in need of food and other assistance.

The operations director of the U.N. humanitarian agency and the deputy executive director of UNICEF painted a dire picture Friday of the devastation and upheavals in Sudan, with no peace talks in sight.

They say that hotspots like the capital of Khartoum, southern Kordofan and western Darfur have been devastated by fighting and that the more than 110-day conflict has turned a humanitarian crisis into a catastrophe.

Ethiopia: cancellation of flights to Amhara, plagued by fighting

Ethiopian Airlines on Tuesday cancelled its scheduled flights from Wednesday to Friday to the capital of Amhara, Bahir Dar, the last airport served in this region of northern Ethiopia shaken by fighting between the federal army and local militias.

The national company had stopped since last week its connections to the three other regional airports of Gondar, Lalibela and Dessie.

"Ethiopian Airlines wishes to inform its customers that the flights scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to Dessie, Gondar, Lalibela and Bahir Dar have been cancelled", announced in a press release Ethiopian Airlines, the only company to provide domestic connections to the general public.

The federal government on Friday declared a state of emergency in Amhara, Ethiopia's second most populous region plagued by heavy fighting, just nine months after the end of a devastating conflict in neighboring Tigray region.

Amhara forces, including the nationalist Fano militia, were key allies of the government during this war waged against the dissident authorities in Tigray between November 2020 and November 2022.

But tensions have emerged since April after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced that he wanted to dismantle the "special forces", paramilitary units created by many regional states over the past fifteen years. Amhara nationalists believe that the government wants to weaken their region.

Clashes between the army and Fano fighters have intensified since mid-July, leading several foreign countries to recommend avoiding the region.

Fire In Bahir Dar, artillery fire was heard Monday

Tourism Minister Patricia de Lille told AFP on Monday that she was discussing the taxi strike with the Premier of Cape Town Province "in the light of the note sent by the British authorities", with a view to finding a rapid solution.

The South African National Taxi Council (Santaco) had called a walkout last week to protest against a new regulation that gives the Cape Town municipality the power to seize vehicles for offences such as driving without a licence, failing to display number plates and overloading.

The situation escalated after 15 minibuses were seized on Tuesday.

Santaco said on Monday that 6,000 vehicles had been seized since the start of the year and that, faced with this situation, it had "no other option" than to call a strike. "It is clear that there has been a degree of premeditation in the actions we have

witnessed over the last few days.

There have also been clear attempts to target the city's staff and infrastructure", commented the local authorities in their statement.

"It is clear that there has been a degree of premeditation in the actions we have witnessed in recent days. There have also been clear attempts to target city staff and infrastructure", commented the local authorities in their statement on Monday.

Numerous buses and municipal vehicles have been set on fire, private vehicles have been the target of stone-throwing and gunfire, and clinics have had to close or reduce their capacity because of the chaos.

Shops were looted, according to the police, who announced the arrest of five suspected looters. Following the failure of weekend negotiations with Santaco, it announced that the work stoppage would continue until Wednesday.



file photo from 23 March 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 is on the tarmac at an airport. Copyright © africanews Mulugeta Ayene/Copyright 2019 The AP. All rights reserved.

evening and in the night, "non-stop around the roads of the airport", according to a resident.

Tuesday morning, "there were gunshots around Lideta 14", a neighbourhood located on the airport road, he added, stressing that "people are not moving, there is no movement".

In Gondar, a resident expressed his concern. "Things are really bad here. In addition to the gunfire, the artillery is in the city," said the tuktuk driver, also giving only his first name, Simachew.

"It's really scary even to stay inside because the heavy sounds are just awful. This morning (Tuesday) feels like yesterday, more fighting. I don't know how it's going to end", he added.

In Lalibela, a tourist site renowned for its rock-hewn churches listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the situation was "calmer" on Tuesday than the day before, according to a resident. Fano's forces have been controlling the airport and the city for several days.

The United States said it was "concerned" by the violence in Africa's second most populous country.

The World Health Organization has called for maintaining "uninterrupted access to and protection of the health system in Amhara" so that it and its partners "can continue to work there".

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

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Administrative Secretary & Receptionist

Hiring Administrative Secretary & Reception
Type of Employment Full Time / Permanent
Job Reference BTS - 923-002
Job Category Administration
Company Industry Travel & Tourism
Start date: 1 September 2023
City/Town: Freetown
Location: CBD – 41 Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown
Wage/Salary: TBD / Negotiable. We offer competitive compensation packages
How to apply: Email: btsbesttravelsolution@gmail.com
Phone Contact: 088-394023
Fax: N/A
Application Deadline August 16th, 2023
Application Note***** Please indicate the job reference no. and title in your email subject area

Summary: Best Travel Solutions (BTS) is a company located in Freetown, Sierra Leone and seeking for a dynamic person to take on the exciting and critical role of Administrative Secretary / Receptionist. You are the first point of contact for our clients/customers/visitors and stakeholders of the company. Duties are daily tasks and you typically work at the front desk of the office to welcome clients. While the role is primarily desk-based, you may move around the office for certain tasks

Skills Requirement:

- Fully computer literate - MS Office systems oriented
- Organized and detailed oriented
- Experienced with strong administrative skills
- Strong communication skills (Written and oral)
- Friendly, supportive and service orientated
- A quick learner who can adapt efficiently
- Passionate with a strong sense of urgency around office-based problems and solutions
- Hands-on problem solver
- Energetic, proactive, respectful, and patient in engagement with clients, stakeholders and colleagues.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manages front desk to serve and direct clients appropriately
- Courteously welcomes clients/customers/visitors and stakeholders
- Answer phone calls and door bell
- Performs other clerical administrative duties and manages communications between senior management and direct reports.
- Ensures cleanliness
- Assists in maintaining security and safety on premises
- Schedule meetings and update calendars
- Receives and dispatches letters, packages etc.
- Handles time management of employees
- Performs other professional duties as relegated by management

Relevant Education and Experience:

A bachelor's degree in the arts / communication or a diploma in front-office or office management is essential. Prior experience is useful to perform your duties efficiently

Expectations:

Demonstrating confidence, a pleasant personality and good communication skills as a receptionist can create a positive first impression of a business. Therefore, you will be expected to quickly adapt into your role and ensure that the company has excellent administrative support, enabling them to focus on business development and high-level management issues. You need to be an excellent organizer, communicator, client/customer service focused with a proactive and friendly attitude. You will need to have multi-tasking ability and flexibility to work in this dynamic environment. Personal presentation/professional dressing with a neat appearance is a must.

Hiring Note: Please note that correspondence will be with short-listed candidates only. Should you not receive a response from us within 2 weeks from application date then please consider your application unsuccessful.

Business Marketing Coordinator

Hiring Business Marketing Coordinator
Type of Employment Full Time / Permanent
Job Reference BTS - 923-003
Job Category Business Management
Company Industry Travel & Tourism
Start date: 1 September 2023
City/Town: Freetown
Location: CBD – 41 Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown
Wage/Salary: TBD / Negotiable. We offer competitive compensation packages
How to apply: Email: btsbesttravelsolution@gmail.com
Phone Contact: 088-394023
Fax: N/A
Application Deadline August 16th, 2023
Application Note***** Please indicate the job reference no. and title in your email subject area

Summary: BTS is seeking a business centric individual that is ready to grow with us from gathering and analyzing information to determining demand for products and services, and efficacy of existing strategies. You will identify target markets; develop promotion plans and strategies; as well as report on all projects.

Skills Requirement and Expectations:

- Fully computer literate - MS Office systems oriented
- Diverse skill set that includes business management skills, creative thinking, and problem-solving.
- Must possess good leadership
- Possesses great communication, presentation, business and research skills
- Self-motivated yet customer-focused
- Confident with a pleasant personality

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Establish positioning, identify target clients and customers across different business channels / segments
- Gathers information to understand client/customer needs, and engaging through effective promotions/campaigns
- Develop strategies and budgets
- Creating and maintaining client relationships
- Develop, implement and executing strategic marketing plans for any project or business line
- Oversee all promotional/marketing campaigns
- Promotes company product, or services.
- Ensure the company is communicating the right messaging to attract prospective clients and retain existing ones
- Undertakes market research to understand trends and client preferences
- Performs other professional duties as relegated by senior management

Relevant Education and Experience:

A bachelor's degree or higher in the Business Administration/Management is essential
 2-3 years of relevant experience is a plus

Hiring Note: Please note that correspondence will be with short-listed candidates only. Should you not receive a response from us within 2 weeks from application date then please consider your application unsuccessful.

Visa Consulting Coordinator

Hiring Visa Consulting Coordinator
Type of Employment Full Time / Permanent
Job Reference BTS - 923-004
Job Category Immigration Services
Company Industry Travel & Tourism
Start date: 1 September 2023
City/Town: Freetown
Location: CBD - 41 Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown
Wage/Salary: TBD / Negotiable. We offer competitive compensation packages
How to apply: Email: btsbesttravelsolution@gmail.com
Phone Contact: 088-394023
Fax: N/A
Application Deadline August 16th, 2023
Application Note***** Please indicate the job reference no. and title in your email subject area

Summary: Best Travel Solutions (BTS) is a company located in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and seeking for an experienced visa consulting officer to assume this demanding role. We are providing a range of services including domestic tours, visa processing and extension, passport application, ticketing, and hotel reservation etc.

Skills Requirement and Expectation:

- Fully computer literate - MS Office systems oriented
- Friendly, supportive and service orientated
- A quick learner who can adapt efficiently
- Customer / client-focused
- Detailed oriented with a sense of urgency around client-based problems and solutions
- Hands-on problem solver
- Energetic, proactive, respectful, and patient in engagements with clients, customers, stakeholders and colleagues
- Confidentiality is a must with our clientele base

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assess and determine eligibility for intended and alternate visa processing
- Responsible for the day to day review and verification of visa documents
- Responsible for most functions associated with nonimmigrant visa (NIV) application processing such as intake, data entry, biometric collection, visa printing, document pass-back, and assisting with interpretation of visa processing, interview guide and traveling regulations as needed.
- Assesses applications for visas in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and procedures of the intended country of entry
- Use and maintains all resources and materials provided by clients appropriately
- Builds and maintains good relationship with clients/customers, stakeholders, and other working staffs
- Provides consultation and responds to enquiries on a case-by-case basis via phone, email or in person
- A fast learner that can research application procedure, understand the policies to apply in enhancing effective, efficient and successful visa application processing
- Jointly conducts mock interviews with senior management with clients, and where necessary requests additional information to support an application
- Explain with integrity the risks in visa decision making
- Follows-up with clients to collect information on their visa and travel journey, write case notes, assessments, and records decision data and correspondence
- Records details of client interaction and success stories
- Assists with interpretation, translation and documentation checks

Relevant Education and Experience:

1. Bachelor's degree
2. Around 1-3 years of experience in similar or junior positions
3. Excellent English proficiency
4. Good understanding of Visa application process
5. Problem solving skills
6. Client/customer interaction / engagement skills
7. Strong organizational, communication, report writing, decision-making, conflict solving, facilitating, and good interpersonal skills
8. Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously, with attention to details, timelines, and legal implications

Hiring Note: Please note that correspondence will be with short-listed candidates only. Should you not receive a response from us within 2 weeks from application date then please consider your application unsuccessful.

Project Manager

Hiring Project Manager
Type of Employment Full Time / Permanent
Job Reference BTS - 923-005
Job Category Project Management
Company Industry Travel & Tourism
Start date: 1 September 2023
City/Town: Freetown
Location: CBD – 41 Lightfoot Boston Street, Freetown
Wage/Salary: TBD / Negotiable. We offer competitive compensation packages
How to apply: Email: btsbesttravelsolution@gmail.com
Phone Contact: 088-394023
Fax: N/A
Application Deadline August 16th, 2023
Application Note***** Please indicate the job reference no. and title in your email subject area

Summary: BTS is looking for an experienced project and proposal development manager for scheduling and running proposal kick-off meetings, developing proposals for bidding, facilitating key review meetings / final document review, coordinating proposal governance / sign off, document production, and delivery of the completed proposal. Will work with senior management to write, modify, submit and implement project proposals.

Skills Requirements and Expectations:

- Fully computer literate - MS Office systems oriented
- Strong leadership skills and willingness to continually improve their ability to complete proposals on time.
- Hands-on problem solver
- Energetic, proactive, respectful, and patient engagement with clients, stakeholders and colleagues.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plans, sources and develops project idea or seek and bid on projects
 - Oversees the development of proposals, bids, quotations, RFP responses, or other documents describing organizational products and services in response to requests from prospective clients
 - Compile, analyze, and report project cost and schedule
 - Responsible for project planning, scheduling, cost estimation, closing out, execution, controlling and monitoring, progress measurement, risk management and reporting.
 - Leads and accountable for the entire project scope, the project team and resources, the project budget, and the success or failure of the project.
 - Manages project personnel and responsible for establishing operating policies to mitigate risk.
 - Ensures that documentation and reporting requirements related to project activities are met.
 - Provides guidance and consultation for teams and senior corporate management.
 - Monitors project progress and set deadlines
 - Solves arising issues and ensures stakeholder satisfaction
 - Manages project finances with accounting department based on sound financial principles
 - Evaluate project performance, write and present reports
 - Ensure that the company's safeguarding processes and policies are upheld
 - Collaborating with stakeholders and external consultants in designing and managing project activity work plans
 - Collaborates with stakeholders and external consultants to monitor, review, assess and as needed, refine project activity plans
 - Closely manage field teams and consultants to effectively implement project activities
 - Effectively manage stakeholder relationships
- Relevant Education and Experience:**
- Min - bachelor's degree, but master's degree in environmental science, natural sciences, business, management, communications, or similar, preferred.
 - 2-3 year of essential and relevant experience (project management experience) working in a results-driven team oriented environment
 - A track record of effectively juggling multiple tasks at once
 - Demonstrated ability produce high quality written work and reports, and do oral presentations
 - Experienced in managing teams of colleagues and/or consultants
 - Ability to efficiently solve problems
 - Must be extremely organized and have excellent writing skills
 - Must also be able to supervise and train supporting staff, prepare presentations and schedule meetings with clients to discuss and negotiate proposal details and timelines

Hiring Note: Please note that correspondence will be with short-listed candidates only. Should you not receive a response from us within 2 weeks from application date then please consider your application unsuccessful. We will retain your resume in our database for other suitable opportunities.

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Call for Applications

Business development support for Women-led cooperatives and MSMEs

Deadline: 15th August 2023

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with partners initiated a Growth Accelerator Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in 2022. The Growth Accelerator is a programme that aims at supporting growth of innovative, viable, and ambitious MSMEs with transformative economic impact through improved access to finance, with a specific focus on women and youth-led enterprises in Sierra Leone. During the first year of implementation, a number of informal and formal MSMEs have been supported through access to investments from UNDP in form of grants to grow their enterprises, provision of technical assistance, business mentorship and coaching. The second cohort for 2023 will target women-led cooperatives and MSMEs.

This call is for viable and ambitious women-led cooperatives and MSMEs with innovative business ideas to be supported by the Growth Accelerator Programme.

Who can apply?

- Women-led cooperatives and women-led formal MSMEs from anywhere in Sierra Leone.
- Operating in sectors including Agriculture, Education, Health, Environment and Energy.
- Registered in accordance with the legal requirements of the Government of Sierra Leone.
- Should have an innovative business idea with positive social impact in Sierra Leone.

How to apply:

Applications from prospective women-led cooperatives and MSMEs from anywhere in Sierra Leone should be submitted online on <https://forms.gle/Fr6kw8yGsuRrfVsy9>

Submission Deadline: The deadline for applications is 5:00pm Sierra Leone time on Tuesday, 15th August 2023. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

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INT'L SPORT

Angry USA soccer fans rounded on Megan Rapinoe for laughing after she missed a crucial penalty in the World Cup penalty shoot-out against Sweden, which USWNT eventually lost to be knocked out of the tournament.

It meant that Rapinoe, 38, has played her last World Cup game for the USA. She was crying on the field with her devastated teammates in Melbourne after Sweden won but it was her immediate reaction to her own penalty miss that left many fans with little sympathy.

She took USA's fourth penalty in the shootout to give her team a 4-2 lead in the shootout and blazed her shot high over the crossbar. But as she jogged back to the halfway line, she was - much to the confusion of fans watching back home - smirking and laughing to herself.

'I don't see what's funny about this?' one fan wrote on Twitter in response. 'The laughing shows how much this team took this as a joke. So much for being a role model for the rest of the team.'

Woke Rapinoe LAUGH when she ruins the chance for USA to best Sweden. Classy.

Another said: 'I'm generally a Megan Rapinoe fan, but laughing after a missed penalty is not a good look.'

A different USWNT supporter said: 'Megan Rapinoe laughing after she missed a game winning pk... never happier to see a player retire. Never want to see her on my tv again. What a way to end your career.'

Another USA fan tweeted: 'Megan Rapinoe laughing after missing her

Megan Rapinoe slammed by USA fans for laughing after missing a crucial penalty in the World Cup shootout against Sweden

PK will be in my nightmares. What a joke.'

Rapinoe herself spoke to FOX briefly after the game: 'I thought we played really well, I am so happy for us that we went out playing the way that we did.'

'This is dark comedy, I missed a penalty. This is the balance to the beautiful side of the game.'

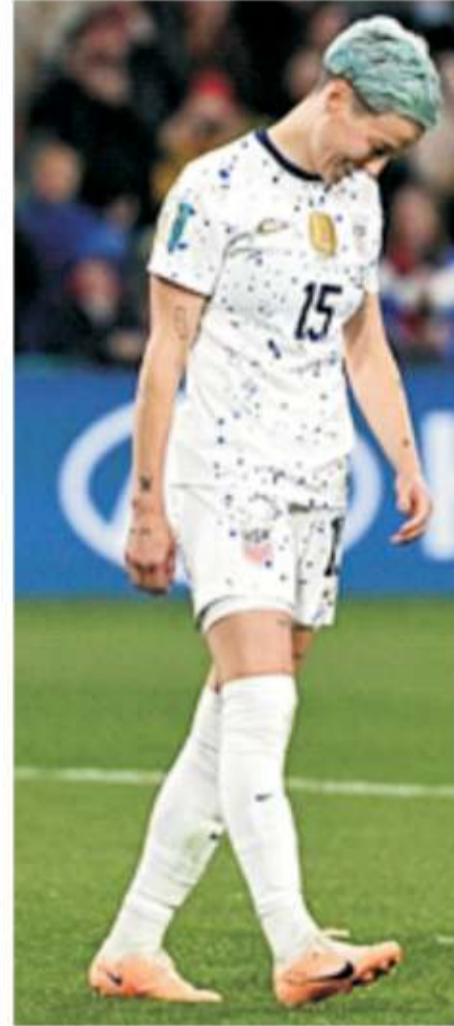
'I feel really grateful and joyful and I know this is the end and that is sad. This is the only time I have bene in one of these (losing on penalties at a World Cup) - it has been an honor.'

Speaking in the mixed zone, she added: 'It is tough, it sucks. There was so much more in it for us.'

She was asked about smiling after missing her penalty and said: 'It's a sick, sick joke. I've never hit it over, when I miss they are saved.'

Reflecting on her legacy with the US team, Rapinoe said: 'I think this team has always fought for so much more and that's been the most rewarding part for me - to know that we've used our really special talent to do something that's changed the world forever.'

The US team had divided some of its fanbase during the tournament in Australia and New Zealand with several of the starting line-up repeatedly refusing to sing the national anthem before their games. FOX Soccer analyst Alexi Lalas



alluded to it in his post-game reaction: 'I hope this team can unite Americans moving forward.'

Rapinoe, a two-time World Cup winner, played every game as a substitute. She had entered this one in extra-time but had struggled to make much of an impact during her

time on the field.

'I am devastated, it feels like a bad dream,' Alex Morgan said to FOX afterwards. 'It doesn't feel great.'

USWNT coach Vlatko Andonovski added that he was proud of his team, despite crashing out at the last-16 stage of the competition.

'I'm so proud of the team, so proud of the girls and the women on the field and everybody outside,' he said. 'I know that we were criticized for the way we played and

'I know we were criticized for different moments throughout the group stage. I think we came out today and showed what were all about.'

'We showed grit, resilience, fight and bravery. We showed everything that we could to win the game and unfortunately soccer can be cruel sometimes.'

The US team headed into the tournament looking to become the first team in the men's or women's game to win three straight World Cups.

But the team didn't ever hit the standard that has been expected of an all-conquering side. A 3-0 win over Vietnam to start the competition didn't impress too much, despite the scoreline, and they rounded out the group with two ties - 1-1 against Holland and 0-0 with Portugal.

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

Lauren James SENT OFF after stamping on her opponent during England's round of 16 clashes with Nigeria

Lauren James has been sent off after stamping on her opponent during England's round of 16 clash with Nigeria at the women's World Cup.

James was shown a red card in the 87th minute of the game after VAR deemed her David Beckham-esque stamp as violent conduct.

The score was tied at 0-0 when James stood on Michelle Alozie's back - forcing Sarina Wiegman's side to finish the game with 10 players.

Referee Melissa Borjas had initially handed the 21-year-old England star a yellow card before consulting with VAR.

It didn't take long for Borjas to make a decision. She returned to the pitch and pulled out a red card - telling James she had deemed the incident as violent conduct.

The altercation saw James - who had established herself as England's

leading scorer with three goals in the tournament - go from hero to zero.

The senseless act of malice took place after James and Alozie collided. Both players were on the floor, but it was James who got up first.

Once returning to her feet, James decided to stand on Alozie's lower back. The Nigeria international was furious with James and appealed to the referee while lying on the floor.

Borjas was quick to react and pulled out a yellow card. However, she upgraded to a red card after consulting VAR.

James was visibly upset as she made her way off the pitch, while Wiegman looked furious with England's top goalscorer.

Many have compared James' moment of madness to Beckham's moment of madness at the 1998 World Cup.

The former Manchester United star



lashed out at Diego Simeone and scraped his studs against the Argentinian. As a result, Beckham was sent off.

The Three Lions went on to draw the game 2-2 before crashing out of the

tournament on penalties.

James will be hoping her actions don't scupper England's chances of progressing through to the quarter finals of the tournament.

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

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