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NEWSPAPER

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How 'Brotherhood' may influence investigation into alleged graft at SLBC

EDSA proposes 'killer' tariff Bio to address post-election concerns



President Bio receiving the report from the CPNC chairman

We are not a court of law to establish the veracity of claims made against the Director-General of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), Joseph Kapuwa, but comments largely coming from the public have suggested that University Brotherhood (Auradicals Club) may influence the outcome of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) investigation into the alleged corruption at SLBC.



DG Kapuwa is said to be a strong member of the Auradicals Club and a comrade of the ACC Commissioner and Information Minister, respectively

Cont. Page 2



Hon. Alusine Kanneh is now Chief Immigration Officer

Solidaridad gets new boss

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LOCAL NEWS

Bio to address post-election concerns

President Maada Bio has formally received the report of the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (CPNC) following a fact-finding exercise around post-election concerns, and assured the implementation of recommendations and commitments in the report.

While receiving the Commission's report, expressed delight, assuring that, "I am happy to receive the report. I will read it through and respond to it accordingly".

He reminded the nation that, on behalf of the citizenry, he was happy that there was a body of respectable Sierra Leoneans that could handle peace and national cohesion issues. He said the commission was a platform for resolving grievances, especially when, as a nation, "we have chosen democracy."

Chairman of the ICPNC, Rev. Shodankeh Johnson, confirmed that they had had a great time at the

Commission, enjoying a free hand to do their work and that together they have worked toward ensuring that the country continued to enjoy peace and national cohesion.

"The Commission has worked frantically as a team with political parties before, during, and after the June elections, including all Elections Management Bodies toward making sure that Sierra Leone stands out to be remembered as a peaceful nation among others.

"This government has given us as a nation a platform to ensure internal issues are resolved with commitment from all political parties, including the opposition," he noted.

The chairman informed me that they had several meetings with political parties and that those meetings ended well.

"We had meetings with the All People's Congress, APC. The meeting



was very friendly. The atmosphere was very healthy, and we could deliberate on issues openly and honestly for all of us as a nation to move forward.

" His Excellency, with all those

engagements, we were able to put together our reports, capturing issues discussed and commitments made by all the political parties moving forward as a nation," he confirmed.

How 'Brotherhood' may influence investigation into alleged graft at SLBC

From Cover

While the Director-General has informed Concord Times that the institution has sent all necessary documents to the ACC to enhance investigation into the alleged graft, the public is skeptical that, the Commissioner of the ACC, Francis Ben Kaifala, would do everything humanly possible to let his comrade off the hook.

"We know this is buff case because the Commissioner of the ACC is a strong member of the Auradicals Club and a comrade of the DG at SLBC. He would do everything humanly possible to free him," said Mohamed Koroma.

Same fingers are being pointed at the Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernoh Bah, who supervises the state broadcaster and a senior Comrade of the Auradicals Club.

In a letter to the Minister of Information, aggrieved staff of SLBC state that, "Your Auradicals Brotherhood relationship with the DG – Joseph Egbenda Kapuwa and his sycophantic actions/moves as evidenced in his July 31 2023 03:14 PM Facebook post are sufficient for anyone to suspect as reasons for such lethargy."

The state broadcaster is currently



plagued, not only with alleged corruption scandals, but also with serious in fighting between the Director-General and his deputy, Alimamy Kamara.

Other burning issues include forgery as claimed by the Engineering Department of the Corporation.

In a letter dated 23rd August 2023, the Director of Engineering also complained that his signature was scanned and presented to the finance office, requesting for monies to do some maintenance of transmitters in the regions, studio maintenance, purchase of software, among several more.

He also requested that for the period of 2019 to 2023, finance department provides him with all the documents and vouchers that have been used for financial transaction so that he can verify that his signature was never been used in those documents for financial transactions.

By Jariatu S. Bangura

President Maada Bio has appointed Hon. Alusine Kanneh to serve as the country's Chief Immigration Officer, replacing Andrew Jaiiah Kaikai, pending parliamentary approval.

Hon. Kanneh has served and represented his people of Constituency 13, which covers both Nomo and Tunkia Chiefdoms, Kenema District, for ten years (two term) in Parliament and has played significant roles in ensuring that his people and the country get what is required of them during his tenure as Member of Parliament.

In a phoning interview with Concord Times, Hon. Kanneh said he was grateful for the opportunity given to him by President Bio as the appointment has been what he had wanted and expected since it's falls within his expertise.

"I am grateful for this appointment. I will make sure to create a reform in the immigration department that will be a benefit to the nation and every Sierra Leonean. I am happy that I



have been appointed as Chief Immigration Officer," he said.

During his tenure in Parliament, he served as Deputy Chief Whip of the House, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Immigration, which opened a wide range of opportunities for him.

He also served as member of the Appointment and Public Service, Sports, information and Communication and the Public Accounts Committees, respectively.

He is a business tycoon and has wooed investors to invest in the mining sector across the country, which has created a number of jobs for young people in mining communities.



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LOCAL NEWS

Solidaridad gets new boss

Andrew Kojo Morrison has been appointed as Solidaridad's new Country Representative in Sierra Leone.

He will lead Solidaridad's efforts there collaborating with the Government of Sierra Leone, businesses, donors and partners to improve supply chains, food security and the livelihood of smallholder farmers.

"Creating a robust network and partnership with major development organizations is key to making Solidaridad the preferred organization in Sierra Leone, and I'm honored to lead the team towards this goal," Andrew said.

Prior to his appointment, Andrew served in various capacities in the organization, including Acting Country Representative, Programme Manager, and Technical Advisor since joining the organization in 2018. As programme lead, Andrew was instrumental in setting up Sierra Leone's country programmes for cocoa, cashew, oil palm, food security projects, and outgrower development for small and medium enterprises across 14 districts in Sierra Leone.

"Solidaridad has over the years been working towards sustainable supply chains and better incomes for farmers in Sierra Leone. We are committed to improving and extending our impactful programming, and building the capacities of staff, volunteers and interns to achieve the desired impacts



in the communities where we work."

Andrew Kojo Morrison, Solidaridad Country Representative – Sierra Leone.

Andrew is a certified project management and development specialist, a trained participatory agricultural extension specialist, and a passionate development worker with over 15 years of combined work experience. Over the course of his career, he has worked in sustainable agriculture value chains, rural development, forest and natural resource management, and building strategic partnerships with both national and international non-governmental organizations and the private sector in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

Prior to joining Solidaridad, Andrew worked as the Sustainability Manager for the Natural Habitats

Group in Ghana and later as the General Manager for 8 Degrees North Limited, a subsidiary of the Natural Habitats Group, where he led efforts to introduce smallholder oil palm farmers to productivity enhancement and organic certification protocols.

He also worked with the Rainforest Alliance in Ghana in the cocoa and oil palm landscapes, supporting and promoting sustainable cocoa production through smallholder farmer group voluntary certification initiatives. Andrew has a Master's degree in Environmental Science and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and the University of Cape Coast, respectively.

NASSIT warns against imposters

By: Abubakarr Tarawally



EDSA proposes 'killer' tariff

By Alhaji Haruna Sani

The Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA), has requested the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (SLEWRC) to increase the tariff of electricity to over 100 percent, from 11 percent to 23 percent.

The looming electricity tariff increment will be received by Sierra Leoneans with much frustration and disturbance, especially when the prices of petroleum products just shoot up from Le 23,500 to Le 25,000 per litre on the August 1st. According to EDSA tariff increments request, section 45 of the SLEWRC Act of 2011 gives the commission, the authority to approve rates for electricity and water service and sub-section 3 of the same section also makes provision for the consumer and utilities to be affected by the

services, to be given an opportunity to be heard and that the commission take into account any representation made before final rate is approved.

The Sierra Leone Electricity and Water Regulation Commission therefore, invite stakeholders and the general public to review the proposed tariff submitted by EDSA and submit all comments to the commission.

The comment period will run from 29th August to 12th September.

Sierra Leone ranks among top African countries with the highest inflation rate in 2023. The country's inflation rate is presently above 38.48%, which is leading to an untold suffering on the people of the country.

The proposed electricity tariff will definitely add salt to the already injury bedeviling poor Sierra Leoneans.

The National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) has warned traders and the general public that nobody should engage in any money transaction for the purpose of securing a place at the Sewa Grounds Market in Freetown. According to a public notice dated 28th August, 2023, NASSIT noted their attention was drawn to imposters using their office name to illegally collecting money from traders and the general public for securing a place at the Sewa Grounds Market that is yet to be fully functional.

The market is going to serve as a place for the relocation of those who have been trading along the street of Freetown, specifically around the central business district-Sani Abacha street, Malama Thomas street, Wilberforce street, Short street, Free Street, Lumley street

among others.

"NASSIT has not mandated any of our staff to solicit anything from traders in order to secure a place at the Sewa Ground Market," the public notice reads.

The management therefore advised every meaningful Sierra Leonean not to transact business with those ill-motivated people, who want to get rich overnight.

NASSIT therefore, encouraged every trader who wants to secure a place at the market to do virtual enquiry before they could embark on any money transaction.

It also warned that if anybody transfers money without proper procedure it will be at their own detriment.

NASSIT management asked the public to report those unscrupulous people or group of people to their nearest office or Police station since.

LOCAL NEWS SLRSA warns drivers against fake license

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Executive Director of the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA), Reverend Smart K. Senessie, has yesterday, during the popular Radio Democracy 'Gud Morning Salone' program, warned drivers to stop using fake license.

He warned drivers while speaking on some of the transformation that have taken place at SLRSA.

Senessie said SLRSA emanated from the Road Transport Authority which was established by an Act of Parliament in 1996 and in 2003, they transformed it to the Sierra Leone Road Safety Authority (SLRSA).

He said the mandate of the institution is to regulate and coordinate the road transport sector in the country and ensure that they provide driving license, vehicle license, train drivers, tricycle riders, and other unit dealing with road transport sector.

"We have been doing a lot since the establishment of the institution because our responsibility is to carry out this mandate I have outlined," he said.

He said they have done some rebranding and transformation in the license unit, adding that before now they used to give license to



SLRSA Executive Director, Reverend Smart K. Senessie

someone that stay in America, but have stopped issuing doing that.

He said they have introduced a biometric system wherein every driver who wants a license needs to go to the office.

He added that one of the reasons they asked drivers to go to the office for license is for them to test that individual and ascertain whether he or she has gone through driving training, check his personal detail and security.

He said they were working closely with the National Civil Registration Authority (NCRA) to ensure clarity. Responding to the digitalisation, Rev. Senessie said they have done a lot in terms of digitization as it is difficult for someone to issue fake drivers' license because they now have biometric system.

"Therefore, we are warning drivers to stop using fake license. Last year, we suspended and dismissed lot of staff within the institution who were issuing fake license to drivers and they were taken to the police for investigations and strong actions

were taken against them. Agents have always been arrested for the same issue. For the past months this year, we were having challenges with the supply of license because they were having some problems, but licenses are available now," he said.

He said before now, it used to take a long time for someone to acquire license because the process was so long, but that they have reduced it for customers to have license within two days.

Responding to the issue of the new tariff for registration of vehicles and motorbikes, Senessie said in 2017, the Government of Sierra Leone signed an agreement with Auto-Spect where they agreed to do certain things that will help improve their services.

He said since then they were trying to set up their structures, infrastructure, equipment and other things, so at the end of December last year, in collaboration with Auto-Spect, they were able to achieve two offices at Kissy Road and Mile 6 that are fully equip with modernize equipment in order to train and check drivers that are using the roads.

Bio set up inter-ministerial committee to fight against Kush

By Hassan Gbassay Koroma



The Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernoh Bah, has disclosed that President Bio has set up and approved an inter-ministerial committee to fight against kush drugs in the country.

He was speaking yesterday, August 29, at the ministry's weekly press briefing, stating that President Bio takes the fight against Kush very seriously because it undermines his the human capital development agenda.

He said the committee, which would be led by the Country's Chief Minister, would bring on board all ministries, departments, the media and other sectors, and will collaboratively put policies together to embark on sensitization that will help the fight against Kush in the country.

Minister of Internal Affairs, Maj-Gen Rtd, David Taluva, said among the functions of his ministry, was to fight lawlessness and drug abuse in the

country.

He said should be drug abuse unabated there will be no future for the country hence everyone should come on to intensify the fight.

He said his ministry has presented a strategy paper to the cabinet and the

strategy paper includes training of personal that will help in the fight against kush, cutting off drug supply chain, ensuring that there is no other drug emerge in the country and also trying to build the capacity of the rehabilitated victims with skill training.

Minister of Social Welfare, Melrose Karminty said the issue of Kush drug abuse is very key to her ministry and what they intend to do is to establish a counselling centre where they will be engaging Kush drug victims and that they will also be embarking on community sensitiation.

She said they will also be bringing onboard religious leaders to also help in the fight.

It could be recall that, in the previous press conference, Senior Specialist at the Country's Mental Hospital, Dr. Abdul Jalloh, disclosed that, they have recorded cases of over 2,800 kush drug addiction and 60% of the above figure are secondary school pupils.

Convict gets five years imprisonment for robbery

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay

Justice Monfred Sesay (JA) has sentenced 33-year-old businessman, Mohamed Bah to five years imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to robbery contrary to the law of Sierra Leone

According to the particulars of the offence, on dates between 16th and 20th September 2021, in the Western Area of Freetown, conspired together with another person unknown to commit a felony.

He was alleged to have robbed d Ibrahim Bangura of his motorbike and other items.

The convict was charged with the offence of robbery contrary to Section (32) Sub Section (2) of the Larceny Act of 1916, as repealed and replaced by Section (2) of the

Imperial Statute Criminal Law Adoption Amendment Act No: 16 of 1971.

The accused person was in court under the review of the Judicial week that was organised by Judiciary of Sierra Leone to review 802 cases, an exercise aimed at decongesting the prisons nationwide.

After the charge was put before the accused, he pleaded guilty.

In her plea of mitigation before judgment was slammed on the convict, lawyer Bangura from the Legal Aid Board, who represented the convict, canvassed the presiding judge to temper justice with mercy, as the convict has spent one year at the Male Correctional Centre on Pademba Road in Freetown.

Justice Sesay said the accused didn't waste the court time.



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Man remanded for assaulting wife to death

By Blessing C. Cole

Magistrate Sahr Kekura of the Ross Road Court No.1 has remanded Abubakar Mansaray at the Male Correctional Centre on Pademba Road in Freetown for allegedly assaulting his wife, Aminata Kamara, to death.

The accused person was before the court on count of murder contrary to law.

It was alleged that the accused person on the 24th December 2022 at Small Country, Mabureh, Waterloo, assaulted his wife, Aminata Kamara of the same address.

Led in evidence by Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Osman M. Bangura, first prosecution witness, Detective Sergeant 10617 Suliaman Ishmael Alie attached to the Regional Ross Road Police Station, Harbour Division at the Criminal Investigations Department, said he knew the complainant and recognised the accused in the dock. Sergeant Alie recalled on Wednesday 18th January 2023, while he was on duty at the aforesaid division at the Ross Road Police Station, where his boss,

Inspector M. K Sesay received a transfer and enquiry file from Waterloo Police Division of an alleged murder, together with the accused.

The witness told the court that the matter was assigned to him for further investigation, adding that the file contained the cause of death certificate, the accused's voluntary caution statement, statements of the complainant and witnesses.

The statements were produced and tendered in court to form part of the court's records.

He said on the 18th August 2023 himself together with Police Constable 12114 Jalloh S based on the evidence gathered, charged the accused with the offence of murder contrary to law.

The accused's charge statement was produced and tendered in evidence marked as C1-3.

Magistrate Kekura granted an opportunity to the accused to cross examine the witness on his behalf, but the accused told the court that he had no questions for the witness.

Magistrate Kekura adjourned the matter to 6th September 2023 for further hearing.

CHANGE OF NAME


By this Deed which is intended to be registered at the Administrator and Registrar General Office in Freetown, Western Area of the Republic of Sierra Leone, I, the undersigned Swaray Coomber of No.7 Off Jomo Kenyatta Road, Brookfield's, Freetown, now lately called Sawray Coomber, a citizen of the Republic of Sierra Leone by birth an adult do hereby declare that:

For and on behalf of myself and relatives wholly renounce, relinquish and abandon the use of the former name, Swaray Coomber and in place thereof do assume from the 22nd May, 2023, Anthony Sawray Coomber in order that I and my relatives, friends and acquaintances may hereafter be called and refer to me not by my former name of Swaray Coomber, but by my assumed name Anthony Sawray




Coomber.

For the purpose of evidencing such my determination hereby declare that, I shall at all times hereafter in all processes, dealings, and transactions as well private as public, and upon all occasions whatsoever, use and sign the name in place of and in substitution for my former name Swaray Coomber.



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone
Minister of Environment
92 Dundas Street, Freetown



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID
Procurement of High Quality Tool Kits and Safety Gears.

Procurement Number: EPAS/LEHS/NCB/001/2023
 Date of First Issue: 14th August, 2023.

Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone is the Agency established by the EPA Act of 2008 as amended in 2010 for the effective protection of the environment and other related matters.

The Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone has received funds from our donor (Ozone/ Montreal Protocol HPMP stage 2) for the procurement of high quality basic refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Tool Kits and Safety Gears and now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of: **High Quality Basic Refrigeration and Air Condition (RAC) Tools Kits and Safety Gears**

EPA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the under mentioned.

Lot No	Lot Name	No	Item Descriptions	Quantities	Delivery Period
Lot-1	Refrigeration and Air Condition (RAC) Tools Kits	1.	Sets of Screw drivers and Nut Drivers	250	4 WEEKS
		2.	Pliers (Electrician & Long nose)	250	
		3.	Hammer (Ball –Pan Hammer)	250	
		4.	Flashlight/Headlamp	250	
		5.	Adjustable/ Socket Wrenches (6" and 8")	250	
		6.	Copper Tube Cutters (Dia 11/4" to 13/4" (below)	250	
		7.	Handheld Drills (710W) D.C Hand Battery	250	
		8.	Manifold gauge set (for use with carbon dioxide (up to 160 bar)	150	
		9.	Electronics manifold gauge set that can be used with flammable refrigerants, ammonia and high pressure refrigerants (up to 50 bar)	150	
		10.	Set of Allen keys (Imperial & Metric size)	250	
		11.	Brazing Kit using Propane Gas (Portable Type)	250	
		12.	Electric Extension Cable 25m	250	
		13.	Junior hand Saw (150mm (6") with spear blades.	250	
		14.	Multimeter (Amprobe)/ Clamp on	250	
		15.	Electrical Tester (Digital Multimeter tester)	25	
		16.	Tool Bags (Customized)	250	
		17.	Thermometer for refrigeration (Digital)	250	
		18.	Mole Grip Pliers (3pieces)	250	
		19.	Drilling machine (1010w)	80	
		20.	Spirit Level 60cm	250	
Lot-2	SAFETY GEARS	19.	Drilling machine (1010w)	80	4 WEEKS
		20.	Spirit Level 60cm	250	
		21.	Needle/Long Nose Pliers	250	
		22.	Nut Drivers	250	
		23.	Rubber Mallet	250	
		24.	Utility Knife (with extra replacement blades)	250	
		25.	Channel Locks (8" (10" / 12")	250	
		26.	Vernier Calliper	250	
		27.	Torque wrench	250	
		28.	Vacuum Gage	250	
		29.	Vacuum Pump	250	
30.	Tube expander tool & expander heads	250			
Lot-2	SAFETY GEARS	1	Gloves (leather) vary sizes	250	4 WEEKS
		2	Face Masks/shield	250	
		3	Welding Goggles	250	
		4	Ear Muffs/Plugs	250	
		5	Safety Boot of varied sizes	250	
		6	Coveralls/Overall	250	
		7	Helmet	250	
		8	Flashers (Customized)	250	
		9	Safety Flasher Jacket	250	
		10	Helmet for RAC technicians	250	
		11	Hand Glove (Insulating Gloves)- vary sizes	250	

This Invitation for Bids is open to all eligible suppliers of the above, Nationwide.
 Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between **9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.** . Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Le500, 000.00**. All payment for bidding document must be paid in to the below consolidated Bank Account:

1. Bank Name: Bank of Sierra Leone
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 000001011100398165

OR

2. Bank Name: Union Trust Bank
Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Sub Treasury
Account Number: 210113253-01
BBAN: 00-4001113253120144

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12th September, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.**
 All bids must be accompanied by:

- A valid Business registration certificate
- Bid Form/Price Schedule
- Bid Security of [Le 6,000.00] from a reputable Commercial Bank;
- A valid tax clearance certificate;
- A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- A valid City Council Certificate
- A signed Integrity Pact; [see attached]
- Brochure of the tools kits and gears to be supplied
- 1 Year Warranty.

Bids will be publicly opened **on 12th September, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.**, in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Completed application along with all relevant documents must be submitted in a sealed envelope boldly marked: **"PROCUREMENT OF TOOLS KITS OR SAFETY GEARS"** to the;

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NEWS AROUND AFRICA COMPILED BY GABRIEL BENJAMIN

Nigerian army rescues many children and women among dozens abducted by Islamic rebels



FILE - In this Saturday May 2, 2015 file photo, women and children rescued by Nigeria - Copyright © africanews Sunday Alamba/AP

Nigerian security forces have rescued dozens of captives mostly women and children held by Islamic extremist rebels in the country's hard-hit northeastern region, the army said. The Nigerian army said late Monday the 25 captives were rescued during "clearance operations" by its troops in Borno state's Gwoza district, a hotbed for the jihadi violence that has upended lives and livelihoods in the region since 2009 when Boko Haram extremists launched an insurgency. Fourteen of the captives were first to be rescued on Saturday in Gobara village while 11 others were freed on Sunday when troops raided the rebel hideout in Gava village, both around 130 kilometers (80 miles) from Borno state capital, Maiduguri, said army spokesman Onyema Nwachukwu.

The army shared pictures of the freed hostages that included toddlers. Most of them looked malnourished and wore worn-out clothes, suggesting that they might have been held for a long time.

"All rescued victims are presently in troops' custody undergoing profiling," Nwachukwu said, describing the operations as part of the "unrelenting efforts to clear remnants of Boko Haram terrorists enclaves" in Borno

and other states.

He said that seven members of a "Boko Haram terrorist family" surrendered to troops on Sunday in a separate operation. They included three adults and four children.

Boko Haram, whose name in the local Hausa language loosely translates to mean "Western education is a sin," launched the 2009 insurgency to establish Islamic Shariah law in Nigeria. Now split into different factions, the most powerful backed by the Islamic State, the extremists often target women, children and security forces in remote parts of northeast Nigeria.

At least 35,000 people have been killed and 2.1 million people displaced as a result of the extremist violence which has spread to neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger, according to data from U.N. agencies in Nigeria.

South Africa, China, Russia amongst first congratulatory messages to Mnangagwa over 'disputed' win

Congratulatory messages began to pour in for Zimbabwe's president Emmerson Mnangagwa on Monday after winning a second five term in office from recently concluded elections in the country that the opposition has described a "sham".

South Africa's president Cyril Ramaphosa was amongst the first leaders to congratulate Mr. Mnangagwa over the disputed polls. In a tweet, the South African leader on Monday expressed best wishes for his Zimbabwean counterpart's upcoming term.

In an earlier statement by the South African presidency, Ramaphosa is quoted to have noted that the elections took place under a difficult economic environment, "due to the burdening sanctions which the people of Zimbabwe continue to unjustly endure". "Furthermore, South Africa has taken note of the preliminary pronouncements by the invited International Observers Missions including the African Union (AU) and the South African Development Community (SEOM) Observer Missions" the statement added.

The comments are seen as a reference to the controversy surrounding the conduct of the elections and results declared by Zimbabwe's Electoral Commission (ZEC) on Saturday.

China and Russia hail Zimbabwe

China and Russia, both key allies of Zimbabwe have also sent in their congratulatory messages. Wang Wenbin, China's foreign ministry spokesman on Monday congratulated Mnangagwa and called Zimbabwe a "friend" of China.

"We stand ready to work with the new government to bring our two countries' comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to new heights," he said in a statement that called for electoral disputes to be directed to the courts, stressing that it -China- does not interfere with internal processes.

"The results of the vote confirm the broad support for President Mnangagwa's policy aimed at strengthening the state system, ensuring internal stability and carrying out reforms with the aim of forming conditions for the country's further step-by-step development on the basis of safeguarding the rights and interests of various groups and layers of Zimbabwean society," the statement added. Russia on its part, issued a congratulatory statement published on its foreign ministry website. "Moscow reaffirms its unwavering commitment to further developing and strengthening its comprehensive partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation with the friendly Republic of Zimbabwe and their close interaction in international and regional issues," the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Presidential election results disputed

The controversial result of the presidential ballot

announced much earlier than expected on Saturday following another troubled vote in the southern African country showed incumbent leader Emmerson Mnangagwa polled 52.6% of the votes cast as against 44 percent for main opposition candidate Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party.

Chamisa, 45, has vowed to challenge the results and irregularities that characterised the election which international observers have said raises questions of credibility on the polls.

"It is clear that we are rejecting the election as a sham, the result. The process itself we disregard it and it's in line with what the SADC observers have said. We reject this sham result and flawed process based on the disputed figures."

"Mr Mnangagwa knows that he has performed a coup since 2008, a coup on the ballot, 2017, a coup on the elected leader. 2018, a coup on the ballot, he has repeated again, 2023, a coup on the ballot," Chamisa said on Sunday.

"Polls fell short" - Observers

The Southern African Development Commission (SADC) mission in a preliminary statement on Aug. 25 said some aspects of the election fell short of the requirements of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Act, and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021).

The head of the African Union observer mission, former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, also registered his groups assessment noting the activities of a ruling party affiliate organization called Forever Associates of Zimbabwe (FAZ). Mr Jonathan warned that the group's activities should be declared "criminal offenses."

The FAZ is alleged to have set up tables at polling stations and took details of people walking into voting booths.

US says "bias" against opposition

The United States on Monday deplored the existence of a "bias" against the opposition during the recent presidential election.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller referred to "the systematic bias against the political opposition during the campaign", based on the findings of regional observers.

According to civil society groups, the electoral commission "pressured election observers" to approve amended minutes, he said in a statement.

"These acts contradict President Mnangagwa's repeated promises to uphold the rule of law, transparency and commitment to accountability," he said.

"The United States intends to share its concerns with regional leaders, including discussing what this means for the international community's efforts to reconnect with the Zimbabwean government," Miller

Mali: UN faces 'difficult' next phase of MINUSMA pullout

The second phase of the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers from Mali will be very challenging due to a tight calendar and dangerous security conditions, the UN special representative to the country said Monday.

The UN peacekeeping mission, known as Minusma, has until December 31 to exit Mali after a decade of struggling to stabilize the country's security environment amid separatist and jihadist rebellions. The 13,000-man mission was ordered to withdraw earlier this year under the demand of Mali's ruling junta, following the pullout of French troops in 2022. Earlier this month four UN soldiers were wounded in an attack on operations to exit the Ber base in the north of the country.

Withdrawal operations in other areas were also targeted, El-Ghassim Wane, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, told the UN Security Council Monday.

He said the size of the convoys, involving hundreds of lorries, and the long distances they travel over inhospitable terrain leave them vulnerable.

Nearly 1,100 of the so-called Blue Helmet UN peacekeepers have returned to their countries, he said.

By September 30, about one-third of Minusma's civilian staff will have been pulled out, he said.

The second phase, through December 15, will involve abandoning six bases in northern, northeastern and central Mali.

"This phase will be incredibly difficult indeed," Wane told the council. "The terrain is difficult and insecurity is an ever present threat," he said.

Added to the difficulty is what Wane called "the paralysis" of the bodies responsible for monitoring the 2015 peace agreement signed between the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) -- an alliance of predominantly ethnic Touareg groups -- and the then-civilian Mali government.

Nevertheless, Wane said, "We remain on the right track towards the missions closure, and that should be completed by the 31st of December."

He said the accelerated closure of the Ber base was illustrative. It came amid tensions in the area between the CMA and the Malian army, which is being aided by the Russian Wagner paramilitary group.

The last UN convoy leaving Ber took 51 hours to cover 57 kilometers (35 miles), Wane said. He said the military coup in neighboring Niger has also impacted the withdrawal operation.

"It is vital that we are able to transport equipment and materials through Niger" to reach key ports like Cotonou and Lome, he said.

Sudan's Al-Burhan heads first cabinet meeting since conflict erupted

The head of Sudan's army Abdel Fattah Burhan met on Monday with members of the government for the first time since the conflict with a rival general erupted in mid-April.

Sudan was plunged into chaos after monthslong tensions between the military, led by Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting on April 15.

The deadly conflict has disrupted key sectors including health and food; but that shall 'soon end', the information minister vowed.

"The effort exerted in the various productive sectors, whether the agricultural or mineral sectors, must be preserved and doubled in production for the benefit of all Sudanese. I affirmed at the end of the meeting that the rebellion (the Rapid Support Forces) is in decline and that victory is very close."

Burhan on Monday also made a rare public speech in his first tour outside of the capital since the conflict began.

In the eastern coastal city of Port Sudan, where the meeting was also held, Burhan said a military

operation that included naval and air forces enabled him to leave the capital's army headquarters safely.

Two people were killed in the operation, he said.

The conflict has reduced the capital to an urban battlefield, with the RSF controlling vast swaths of the city.

The military command, where Burhan has purportedly been stationed since April, has been one of the epicenters of the conflict, besieged by RSF forces.

The violence in the northeast African country is estimated to have killed at least 4,000 people, according to Liz Throssell, a spokesperson for the U.N. human rights office.

However, activists and doctors on the ground say the death toll is likely far higher.

In a statement issued late Sunday, Dagalo unveiled a new initiative that could restart peace talks between the two forces.

The 10-point plan titled "Sudan Reborn," calls for a lasting cease-fire, democratic elections and a unified army.

DRC's Zero Polémik comedy festival promotes peace

Comedy festival 'Zéro Polémik' or Zero controversy returned to Bukavu for a 6th edition.

The 3-day event taking place in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo brought together fans of stand-up, improv' and farcical comedy among other genres.

The event's organizer Joyeux Bin Kabojdo says it aims to promote and consolidate peace and social cohesion within local communities in the DRC and the Great Lakes region at large.

"The festival exists for greater social cohesion that advocates education through entertainment, in other words, we think it's possible to educate through laughter and that's why every year for the past 6 years, we've been getting together around laughter with the public here in Bukavu. Humour remains today one of the components to development itself, and above all a foundation of social cohesion.

DR Congo's east has been for decades the battlefield of rebel groups and regional armies.

Bukavu is located near the border with Rwanda Évelyne Mulashe, a young comedian at the school of humour, share how her art contributes to

said. The United States also condemned the "intimidation" of election observers, whose work was "disrupted", according to the spokesperson for the State Department.

Mnangagwa dismisses claims of fraud Mnangagwa nicknamed the crocodile, now set for a second and final five year term has dismissed allegations of vote fraud.

"I did not conduct these elections. I think those who feel the race was not run properly know where to go

fostering peaceful coexistence.

"Humour allows us to tackle some of life's most pertinent subjects, to get a message across. Of course, when delivering and hearing the message we laugh at first, but it still people then need to stop to think about it. I believe that somewhere a show, depending on its message, really helps to raise people awareness on certain issues."

Ivorian comedian Kouamé Gilles Romuald goes by the stage name Boukary. For him, making people laugh is not merely a job, it's a mission.

"Through my work as a comedian, I promote joy. You know that joy that comes with peace. When I'm on stage, those in the public don't ask each other where their political affiliations lies or which side they support."

"Everyone is here, attending Bukary's show. We laugh together, fall on each other laughing; never knowing who supports which political party. What matters to me is promoting peace," he concluded.

The Zéro Polémik festival ended on August 27. Comedians headlining this year's edition included Ivory Coast's very own Michel Gohou and Clémentine Papouet.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

to complain. I am so happy," he said at a news conference Sunday, adding that the elections were run "transparently, fairly in broad daylight."

Voting was extended last week into an extra day following a shortage of ballot papers, especially in opposition strongholds.

Chamisa had challenged his 2018 election loss to Mnangagwa, but that was rejected by the Constitutional Court.

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VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

The Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) has administrative independence and aims to achieve high levels of effectiveness, accountability, neutrality and efficiency necessary to ensure autonomy as mandated by law. In light of this, the Commission therefore advertises the following vacancies for the conduct of Village Head Elections:

CATEGORY A

1. KIT OPERATOR

Responsibilities

Searches to confirm voter details in the Voter Verification Kit

Allocates registered voters to centers in the village

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.

Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

2. CONFIRMATION CLERK

Responsibilities

Records confirmed voter detail in the VHE (Village Head Elections) confirmation /Allocation slip

Signs the VHE /allocation slip.

Stamps the VHE confirmation /allocation slip

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.

Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

3. QUEUE CONTROLLER

Responsibilities

Directs registered voters who are in the queue to vote verification kit operators

Gives special assistance to registered voters who are persons with disability and special needs (aged, lactating mothers, pregnant women etc)

Helps to maintain order in the queue.

Encourages registered voters to complete the process and collect their confirmation allocation slip before leaving the center.

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

CATEGORY B

4. POLLING STAFF

Polling Centre Manager

Responsibilities

Fills in the identification details of staff of the centre from the list given to him/her

Hands over the Polling Staff Identification Badge to the staff concerned

Receives electoral materials for the centre

Records in his/her Journal, all relevant incidents including complaints, names of staff, party/candidate agents, observers, SLP in charge.

Supervises all polling staff

Trains polling staff

Ensures that all Presiding Officers work with team to prepare and set up the polling station for voting before 7:00am.

Ensures that polling staff, voters, Candidate Agents, Observers adheres to polling procedures

Supplies necessary Election materials to all polling stations as required (Record in MTF accordingly)

Ensures that directional signs are correctly placed to direct voters and relevant stakeholders to the polling centre

Ensures that voting and counting take place in an orderly manner and according to procedures

Collects/retrieves all necessary Election materials from all Presiding Officers in respective polling stations for onward delivery to District Elections Office

Completes all necessary forms for the Polling Centre

Uses the polling centre FVR & ECSL app in Android Tablet to identify and direct voters

Uses the ECSL app in the Android Tablet to input data from all presiding Officers irrespective polling stations for onward transmission to data centre

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.

Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

5. Polling Centre Queue Controller

Responsibilities

Uses "first voters name to last voters name tags" for respective polling station registers to direct voters to correct polling station in the centre

Ensures voters with special needs (person with disabilities, aged, nursing and pregnant women) have priority in the queue

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting.

6. Presiding Officer (PO)

Manages the assigned Polling Station

Ensures that the correct quantity of sensitive materials like ballot papers and nonsensitive materials are promptly supplied to polling station

Trains polling staff (together with Polling Centre Manager)

Ensures that all polling staff, political party/candidate agents, observers and voters adheres to polling procedures

Accurately account for all polling materials particularly ballot papers

Uses the RRF to accurately account for the ballot papers (and votes) at the polling station

Gives polling station data to PCM for entry into the ECSL app in the ECSL Android Tablet for transmission to Data Centre

Uses the MTF to return all relevant polling materials to the PCM

Records in his/her Journal, all relevant incidents including complaints, names of staff, party/candidate agents, observers, SLP in charge.

Ensures that all documentation required for the Polling Station is completed correctly

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement:

Minimum of five (5) WASSCE; Teacher's Certificate or Ordinary Diploma from a recognized institution.

Experience in elections related activities and INEACE Certificate is added advantage.

Must be computer literate

Interpersonal skills, integrity and ability to adapt to situations.

6. Polling Station Queue Controller

Uses "first voters name to last voters name tags" for his/her polling station register to direct voters to correct polling station in the centre

Ensure that only authorized persons are allowed to enter the Polling Station.

Controls the entrance and exit of the Polling Station

Ensures that queue is maintained in an orderly manner throughout the day

Ensures that voters with special needs: (person with disabilities, aged, nursing and pregnant women) have priority in the queue

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

* Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting.

7. Voter Identification Officer (VIO)

Uses the Final Voters Register to identify/verify voters

On the "Gender Disaggregated Data Form" or Gender Tally Sheet;

Records tally of men and women and PWDs that take part in voting

Checks voter for traces of indelible ink on left index finger or any other marked finger if the voters has already voted

Verifies the presence of each voter on the Register of Voters

Ensures that the voter sign/thumbprint against his/her name on the Register of Voters

Directs the voter to the Ballot Paper Issuer

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

8. Ballot Paper Issuer (BPI)

Responsibilities

Collects Village Head Election ballot papers from the Presiding Officer

Uses the ECSL validating stamp to make the Village Head Election ballot papers valid by stamping it at the top right-hand corner of the back

Validates the Village Head Election ballot papers using the ECSL validation stamp

Issues the Village Head Election ballot papers to the voter and instructs on how to mark them

Directs the voter to a vacant voting screen and points out the Village Head Election ballot boxes

Issues the Tactile Ballot Guide to voters with special needs for the Village Head Election

Performs any other official duty as instructed by supervisors

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

9. Ballot Box Controller

Responsibilities

Makes sure that voters exiting from the first voting screen go directly to the Village Head Election ballot box

Guards the Village Head Election ballot boxes to ensure that all voters deposit their ballots in the ballot box

Inks the left index finger of voter

Directs the voter to exit the polling station

Performs any other official duty as instructed by the presiding officer

Qualification/Requirement

Minimum of 3 WASSCE with legible handwriting

In addition to the qualified /requirement above, all candidates under consideration should:

be citizens of Sierra Leone;

be registered voters

speak local languages, where possible.

should be above 18 years

Equal Opportunity Employer

All positions in the Commission are advertised on an equal opportunity basis.

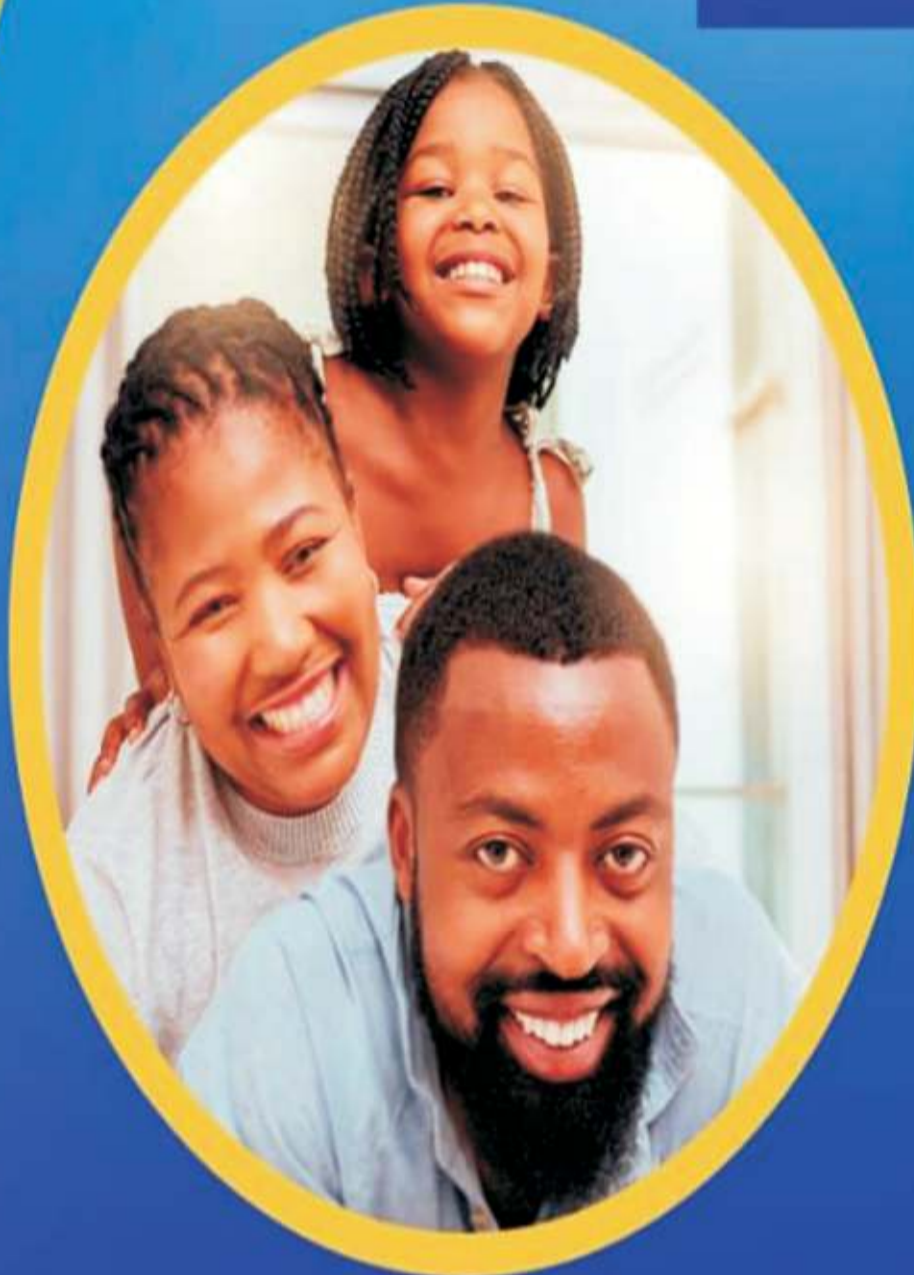
Women and Persons with Disabilities that have the requisite qualification and experience are encouraged to apply.

All applications should be deposited at the Electoral Commission District Office in the Western Rural - Waterloo

The District Elections Manager,
Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL)
Chukuma Johnson Drive
Waterloo

Closing date for receipt of applications is Tuesday 12th September 2023

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



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2. Bombali: 090077143; and 090077152
3. Bonthe: 090077138; and 090077139
4. Falaba: 090077162
5. Kailahun: 090077133; and 090077141
6. Kambia: 090077149; and 090077163
7. Karene: 090077158
8. Kenema: 090077142
9. Koinadugu: 090077148; and 090077144
10. Kono: 090077134; and 090077136
11. Moyamba: 090077153
12. Port Loko: 090077140; and 090077154
13. Pujehun: 090077137
14. Tonkolili: 090077147
15. Western Rural: 090077155; and 090077157
16. Western Urban: 090077132; 090077145; 090077146 and 090077156

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INT'L SPORT

Mason Greenwood could be set for a move to Saudi Arabia, with Steven Gerrard's Al-Ettifaq weighing up an offer for the Manchester United striker, according to reports.

United announced on Monday that Greenwood is set to leave Old Trafford following the conclusion of their internal investigation into his conduct, after attempted rape charges against him were dropped in February.

United's investigation lasted for six months, and the Manchester United Supporters Trust hit out at the club for taking 'far too long' to come to a final decision on Greenwood's future.

The 21-year-old is now looking for a new club, and could be offered a fresh start by Saudi Arabian outfit Al-Ettifaq, as reported by The Sun.

Al-Ettifaq, who have won their first two league games this season, are considering offering Greenwood a £10m-a-year contract.

This would be a significant increase on his current United deal which sees him earn £75,000-a-week, equating to approximately £4m-per-year.

Should he move to Al-Ettifaq, Greenwood would join up with Gerrard, who was appointed the club's new manager last month.

He would also have a familiar face as a team-mate in the shape of former Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson. Henderson completed his £12m switch to Al-Ettifaq in July, and is the club's highest earner after agreeing a staggering £700,000-a-week deal.

Al-Ettifaq face competition for Greenwood's signature, though, as the forward contemplates his next

Mason Greenwood could 'start again in Saudi Arabia' after leaving Man United

move. The Sun claim there are also other Saudi clubs showing interest in the England international, while Turkish giants Galatasaray are also monitoring his situation.

Mail Sport revealed on Monday that former United boss Jose Mourinho is also an admirer of Greenwood, and could look to add him to his squad at Roma.

Roma have since distanced themselves from the possibility of signing Greenwood, according to reports in Italy.

Greenwood and Manchester United's statements announcing his impending departure were criticised on Tuesday for being 'misleading', with the player claiming he was 'cleared of all charges'.

The forward said in a statement on Monday: 'I was brought up to know that violence or abuse in any relationship is wrong, I did not do the things I was accused of, and in February I was cleared of all charges. I take my share of responsibility for the situations which led to the social media post.'

His claims that he was 'cleared' have been criticised on social media, after the charges were actually dropped.

Loose Women presenter Denise Welch tweeted: 'Mason Greenwood was not 'cleared of all charges'. The charges against him were dropped. Completely different!!!'

Lawyer, Adam Wagner added: 'He wasn't cleared of all - or any charges.

The charges were dropped. So Greenwood's statement, which I assume was agreed with the club, is misleading.'

One person who was vocal before United's decision was announced was Countdown co-host Rachel Riley.

Riley revealed last week she would stop supporting the club if they brought Greenwood back into the first team fold, tweeting: 'I won't be able to support United if Greenwood remains at the club.'

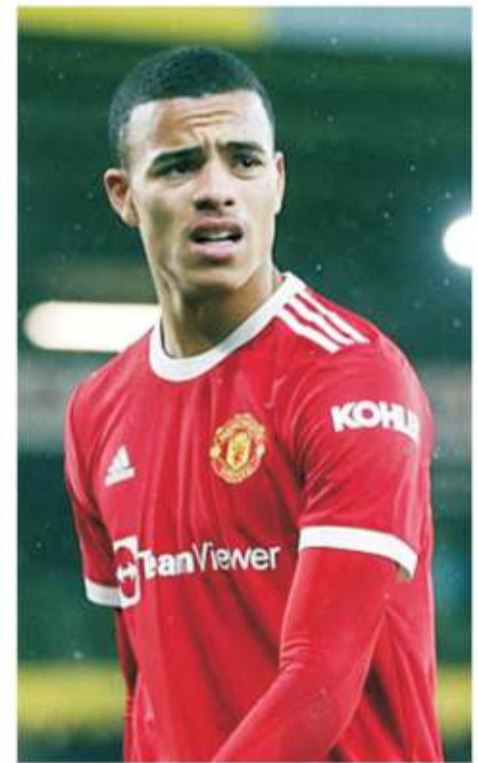
'As an example, when it comes to VAWG (violence against women and girls), less than 1 per cent of rapes reported to police lead to conviction. We've all seen and heard enough. Pretending this is ok would be a huge part of the problem.'

After Monday's update, she reposted a tweet which read: 'Something necessary to point out.'

'Greenwood's statement states that Greenwood was 'Cleared of all charges'. Mason Greenwood has never been cleared of any charges. The charges were dropped by the accuser.'

It was later reported that Man United are facing calls to donate any potential transfer fee for Greenwood to domestic abuse charities.

He has attracted the interest of a number of clubs in Europe and the Middle East, and Mail Sport understands that he will either leave on loan or have his contract settled - with club sources stressing he won't



play for the club again.

United are yet to clarify whether Greenwood will command a transfer fee but The Telegraph have reported they are facing pressure should they look to cash in on the England forward.

Natalie Curtis, a domestic abuse survivor, speaking to The Telegraph said: 'It seems wrong that anyone should profit from the Mason Greenwood situation that has been horrific for survivors.'

'If anything, if there is a transfer fee, it should be donated to a domestic abuse charity such as Women's Aid.'

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

Chelsea suffer another blow as club issue new Carney Chukwuemeka injury update

Chelsea youngster Carney Chukwuemeka is set for a spell on the sidelines after he underwent knee surgery on Monday night.

The Blues confirmed the news today after the 19-year-old went off injured during their 3-1 defeat to West Ham on Sunday.

It was a mixed day for the youngster who scored his first goal for the Blues to level the score after 28 minutes.

But he was seen hobbling off the pitch as the first-half came to a close and was replaced for the start of the second period.

Chukwuemeka underwent surgery after suffering a knee injury and is set to be out of action for around six weeks.

It comes despite the midfielder stating on Instagram last night that he will be back soon.

He wrote: 'God thank you for blessing me with my first goal for Chelsea. A moment I've prayed so hard for and dreamt of since I was a kid.'

'I know your plans for me are greater than my own. Nobody can stop what you have already written for me this season.'

'Minor setback but I will be back stronger than ever. Thank you Chelsea fans for your love and support. See you soon.'

He is the latest player to join the injury list this season, with new captain Reece James set to be out for a month after suffering a hamstring injury in training ahead of their clash with West Ham.

Their £52m summer signing Christopher Nkunku also suffered a knee injury after damaging his meniscus during pre-season and is unlikely to play before December.



© Dave Shipland/Shutterstock

Wesley Fofana had surgery over the summer after damaging his anterior cruciate ligament and is

also set to be out of action for a lengthy period.

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



With Sahr Morris Jr. Tel 878-426693

CAF Champions League: Bo Rangers set up CR Belouizdad reunion

Sierra Leone Premier League champion, Bo Rangers, will be keen for a reunion clash with Algeria side, CR Belouizdad after eliminating Liberia champion LISCR in the first preliminary round of this season's TotalEnergies CAF Champions League.

Having dumped the Liberian Champions from this year's tournament, the Elephant Boys from the Southern Region will now take on the Algeria side, CR Belouizdad in the second preliminary round of the tournament in another two legged tie.

The nine times Algerian title holders eliminated Bo Rangers from the tournament the last time out after a 3:0 aggregate win as the Algerian side forced a goalless draw at home in the first- leg at the Liberia, SKD stadium.

The reunion tie will see Bo Rangers host CR

Belouizdad at the Southern Arena in Bo on the 14 September before traveling to Algeria for the second leg on 28 September.

With the final round of first preliminary fixtures concluded, Bo Rangers are one of the several fixtures to have produced interesting outcomes of the tournament as LISCR were stunned at home by the Sierra Leone champions with a narrow 1-0 victory which saw them through on a 2-1 aggregate scoreline, following last week's draw where each side found the back of the net once.

In Malawi, Big Bullets finished off the job at home with a 1-0 win over Dragon FC of Equatorial Guinea. The Malawians came into the clash with a comfortable 2-0 away win which set them up for a comfortable finish at home to secure a place in the next round.

On the western part of the continent,



Cameroon's Coton Sport de Garoua failed to capitalize on home ground advantage after Real Bamako of Mali overcame them 2-0 to advance to the next stage.

A lot was expected of the Cameroonians who held their opponents to a goalless draw in the first leg, however it was not meant to be as the Malians capitalized on their chances to edge their hosts in a tense affair.

In Nigeria, Remo Stars SC welcomed Medeama SC of Ghana who travelled to Nigeria with a slender 1-0 lead from the first leg.

Needing just a draw to march through, the

Ghanaians had to do it through the lottery of penalties after Stars found a goal in the dying minutes for the tie to be decided on penalties which went 4-3 in favour of the Ghanaians.

Continuing with the action in the western part of the continent, Ivorian giants, Asec Mimosas made use of home ground advantage after defeating Coton Sport of Benin by 2-0 following a 0-0 away draw.

Al Ahli Tripoli's 1-0 win over Nouadhibou FC of Mauritania was not enough to see them through after narrowly missing out with the final aggregate score being 2-1 in favour of the Mauritians to see them through.

New Sports Minister assures SWASAL



The new Minister of Sports, Madam Augusta James Teima, has assured the Sports Writers Association of Sierra Leone (SWASAL) of his government and ministry's continued support and partnership towards the development of sports in the country.

Madam James-Teima, who received the SWASAL Executive on a courtesy call, thanked the SWASAL Executive and its membership for their continuous support towards sports and sports development in the country.

She said: "Your presence here today shows we want to continue working with you because you are doing a huge task towards the development and promotion of sports, and I want to urge you, don't consider yourself out of the ministry, we are now working on getting administrative presence in all area of sports administration in the country."

Reacting to the SWASAL President, Sahr Morris Jr call on the need to working together towards capacity building of its members as

well as further partnership in other areas not limited to collaboration in hosting sports awards, the Minister said they will work with the sports journalist body and the National Olympic Committee of Sierra Leone to achieve the capacity building goal.

She said: "We will work with the parent body and we will go through your Association to make things work because if we divide you then we are dividing ourselves. SWASAL and the Ministry of Sports are partners in development we will be work together and want you not to only serve as witch-hunters but better relationship partner."

Earlier, the SWASAL President, Sahr Morris Jr, congratulated the new Minister on behalf of the Association and thanked President Julius Maada Bio for appointing her as the first female Sports Minister.

"We'll give our support to you and your ministry to see how best our relationship will help towards the improvement of sports in our country" the SWASAL President said and looks forward to further engagement.

CAF Confederations Cup prelims: Dreams FC set up clash with Kallon FC



Dreams FC will face Sierra Leonean club, FC Kallon in the final round of the CAF Confederations Cup qualifiers after they gain a walkover over Nigerien side AS Douanes due to the political unrest in the country.

The Ghana Premier League side recorded a 2-1 win over Milo FC in the return leg of the first leg of the CAF Confederations Cup games at the Accra Sports Stadium on Sunday afternoon. Milo FC took the lead in the encounter as the visitors went to recess with a goal advantage. After the break, Dreams FC

uplifted their game and levelled pegging through Agyenim Boateng, who scored from the spot.

The game seems to have ended in a stalemate but experienced attacker John Antwi stepped up and grabbed the match-winner in stoppage time as Dreams FC progressed with a 3-2 aggregated score. Dreams FC will host FC Kallon at the Accra Sports Stadium on September 15 before travelling for the return leg on September 29 at the Southern Arena Stadium in Sierra Leone.