

SADC Head of Mission and Chairperson of the Council of Ministers on the Security Organ Joe Malanji (second left) with former finance minister Katele Kalumba (second right) and other members of the elections observer team in Madagascar

Two cops in court for aggravated robbery

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Two police officers and two Lusaka businessmen have been committed to the High court for trial in a matter where they are alleged to have stolen US\$55,000 belonging to a foreign national.

The four; Kennedy Kabwe, a 30 year-old police officer; Kayombo Mulemwa, a 43 year-old police officer; Jacob Prince Mukandi, a 36 year-old business man and Andy Wasamunu, 31 year-old businessman, are facing one count of aggravated robbery. *To page 7*

Kambwili, Gary's lawyers vow to fight Mosho with vigor

By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili and Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo's lawyers have warned Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho that any attempt he makes to infringe upon their clients' rights will be resisted with vigour against him.

And the lawyers have charged that Mosho's conduct is mischievous and dishonest. *To page 2*

Don't admire rich thieves who're in govt, Chipimo urges citizens

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

National Restoration Party (NAREP) leader Elias Chipimo says Zambians should stop admiring those who

have illicitly acquired wealth.

And Chipimo says his party will write a letter to President Edgar Lungu requesting that investigations

into the death of Vespers Shimuzhila be handled by an independent committee and not police officers who are implicated. *To page 3*

Lungu is just a dramatist using Sata's name for power - GBM

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Edgar Lungu is just a dramatist who has been going round the country using Michael Sata's name to gain political mileage and must be retired in national interest, UPND vice

president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba has said.

In a statement, GBM said it was shameless for President Lungu who has embraced dictatorship to claim that he was fulfilling president Sata's vision. *To page 6*

Ministry of Justice lost K9m in court cases due to worker's negligence - Auditor General

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MUTEMBO ...targets PF HITS BACK stooge with contempt

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By Zondiwe Mbewe

NDC consultant Chishimba Kambwili and Mazabuka UPND member of parliament Gary Nkombo's lawyers have warned Lusaka lawyer Lewis Mosho that any attempt he makes to infringe upon their clients' rights will be resisted with vigour at him. And the lawyers have charged that for Mosho to claim K5 million from their clients as though it's debt, and thereafter proceed to make unsubstantiated threats of commencing bankruptcy proceedings against them, is not only unprofessional, but mischievous and dishonest because the costs have neither been agreed nor taxed. In May, Mosho's law firm, Lewis Nathan

Kambwili, Nkombo's lawyers vow to fight Mosho with vigor

Advocates, wrote to the two parliamentarians demanding K5 million as compensation after the Lusaka High Court threw out the dual's petition to join the impeachment case with costs.

And in a follow-up letter addressed to their lawyers from Malambo and Company, CL Mundia and Company, Keith Mweemba and Advocates and PNP Advocates dated October 26, Lewis Nathan Advocates threatened bankruptcy proceedings.

But in a letter addressed to Mosho dated October 29, Kambwili and Nkombo's lawyer M Haimbe from Malambo and Company observed that the contents in Mosho's last letter made sad reading on account of his deliberate misapprehension of the law regarding party-to-party costs.

"We are in receipt of your letter of October 26, 2018, whose contents make sad and disappointing reading on account of your deliberate

misapprehension of the law regarding party-to-party costs. Going by recent press reports, your letter was no doubt aimed at sensationalising what in effect is a simple and straightforward matter," read the letter.

Haimbe stated that in May, they had replied to Mosho's letter where he was claiming the exorbitant sum as costs, and that they rejected it as it was not reflective of the costs payable for one application.

"As you are aware, on May 28, 2018, we replied to a letter authored by yourselves on May 24, 2018, in which you claimed the exorbitant sum of K5,000,000 as costs for one interlocutory application. In our letter, we made it clear that the sum claimed by you, as costs, was rejected as it is unrealistic, exorbitant and not reflective of the costs payable for one application," read the letter further.

Haimbe charged that for

Mosho to now claim K5 million from their clients as though it was debt and, thereafter, make threats of commencing bankruptcy proceedings against them, was being unprofessional, mischievous and dishonest.

"That you should now claim the said sum as though it is a debt properly due to you by our client and, thereafter, proceed to make unsubstantiated threats of commencing bankruptcy proceedings against our client on that basis is, to say the least, being unprofessional, mischievous and, to all intents and purposes, dishonest, given that your costs have neither been agreed nor taxed," read the letter.

Haimbe stated that Mosho's conduct fell below what was expected of respectable legal practitioners.

"With respect, if any is due under these circumstances, we consider that your conduct falls well below that expected of respectable legal practitioners and definitely falls foul of rules 32 (1)(a)(I) and 38 of the Legal Practitioners Practice rules. That being said, our instructions are to inform you, as we now do, that any attempt to take the unlawful steps you propose in your letter, or indeed any attempt you may make to infringe upon our clients' rights, will be resisted with vigour at you and your client's ultimate costs," read the letter.

Ministry of Justice lost K9m in court cases through negligence - AG report

By Abraham Kalito

The Auditor General's report has revealed that loss of funds due to negligence at the Ministry of Justice has increased to more than K9 million in 2017 from K2 million in 2015 following an increase in negligence among the workers.

And the auditor general's report revealed that 188 farmers from Kapiri Mphoshi who had their e-voucher cards loaded with money were non-Zambian nationals.

According to the report for the financial year ended 31st December 2018, a total amount of K11,448,709 in respect of 59 cases was paid by the Ministry for cases where officers neglected, omitted or failed to follow procedures in their duty.

"Loss of Public Funds through negligence by public workers During the period under review, a total amount of K11,448,709 in respect of 59 cases was paid by the ministry for cases where officers neglected, omitted or failed to follow procedures in their duty. However, contrary to Part III Sub-section (1)(e) of the Financial Regulations which requires that officers who cause liability to the government through neglected, omitted or failed to follow procedures in their duty should be held liable for the loss and damage caused, as at 31st July 2018, no recoveries

had been made from the concerned officers. A review of the trend from 2015 to 2017 revealed the number of cases had increased from nine with amounts totalling K2,606,049 in 2015 to 59 cases with amounts totalling K9,091,200 in 2017. However, no progress had been made as at 31st July 2018 regarding recovery of funds from the officers who had cost the Government to incur the expenditure," read the report.

And the auditor general's report revealed that 188 farmers from Kapiri Mphoshi who had their e-voucher cards loaded with a total amount of K376,000 were non-Zambian nationals.

"Kapiri Mphoshi During the 2017/2018 farming season, one hundred and 188 farmers from Kapiri Mphoshi who had their e-voucher cards loaded with a total amount of K376,000 were non-Zambian nationals. A comparison of the list of depositors on ZIAMIS to the list of approved beneficiaries revealed that 4,633 farmers who made contributions in amounts totalling K2,455,732 were not appearing on the list of approved beneficiaries. It was also observed that 2,072 farmers who had paid farmers contributions in amounts totalling K828,800 were not appearing on the approved list of farmers and their cards were not loaded with

farmers contributions," read the report.

"It was not clear how the farmers were allowed to deposit the farmers' contributions when they were not on the approved list. Duplication of Deposits at Participating Banks According to bank statements from participating banks, 828 farmers paid farmers contributions totalling K662,400 to the participating banks while the ZIAMIS indicated that the 828 farmers paid K331,200 resulting in a variance of K331,200."

Meanwhile the report revealed that the Zambia Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies failed to remit Pay As You Earn amounting to K887, 892.

"Failure to Remit Pay As You Earn - Zambia Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies. A scrutiny of records revealed that during the year under review, a total amount of K887,892 was paid to seven employees as gross salaries. It was however observed that although Pay As You Earn (PAYE) in amounts totalling K220,808 was deducted from the employees' salaries, as at 31st August 2018, the Institution had only remitted K47,250 to the Zambia Revenue Authority leaving a balance of K173,558. In addition, a total amount of K19,627 was paid to officers as commutation of leave days, without deducting PAYE."

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By Sipilisiwe Ncube
National Restoration Party (NAREP) leader Elias Chipimo says Zambians should stop admiring those who have illicitly acquired wealth. And Chipimo says his party will write a letter to President Edgar Lungu requesting that investigations into the death of Vespers Shimuzhila be handled by an independent committee and not police officers are implicated in the case. At a press conference at the party secretariat yesterday, Chipimo urged citizens to stop admiring those who had acquired illicit wealth. "Fellow Zambians, we have to stop admiring those who have acquired wealth illicitly. We must begin to demand the

Stop admiring thieves, Chipimo urges Zambians

standard of accountability from ourselves and from our leaders. Let us begin this proves by committing time to sending a clear message to the republican president and those that stand with him in a complicity of silence and neglect. Let us inform them that we are calling time on this presidency in 2021. In 2021, tuleya ku Chipimo (in 2021, we are voting for Chipimo)," Chipimo said.

And Chipimo said NAREP would write to President Lungu requesting him to constitute an independent inquiry into Vespers' death. "What has been the reaction of our leaders? A. withholding of a report into the cause of Vespers' death; a decision not to appoint an independent and impartial committee to investigate fully what really transpired and to get to the source of culpability

– who gave the order, how actions by a handful of students in a road nearly half a kilometer away resulted in the death of a student asleep in her bed. We ask again: why would a leader who loved his people not institute a commission of inquiry into the death of Vespers Shimunzhila? The family will not let this matter rest – and rightfully so. If we care about our own children and any of our

own brothers and sisters, we too should not let this matter rest. NAREP will be writing a letter to the republican president requesting that this matter be handled by an independent committee and not the very police whose officers have been implicated in this serious matter," Chipimo said. Meanwhile, Chipimo observed that there were too many scandals in the PF. "You know with this government, there are so many scandals that need to be addressed [and] you can end up spending your whole life in court just dealing with the scandals that were produced this year alone. Forget about the previous years that President Lungu and his administration have been in power. In fact the size of the scandals just depends on how much you are ready to look because they don't stop and we haven't even scratched the surface. So court action is one course that can be pursued but I think we have to be ready to plan how we are going to move forward on these court matters," Chipimo said.

as if it's normal. It's not normal. We have a slim opportunity between now and a build up to 2021 to ensure that the leaders that we put into power, come 2021 are those who will protect our heritage and build this country. There is too much division in our country, there is too much of the 'me' syndrome and that is seen so clearly of the lavish life style of the people that we put into power. Leaders should eat last," he said. "And I understand [that] many Zambians out there are scared, they are fearful. Maybe it's about their jobs, maybe it's about an opportunity to supply a government agency or government departments, maybe it's a concern about an advantage they can acquire by being connected to those who happen to be in power. These are real issues and I don't want to minimize them, but there is something much bigger at stake and it requires brave men and women to stand up and say 'enough is enough.' The fears of many citizens are justifiable and by the way, I wouldn't be saying what I am saying if I was fearful. Very few Zambians seem to be ready to stand up and call it incompetence and corruption than what it really is, ready to put their neck on the line. Coming to the question, is it justifiable? For sure, there is too much dependence in this country. The economy is not helping individuals. So we need ordinary Zambians to stand up and say 'I will take a stand against what is wrong in this country.' Chipimo also said that his party supported a ZCID led dialogue. "We as NAREP are supporting the Zambia centre for Inter-party Dialogue process. That is a process that we have been a part of helping to.... sadly, we are not seeing the commitment that would be required by all stakeholders. [But] that does not mean that it's a perfect process, it has its own problems and challenges but just like any situation that seems to have challenges, you don't throw it away. You do what you can to fix it," said Chipimo.



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All Peoples Congress APC

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Former DPP Mutembo Nchito has applied for leave in the Constitutional Court to commence contempt proceedings against PF sympathiser Chanoda Ngwira for threatening Supreme Court justices Mumba Malila and Albert Wood with criminal action if they did not step down in five days.

On Thursday, Chanoda wrote letters to justices Malila and Wood, threatening them with criminal action for giving witness statements in a matter in which Mutembo is challenging his removal as DPP in the Constitutional Court.

The court had ordered Mutembo to furnish witness statements, but in his letters Chanoda gave justices Malila and Wood

Mutembo wants PF surrogate cited for contempt of court

five days to step down as judges for accepting to act as witnesses on behalf of Mutembo.

However, in ex-parte summons for leave to commence contempt proceedings filed in the Constitutional Court, Mutembo applied that Chanoda should be committed to prison for contempt of Court.

Mutembo stated in his skeleton arguments in support of the application for leave to commence contempt proceedings, that Chanoda's threats

against the judges tended to lower the dignity of the Court.

He noted that Chanoda clearly thought that the proceedings before the Constitutional Court were a joke and did not deserve his respect.

"This is an act of blatant disregard for the proceedings before this Court which tends to lower the dignity of this Court. The alleged contemnor's actions are a very thinly veiled threat against the witnesses intending to testify before

this Court. The alleged contemnor went so far as to display his letters on his Facebook page. The letter he displayed bore stamps of acknowledgements from the various officers he had served his letter on including their Ladyships and the Lordships' offices," he stated.

"Clearly, the contemnor thinks the proceedings before this Court are a joke that does not deserve his respect. It is on the basis of the above that the Petitioner herein now applies for leave to

commence contempt proceedings against the alleged contemnor."

Mutembo observed that the Rules of the Supreme Court were clear that any acts aimed at victimising persons who had testified or were yet to give testimony, constituted contempt of court.

And in a statement supporting an application for leave to apply for an order of committal, Mutembo stated that Chanoda's conduct of writing to the two judges was calculated to prejudice

the due course of justice in the case.

"The alleged contemnor's conduct of writing to Justices Malila and Wood and threatening them with criminal action for giving witness statements in a matter in which this Court ordered the Petitioner to furnish witness statements and copying the said letter to the Judges presiding over this cause, is calculated to prejudice the due course of justice in this case," Mutembo stated.

Meanwhile, Mutembo stated in an affidavit verifying facts, that if Chanoda's threats against the two judges went without sanction, it threatened to diminish the dignity of the Court.

"On October 29, 2018 the alleged contemnor wrote letters to Justice Malila and Justice Wood threatening them with criminal action for giving witness statements in this cause. That the contemnor has gone so far as to publicise the acknowledgment of receipt from the chambers of Judges of this Court and others," read the affidavit.

"That the threats by the alleged contemnor were replayed in the ZBNC NEWS at 19:00 hours on October 29, 2018 including an interview which also repeated the threats. That if the blatant disrespect for the processes of this Court by the alleged contemnor goes without sanction, it threatens to diminish the dignity of this Court."

Government to use electronic data collection methods in 2020 census

By Abraham Kalito

Ministry of National Development Planning Permanent Secretary Chola Chabala says government will use electronic data collection and Computer assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) methods in the 2020 population census to improve data collection.

Speaking during a census mobilisation meeting in Lusaka, Tuesday, Chabala said a paper and pencil approach to the 2020 census was neither sustainable nor cost effective.

"A census is unique, it provides us with the opportunity not only for getting accurate and comprehensive numbers at national, but also at village, locality, suburb, ward, constituency, district and provincial levels. The detail of census results is invaluable for both national and local policy formation, planning and the effective targeting of resources. It provides the only source of directly comparable statistics both for small areas and different population groups. It is also used as a reference base for many statistical series such as population estimates and projections and sample surveys. Every census has its unique features – new developments and innovations to meet changing user needs, to reflect evolving socio-demographic and economic circumstances, and to embrace new methodologies and technologies," Chabala said.

"The 2010 census was a

breakthrough for its time. Many operational advances were successfully introduced in 2010 such as Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) and Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) which facilitated data capture of 3.2 million questionnaires. For each census since 1969, pen and paper has been the standard and it is increasingly being challenged by the processing time, transportation cost, storage facilities, data quality and other intermediary costs. I, do not believe that a paper and pencil approach to the census is sustainable for the 2020 or future censuses. It is no longer cost effective and more importantly, is not environmentally sustainable.

The 2020 census project plan that the government has prepared, through, central statistical office, includes a number of innovations that will allow us to achieve a modern census for the 21st century. We are proposing to use mobile technology. Therefore, the 2020 census will be the first of its kind in Zambia to be conducted using electronic data collection methodology – Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). This will improve the quality of data collected and reduce the time-lag between data collection and the dissemination of results."

He said the 2020 census would also present citizens with another an opportunity to answer questions about what they would want Zambia to be in future.

"We have seen the value of

censuses in the past. From the previous census which took place in 2010, the findings were very insightful, more so at ward level. We discovered that while, in Nchelenge ward of Nchelenge constituency in Nchelenge district, prevalence of child marriage was 4.5 percent, in Nsunga ward of Milengi constituency in Milengi district the rate was at 70.9 percent. The question is, what factors are at play in Nchelenge that can help transpose similar results in Milenge district? So 2020 census will present us with another opportunity to answer questions such as what must the Zambia of tomorrow look like? What policy changes can we initiate to improve the

welbeing of our people? How many schools are we going to build to ensure children of school-going age are adequately catered for? How many hospitals or clinics do we need for our sick people? How much food must we produce now and, in the future, to eradicate hunger and poverty? How many housing units should we build to reduce overcrowdedness?" said Chabala. "For all these questions, it is not enough just to know how many people there are at the time of the census, but we must know also how fast the population is increasing and, how many people there will be in five or more years in the future. The 2020 census will also help us know

how far we are with regards to achieving the global agenda 2030 on sustainable development goals, Africa agenda 2063 for unity, peace and prosperity and Zambia vision 2030 for a prosperous and industrialized country. On their part, are huge and expensive exercises which government alone cannot undertake without the collaborative efforts of other stakeholders; hence this meeting of technical experts from cooperating partners has been called to appreciate the resource requirement of a population and housing census and influence resource allocation from their budgets to facilitating the conducting of 2020 census."

Mama Kankasa's legacy will live on - Phiri

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Minister of Gender Elizabeth Phiri says Mama Chibesakunda Kankasa's legacy of liberating Zambia and advocating for the rights of women and girls will forever be remembered.

In a statement issued by Ministry of Gender media liaison officer Mwape Mwenya, Tuesday, Phiri implored womens' movements to emulate her assertiveness in advocating for the rights of women and girls.

"The Hon. Minister has said Mama Kankasa who served as Minister for women affairs between 1969 and 1988 advocated for expanded women's rights such as paid maternity leave which has lived on until today. She said Mama Kankasa championed gender equality by ensuring that women and men were given equal opportunities in decision making positions. She said her attitude towards upholding the rights of women and girls had no political inclination

and it should serve as a lesson to all women in decision making positions," stated Mwenya.

"Mrs Phiri has said Mama Kankasa was a champion for peace during elections as she denounced violence especially involving women and the youth. The Hon. Minister has urged the nation to mourn the gallant woman with the dignity she deserves. Mrs Phiri has said that the nation will miss a gallant woman who during her life insisted on increased access to education for girls in rural and urban areas."

Meanwhile, NGOCC board chairperson Sara Longwe described Mama Kankasa as a hero in a separate statement.

"Her death has without doubt robbed the country of yet another gallant woman and hero who fought for our country's independence. As a women's movement we have lost an icon that was an inspiration to the young women.

Mama Kankasa and other women that participated in the freedom struggle are an epitome of what women's resilience and courageous leadership can achieve if accorded the opportunity," stated Longwe.

"At a time Zambia is grappling with low numbers of women in decision making, the death of such an icon should be a reminder on the need for equal participation of both women and men in leadership. It is also to recognize that the struggle for women's emancipation from vulnerability and exclusion is real and requires collective effort. As a way to honor this gallant woman, we appeal to the government to ensure that they put in place measures that will guarantee the 50-50 participation of both women and men in decision making positions. On behalf of NGOCC, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Kankasa family."

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

Edgar Lungu is just a dramatist who has been going round the country using Michael Sata's name to gain political mileage and must be retired in national interest, UPND vice president Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba has said.

In a statement, GBM said it was shameless for President Lungu who has embraced dictatorship to claim that he was fulfilling president Sata's vision.

"As UPND, we are disturbed with lies perpetuated by the Patriotic Front and Edgar Lungu that he is fulfilling late president Michael Chilufya Sata's legacy when he has betrayed it completely. It is very shameful and disrespectful for Edgar, who has embraced dictatorship, plunged the country into debt and poverty to shamelessly claim that he is fulfilling late president Sata's vision. How can someone claim to uphold the legacy of Sata when he has relegated all those who were close to him such as Honourable Harry Kalaba, Dr. Chishimba Kambwili, Mwenya Musenge as well as sidelining the late Head of State's close

Lungu is just a dramatist using Sata's name to stay in power, charges GBM

associates such as Kelvin Bwalya Fube (KBF) whom he has subjected to a lot of persecution for merely reviewing his poor leadership?" GBM wondered.

He charged that President Lungu had failed to live upto the expectations of the poor.

"Edgar Lungu has failed to abide by pro-poor policies and this is evident with the poverty levels among the Zambian people. Does Edgar think late President could have increased his salary leaving the civil service wallowing in abject poverty with their valueless salaries? Vincent Mwale who called us names while in the MMD has today been given the front row while

all Mr.Sata's appointees have been recalled by Edgar Lungu Who claims to know the founding fathers' vision but opts to do the complete opposite," he stated.

"It is a fact that Edgar has betrayed the vision of the man who founded the Patriotic Front by even going to an extent of embracing those that ridiculed bashi Chilufya to his death bed such as Dora Siliya who I recall using all sorts of demeaning names against him. But today Dora is in 'Sata's Cabinet'. Kaizer Zulu was fired by late President Sata but he is at State House with Edgar today while Bowman Lusambo, who marshalled a tireless and a brutal crusade against Mr

Sata prior to 2011 whilst he served in the portfolio of MMD National Youth Chairman is today the darling of the PF. Is all this iwe Edgar Sata's vision? 'kanshi waba shani wila bepa ubufi (what kind of man are you and stop lying," GBM further stated." GBM accused President Lungu of having erected thicker walls of segregation and impunity as opposed to what Sata stood for.

"Sata's vision of a stable society anchored on equality before the law has been trampled underfoot by Lungu who has chosen to erect thicker walls of segregation, injustice, lawlessness, impunity and dictatorship, a thing that Sata wouldn't allow when

he was alive. It is not so long ago that we saw someone together with his clueless political partner, Rupiah Banda brought divisive ways of tearing the country apart such as "wako ni wako", a feat which Mr Sata would not have condoned. The embattled Lungu's blatant lies that he has not deviated from the virtues that Mr Sata stood for, makes the autocratic leader the biggest deceiver that Zambia has had since independence," GBM charged.

"While Sata loved the grassroots of the country to an extent of allowing vendors to trade freely on the streets, Lungu, unleashed a battalion of defence forces to sweep the

streets off the helpless street vendors and robbed them of their source of income and livelihood. Minister of Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo am sure recalls that late President Sata vehemently rejected her request as Minister of Local Government and Housing by then to send the street vendors away from the streets. I said it and I will say it again and again that late President Sata's soul is turning and twisting in his grave following the poverty and lack of attention of the people from the Party he founded. Edgar has failed even a young child knows and if he thinks he can gain mileage over a dead person's name, that won't work because his performance has been monitored and reviewed and it's a matter of time," he stated.

GBM demanded that the PF stops using Sata's name. "It is shameful and inhuman for Edgar and his Party to embark on using Sata's name during the campaigns as was the case in Mangango. Indeed Edgar is a dramatist and Zambians have known and are waiting for 2021 when they will fire him

this time truly in National interest. I am appealing to Edgar and his new Patriotic Front to stop using late President Sata's name for political mileage. Those that loved and followed him are hurting especially when they see that those who were hurting and denouncing their father are now the ones enjoying his fruits" stated GBM.

NRDC reopening excites ZANASU

By Sipilisiwe Ncube

The National Resources Development College (NRDC) will reopen today, after being shut down on October 16 following riots. The students had rioted against management's decision not to allow all those who failed some examinations to proceed in their studies.

And in a statement yesterday, ZANASU information and publicity secretary Assa Willie commended government for agreeing to reopen the institution.

"The Zambia National Students Union (ZANASU) welcomes the decision by Government and the National Resources Development College (NRDC) to reopen the college this Wednesday and calls on students and Management to always pursue dialogue in resolving problems that lead to demonstrations and premature closure of institutions of higher learning. ZANASU commends the Ministries of Agriculture, Higher Education and NRDC Management for reaching a decision which has been made in the best interest of students as indefinite closure of institutions of higher learning can have adverse impact on student

progression and the reputation of an institution of higher learning," Willie stated.

"In the last few days, ZANASU had, in the background been working with students at NRDC and visited the institution to persuade management to reopen the institution and we thank NRDC students for remaining calm and focused."

She stated that closing down institutions whenever problems arose was not the solution.

"We however wish to remind authorities that closure of institutions of higher learning when problems arise never resolves the core problems that gives rise to discontent among students. Both students and authorities must always engage each other on resolving problems before such escalate into demonstrations that can avoided at all costs. We are aware of the Zambia Institute for Business and Information Technology (ZIBSIP) that remains closed to date and call for intervention by government to have the college reopened. For this reason, ZANASU remains resolute in our calls to recognise and strengthen students' unions as a vehicle in which authorities and management have an

equal platform to dialogue. The existence and respect for Students' Unions in institutions of higher learning must be encouraged and viewed as platform for which authorities can effectively engage students

in redressing problems that affect them," stated Willie.

"We thus call on Government to expedite the process of allowing activities of students' unions in other institutions of higher learning such as Copperbelt

University, Chalimbana University, Nkrumah University, among other public institutions without student leadership. This situation is not desirable and we appeal to authorities to correct this situation."

Below normal rainfall could heighten food insecurity - IAPRI

By Stuart Lisulo

The risks posed by normal to below normal rainfall this farming season demand for urgent contingency plans to mitigate against high levels of food insecurity, says the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI).

According to data compiled by IAPRI in its September Food Security Report released, Monday, IAPRI cautioned that farmers need to be aware of the risks posed by the normal to below normal rainfall pattern that is expected to envelope vast swathes of the country. This follows a medium-term weather forecast released by the Zambia Meteorological Department, which reveals that rainfall for November and December this year will be normal to below normal in at least nine provinces of the country, with a likelihood of late onset of rains, likely to happen in late November over most parts of the country.

Normal to above normal rainfall pattern is not expected until the first

two months of the New Year, data shows.

"The likelihood of having normal rainfall offers a break for normal agricultural production, whereas risks are eminent with below-average rainfall. Among these risks include: false rain starts and dry spells, limited availability of water - consequently poor pastures for livestock and high temperatures - causing crop, and livestock stress," IAPRI stated in its Food Security Report.

"Risks posed by possible below-average rainfall demand alertness and contingency strategies. To begin with, timely access to agricultural inputs is vital, good agricultural practices, such as crop diversification and other fitting climate-smart agricultural practices should be encouraged as well as the adoption of different crop varieties - early to late maturity, and drought tolerant varieties."

IAPRI, the agro-focused think-tank and agricultural policy research and

outreach institute, emphasized the need to re-distribute food from surplus to deficit areas to alleviate food insecurity risks.

According to IAPRI data, the food security situation is projected to deteriorate in 19 districts with an estimated 954,199 people affected during the "hunger period", which typically occurs between this month and next March.

"With the current mixed food security situation in selected districts, there is a need for an effective food distribution system from the surplus to the deficit areas. To facilitate this, improvement in infrastructure, such as roads within and between the surplus and deficit areas remains vital," stated IAPRI.

"In areas where food insecurity is highly likely to occur going into the lean period as identified by the (Southern African Development Community [SADC] Regional) vulnerability assessment, food security monitoring activities will be essential."



BUILDING WITH KASONDE

Kasonde Mwenda C is a Registered Consultant Architect (B.Arch, MZIA), Buildings Inspector and Author.

...Only in **Diggers!**
Ear to the ground

Independence for Rent

It was late at night and aunt Jully was beginning to get nervous. The party that had started around 18:00hrs was almost ending but Janice her niece was nowhere to be seen. It was not a large crowd at this late hour and it was not supposed to be difficult to spot her tall exquisitely dressed niece from this little crowd of about fifteen people. The last time Janice was seen by anyone was when she was dancing with her ex-boyfriend whom she had invited over to this home party but he too was looking for her so whatever had happened in the last hour at that eve of Independence Day family bash had made Janice disappear in thin air. The disappearing of Janice at that family party was of no concern at first but as the music and activity faded down towards midnight, it was no longer possible to ignore the fact that Janice was missing. What had started off as an exciting party was slowly turning into a nightmare as the reality of Janice's disappearance sunk in. 'Dear family. Thank you for everything. I am sure the time you are finding this note it is already past midnight. Happy Independence Day to you all. Since Zambia got her independence today in 1964, I too have gotten my independence today the 24th October 2018. Sorry I left without saying bye but I am now independent! With love Janice.' Read the note that bashi Robby found at the entrance to Janice's bedroom that night. With that revelation everybody calmed down and went to sleep knowing that Janice was on top of things and she had not just disappeared but had purposely left home through independence. Days turned into months and months almost turned into a year before anything was heard from Janice. It was only six day before a year passed since Janice left in pursuit of her independence and her aunt was washing dishes after dinner when she heard a familiar cough outside the kitchen door of her house.

'Janice, is that you?' Aunt Jully called out to a dark figure pacing to and fro her veranda. 'Yeo, yes auntie, it's me Janice,' the figure in the dark responded. For sure it was Janice. She was back but before aunt Jully could throw a tantrum at her for not having been communicating ever since she left, uncle Robby chipped in and welcome her in. Janice was clever, she had chosen to return to her auntie's house on the National day of prayer and reconciliation so whatever had happened was water under the bridge because everyone was in the prayer mood. Why did Janice come back and decided to live under her aunt's roof despite having attained her independence? Janice has refused to explain why she no longer wants to be independent and free but she doesn't need to because everybody knows why. The answer is obvious, she had everywhere to go but nowhere to live. When all is said and done, everyone returns home and it is only when the music and lustre of life fades down when some people realize that they too need to have a house to return to. Janice was lucky to have returned to her auntie's house but not everyone is that lucky. It should not take someone to retire from work and be kicked out of an institutional house to realize that they need their own house. We all need to have a house of our own and it is never too late to start building one. If we have already built one, it is equally important to start looking beyond self especially if you have many children and dependants. There is death to everything that live and sometimes death comes before retirement or before one becomes rich. Procrastination is a thief of time, time to start building is now. Besides preparing for the unforeseen, building is also a form of investment that one can start investing in early in life. Even people who are still

in school or just recently employed also need to start with whatever they have. While it is advisable and important to start with buying a plot, that may not always be possible due to many circumstances and challenges that encumber our lives especially the youth. If one is not in a position to buy land, it is advisable to consider going to build in any nearby customary land. Chiefs do not discriminate against any tribe so regardless of your tribe you can approach any chieftdom and ask for land to build a house. Unless otherwise, customary land is given for free to people who ask the right authorities. Once that land is secured, then one can start slowly. For those with low income, you do not need to build a big house at once, you need to look for a house plan that is extendable. Please note that not all houses are practically extendable. Some houses get deformed and weakened when extended. It is therefore important to ask architects to make you a plan that is extendable without the final house looking like it is an old jacket being patched up. Of course architects are not that many but most of them are understanding and they will be glad to help at an affordable fee. In a nutshell, whatever your circumstance you need to start building if you haven't started to those who have started, please make sure you finish that building because if a building is allowed to overstay without being finished it starts to become a cost and may end up becoming a burden on you instead of it being a blessing. Build your house today and be independent. Unless you have your own house. You will never be independent. There is no independence for rent. Building is great investment, do it right.

Wherever we want to go; our feet shall take us there.

By Zondiwe Mbewe

Two police officers and two Lusaka businessmen have been committed to the High court for trial in a matter where they are alleged to have stolen \$55,000 belonging to a foreign national. The four; Kennedy Kabwe, a 30 year-old police officer; Kayombo Mulemwa, a 43 year-old police officer; Jacob Prince Mukandi, a 36 year-old business man and Andy Wasamunu, 31 year-old businessman, are facing one count of agravated robbery. Particulars of the offence allege that on September 24, 2018, the accused jointly and whilst acting together with other persons unknown did

Two cops, businessmen in court for aggravated robbery

steal \$55,000, the property of Manuea Chumporn Thanakrit, an Indian national. At the time of the alleged theft, the four allegedly used actual bodily harm on the victim in order to get the said money. Earlier when the matter came up before magistrate David Simusamba for explanation of the charge, Tuesday, a defence lawyer representing the third

accused person, Keith Mweemba informed the court that his client's properties among them a Toyota Hilux, two air tickets, an NRC, a wallet, ATM cards and a Techno phone among other things, were siezed by the police without a seizure notice. He added that the police were fully aware that it was illegal to get an item from any person without issuing

a seizure notice. "The police got the motor vehicle with these items long after the purported offence when the brother to A3 went to take food for him at police cells. You must issue a legal document known as a seizure notice if you are seizing an item and the person to whom you are seizing is entitled to have a copy of that seizure notice," he said.

He therefore applied for immediate release of his client's properties. In response, the state argued that the siezed properties were exhibits in the matter adding that giving them back to the accused person would be prejudicial to the case. However, magistrate Simusamba granted the defence's application in the absence of a siezure notice. He however advised the

defence to apply for an order for the properties to be returned. At this point, the state informed the court that the Director of Public Prosecutions had issued instructions to commit the suspects to the High Court for trial. Magistrate Simusamba then informed the suspects that they would be appearing in the High Court.

Two PF officials from Matero Constituency have dragged their party Secretary General Davies Mwila to court seeking an order to declare the intra-party elections held last month, null and void.

These officials from Kapwepwe Ward 25 are complaining that there was massive rigging in the intra-party electoral process, to an extent that voters were drawn from illegal and unverified registers, a move that disadvantaged other contenders.

“The unorthodox activities alluded to were fraudulent and unfair, and as such, negatively affected the reliability of any purported results that have been disclosed. The election was supposed to be conducted on the basis of the branch registers, however, despite 29 branch registers having been verified, the Election Committee permitted five other branch registers to be included for purposes of election without being verified in a transparent manner,” Ward Chairman Charles Kabwe and Secretary Christopher Mumbi told the Lusaka High Court.

This may seem like a trivial matter because it involves a very small area of ward officials, but that

News Diggers!

Ear to the ground

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If PF can rig intra-party polls, what more general elections?

is exactly what should concern the people of Zambia. The fact that there can be reports of electoral malpractice involving the ruling party's national election committee at such a lower organ says a lot about the PF's stance on democracy.

Just to be clear, we are not here to offer our opinion on the merits of the matter that has been lodged in the Lusaka High Court, our interest is strictly on the fact that two officials have sounded the alarm that unorthodox activities characterised the intra-party elections in Matero Constituency.

We have observed that the PF is always on top of the roof, preaching

about democracy. They have condemned opposition political parties like the UPND for failing to hold intra-party elections. They claim that they are the most democratic political formation in the land because every now and then, they hold in-house processes of selecting party leaders.

Dear readers; the PF has reached a point where it has no moral right to talk about democracy. If we may ask, of what value is it to hold elections, which only go to aggrieve participants? How wise is it to call for elections where the winners are predetermined? Is that democracy? Isn't that fooling oneself?

This is what is happening in the Patriotic Front. Members have been informed that the party is in the process of electing fresh office bearers and they are free to contest any position ahead of the general convention in 2020. But what has been happening? The top leadership already has a list of new office holders, which the Elections Committee is installing, under the guise of intra-party elections.

Look at what is happening among those who are contesting the chairmanship of Lusaka Province. State House and the Secretary General have a preferred candidate

whom they want to install against the will of the people that will be governed by the named individual. It is the same thing that happened during the adoption process of the mayoral candidate. The majority of the party members wanted someone else, but the bosses in PF commanded otherwise. We wonder why the PF is even calling this installation process as "intra-party" election.

Let the people of Zambia think about the fact that the PF leadership is willing to spend money and time just to ensure that a desired ward chairman 'wins' an election. If that matters so much to the ruling party, what

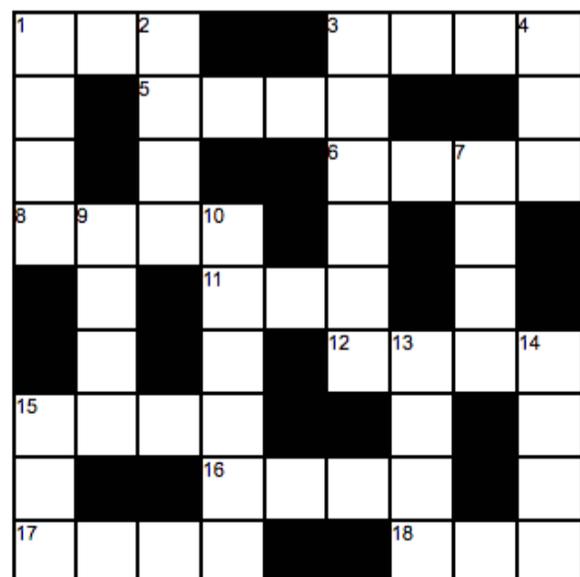
about the general election, which involves presidential candidates? Surely, the PF will kill if that is what it takes to retain power.

It is under these circumstances that we would like to remind the people that what we have in Zambia is not democracy. What we call elections are a criminal process through which those with financial influence and the strongest militia justify their hold to power. It is a process through which criminals justify their access to State resources.

As things stand today, the PF is not looking at means through which they can win the 2021 general elections, they are looking for latest techniques through which they can install a President against the will of the people of Zambia. Quite frankly, this is worse than autocracy, and at least under totalitarianism, citizens are not tortured by the illusion that they have any liberties on national matters.

It is said that a botched or fraudulent democracy is worse than dictatorship; the sad part for Zambia is that the Patriotic Front has given us both. The dictatorship of this regime has the icing of a botched, fraudulent democracy.

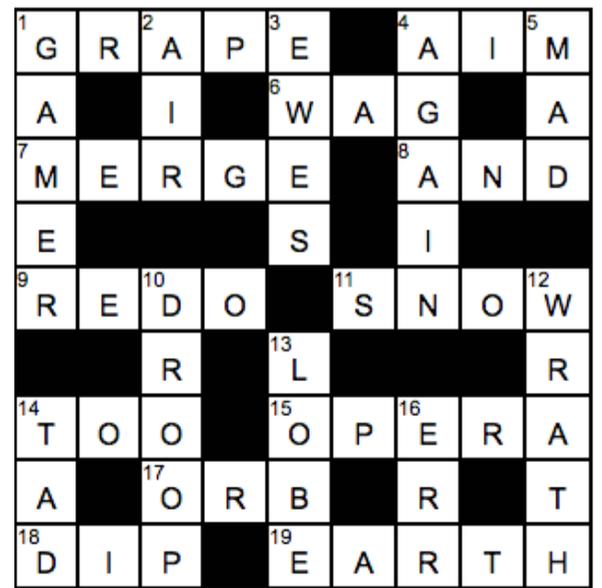
Crossword puzzle 220



“No amount of community policing will cause the common people to accept a known corrupt police department.”
- Steven Magee

- | Across | Down |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. One of the seven dwarfs | 1. Hounds |
| 3. Part of F.Y.I. | 2. Cereal grain |
| 5. Shrek is one | 3. Canary color |
| 6. Not short | 4. Floor covering |
| 8. Ballad, for one | 7. Friendly |
| 11. Before dos | 9. Racetrack shape |
| 12. Garden intruder | 10. Banjo's cousin |
| 15. Level | 13. Concludes |
| 16. Surrounded by | 14. Dreary |
| 17. Closeby | 15. Summer cooler |
| 18. Underwater vessel | |

Solutions to puzzle 219



Reader's feedback

ND OPINION: It's unfair to punish pupils over govt's incompetence

Editor,

"Yeah, rotten system of cadres. Why punish our innocent children??" - Shepherd Shadunka

"On a serious note, govt should find the solution before we see anarchy in this country. These pupils may just become riotous if the situation remains unchecked. It's difficult for teachers to control them when they come to school and school authorities have no news to tell them." - Lexon Sinyangwe

"I wonder what is happening to this system we currently have. In the olden days, the Examination Council of Zambia used to set three papers: A, B and C. If A leaks, then B was going to be utilized, and if it leaks, C was to be used. What happened to such a measure? This government cannot be trusted!!!!!!!" - Steadious Twalumba Chikwikwi

"Some of us have been chiefs in examination administration with zero leakage. This rot is too much." - Kennedy Mwanamakondo

"It just shows how a good system has been abused. No to exams leakages." - Chongo Kanwa

"On this one, I would love to see 2019 calendar disturbed than allowing students to write the leaked papers, which will disadvantage those in boarding schools and

rural areas who may not be in position to have the papers. Let's give them space to do the right thing for the country." - John Bwalya

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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'With or without IMF package, Zambians won't benefit'

"Even if IMF gives you money, it will end up in the hands of thieves, therefore, no adding value to poor Zambians. My suggestion is that better we stand together; youth, women and every well-meaning Zambian to choose a leadership, which has better plans to develop Zambia rather than the current leadership we're seeing today, then IMF can come in to help the new government." - Blessings Blessings

"Sheer waste of time; poor Zambians are not benefiting anything. It's better to stay without." - Inambao Simomo

"I believe they are wolves waiting to get the same money and plunder for their bellies and leave the poor citizenry wallowing in poverty." - Chrispine Simuyemba

"I think the IMF has been clear; they don't agree with the current borrowing plans by the government. So, if government don't agree with them, then they should stop begging the IMF and find another solution." - Michelo Mweetwa

"Give the PF thieves nothing. After getting to money, they will just insult the IMF!" - Scott Davis

Maggie's 'warning' that thieving public servants will be prosecuted

Editor,

"Madam Mwanakatwe, our humble President of the Republic of Zambia and the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces told us that 'ubomba mwibala alya mwibala'." - Eunice Lumonga

"Even those who got CEEC loans and never paid back." - Stanslous Mulenga Kalikiti

"Even ministers that stayed in their offices when Parliament was dissolved and earned illegal salaries

and allowances should be suspended and prosecuted." - Nyirenda Panji Oscar

"This prosecution is only for public servants and not politicians?" - Desmond Mbonshi

"First the Ministers who stayed in office dissolution of Parliament should honour court ruling to pay back all monies ill-gotten during that time. How do the same Ministers award themselves salary increments before paying back what they owe the masses?" - Mateyo F Mulongo

German nurse serial killer on trial over 100 deaths

Former nurse Niels Hoegel, accused of killing more than 100 patients in his care, will go on trial Tuesday in the biggest serial killing trial in Germany's post-war history. Hoegel, 41, has already spent nearly a decade in prison for other patient deaths, and is accused of intentionally administering medical overdoses to victims so he could bring them back to life at the last moment.

He is to face questioning before dozens of victims' anguished loved ones who still hope to learn the full scope of his murder spree.

The trial in Oldenburg, northern Germany, is set to last until at least May, with the first hearing to focus on prosecutors presenting their case.

Hoegel, who is already serving a life term, has confessed to dozens of killings.

Investigators say at least 36 patients were killed at a hospital in Oldenburg where he worked, and about 64 more at a clinic in nearby Delmenhorst, between 2000 and 2005.

"I hope he will be found guilty on each count so that the loved ones can finally find some closure," said Petra Klein, who runs the local chapter of the victims' aid group Weisser Ring.

Around 126 relatives will be co-plaintiffs in the new trial and are expected to fill the specially designated courtroom in Oldenburg, along with about 80 journalists.

More than 130 bodies

of patients who died on Hoegel's watch have been exhumed, in a case

investigators have called "unprecedented in Germany to our knowledge".

Caught in 2005 while injecting an unapproved medication into a patient

in Delmenhorst, Hoegel was sentenced in 2008 to seven years in prison for

attempted murder.

A second trial followed in 2014-15 under pressure from alleged victims' families, who accused prosecutors of dragging their feet.

He was found guilty of murder and attempted murder of five other victims and given the maximum sentence of 15 years.

It was then that Hoegel confessed to his psychiatrist at least 30 more murders committed in Delmenhorst. That prompted investigators to take a closer look at suspicious deaths in Oldenburg.

Investigators say the final toll could top 200 but fear they might never know for sure because the bodies of many potential victims were cremated.

Hoegel appears to have followed a similar procedure each time, first injecting a medication that triggered cardiac arrest, followed by an often futile attempt at resuscitation. **AFP**



Rescue team members prepare to dive at the location where Lion Air flight JT610 crashed into the sea, in the north coast of Karawang regency, West Java province Indonesia, October 30, 2018. **REUTERS/Beawiharta**

Top Palestinian body calls for suspension of Israel recognition

A top Palestinian body authorised the Palestine Liberation Organization

(PLO) to suspend recognition of Israel and stop security coordination

with Tel Aviv. The Palestinian Central Council (PCC) - a body

of the PLO - said the suspensions should be in place until Israel recognises the Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, Palestine's official Wafa news agency reported.

Following a two-day meeting in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, the council said the PLO and Palestinian Authority will also end security coordination and suspend economic agreements as set out under the 1994 Paris Economic Protocol. It also decided to revoke the validity of the Oslo Accords.

The council said the decision was made "in light of Israel's continued denial of the signed agreements".

The decision must be approved by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the PLO Executive Council.

Speaking on Sunday,

Abbas again vowed to block any peace plan led by US President Donald Trump.

Abbas compared the expected Trump peace plan to the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which saw the British government commit to the creation of a state for Jews in historical Palestine.

"If the Balfour Declaration is passed, this deal will not pass," he said.

In December, Trump decided to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Breaking with decades of US policy that favoured a two-state solution, Trump's declaration dealt a blow to the Palestinian leadership, which for more than two decades has unsuccessfully attempted to establish a state on the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

AL JAZEERA

US imposes restrictions on Chinese tech firm

The US Commerce Department on Monday targeted a Chinese tech company with restrictions to cut off access to US technology, saying the firm could harm US security.

President Donald Trump has painted China as an economic threat to the United States and American companies and based his aggressive tariff strategy on the goal of preventing the country from becoming dominant in key technology sectors.

The new restrictions mean US firms will need special approval to export products intended for use by state-owned Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Company, Ltd., according to a statement.

The firm is nearing completion of substantial production capacity for dynamic random access memory (DRAM) integrated circuits, likely to be based on US-technology.

However, that production "threatens the long term economic viability of US suppliers of these essential components of US military systems," the Commerce Department said.

"When a foreign company engages in activity contrary to

our national security interests, we will take strong action to protect our national security," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement.

He said the export restrictions would limit Jinhua's "ability to threaten the supply chain for essential components in our military systems."

China established Jinhua in February 2016 in a bid to make its own home-produced chips, with the firm investing 37 billion yuan (\$5.6 billion) that year to build a production line.

Semiconductors are among China's biggest imports, rivaling oil, and have become a stark reminder of its dependence on US technology.

Earlier this year, Washington banned Chinese telecom and smartphone giant ZTE from purchasing crucial US components for seven years, threatening its survival, as punishment for breaking US export controls.

In a politically charged settlement, Washington then allowed ZTE to resume imports under tough conditions. **AFP**

Three Shia protesters killed in Nigeria's capital, Abuja

Three members of a religious group have been killed in clashes with security forces in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, the army has confirmed. Four soldiers were also injured.

A spokesperson for the Shia group, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), told the BBC members of the group were taking part in a symbolic procession on Monday afternoon when they were attacked by the military.

This latest clash follows violence over the weekend. In a statement, the military said troops were transporting ammunition and missiles from Abuja to Kaduna on Saturday afternoon, when they were attacked by members of IMN.

The IMN has held a series of protests in Abuja over the past year to demand the release of its leader Ibrahim Zakzaky. He has been in government custody since fighting between his supporters and the army broke out in December 2015.. *BBC*



Unexploded shells recovered in the Meuse River are seen on the bank at Sivry-sur-Meuse, close to WWI battlefields, near Verdun, France, October 24, 2018 before the centennial commemoration of the First World War Armistice Day. REUTERS/Pascal Rossignol

Gloves off: India's ruling party underlines Hindu ambitions as elections near

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party has been turning up the heat on some controversial and potentially highly divisive religious issues in recent days, with crucial state elections only weeks away and a general election due by next May.

Top officials from his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have sided with some Hindus defying a court order that scrapped a ban on women of menstruating age from visiting a famous temple in southern India.

At the same time, they and leaders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Hindu-first group from which the BJP was born, are for the first time demanding an urgent executive order that would bypass the Supreme Court, to build a Hindu temple at the site of a mosque in the north of the country.

The destruction of the mosque by a frenzied Hindu mob in 1992 sparked deadly riots across the country.

"There should not even be any debate over it. There's not even any need to involve the courts here," BJP's Giriraj Singh, a federal minister, said on Monday after the top court delayed a hearing

on whether the disputed site should be handed to Hindus or Muslims until at least January.

"If Hindus lose patience, I am afraid no one can say what will happen."

Officially, the BJP says it represents all Indians, irrespective of religion. But while Modi has adopted economic development as his driving philosophy since being elected prime minister in 2014, the BJP has not shied away from openly endorsing causes of

its mainly Hindu support base.

BJP spokesman Gopal Krishna Agarwal said a decree on building the temple was indeed one of the options before the government as "justice delayed is justice denied" and "emotions are running high". A government spokesman did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment.

A BJP minister in one state that goes to the polls soon, Rajasthan, called on Friday

on all Hindus to vote along religious lines, for the BJP, in what may be a breach of election rules.

Religion is a deeply political issue in the world's biggest democracy, which has seen a number of deadly communal riots between the majority Hindu and minority Muslim communities,

including days of violence when Modi was chief minister of the western state of Gujarat.

The BJP denies it has a bias against Muslims, but says it is opposed to giving unfair advantage to any community, a practice it describes as "appeasement" and alleges

the opposition Congress party of long following to win votes.

Five states elect their assemblies this year, starting next month, ahead of the general election in which the BJP is projected to lose seats in parliament but still emerge as the single biggest party. *REUTERS*

Thai PM says ban on political activity to be lifted by December

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha said on Tuesday a ban on political activity will be lifted by December in anticipation of a general election next year.

The military government has imposed a strict ban on all political activity since a 2014 military coup, citing the need for peace and order after months of street protests against a civilian government of prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Opponents of military rule say the ban, backed up by legal action against those who violate it, has stifled dissent.

Last month, the government relaxed some restrictions, allowing political parties to resume organizing ahead of a general election due by

May next year but still maintain a ban on public gathering of more than five people and political campaigning.

"On the lifting of the ban on political activities, we will consider it sometime at the end of November or early December depending on suitability," Prayut told reporters after a meeting of his cabinet was held in the northern town of Chiang Rai.

The ban forbids all political activity including the holding of gatherings and campaigning.

The junta has said the ban on political activity has been necessary to preserve stability after more than a decade of at times violent rivalry between supporters of ousted premiers Thaksin Shinawatra, and his sister, Yingluck, and the

Bangkok-based royalist establishment.

Political parties are gearing up for next year's general election, being held under a military-drafted constitution that critics say will prolong military influence over civilian politics.

Last month, Prayut said he was interested in having a political role after the general election, fueling speculation he aims to stay on as prime minister.

Four of his cabinet ministers have launched a political party that could back Prayut.

On Sunday, Thaksin's old Puea Thai Party chose new leaders to take it into the election.

An election date has not been set but senior government official have said that it would likely be on Feb. 24. *REUTERS*

Jada Pinkett Smith, Will Smith on hitting rock bottom: We 'had to destroy our marriage'

The second part of Jada Pinkett Smith and Will Smith's "Red Table Talk" is just as revelatory as the Facebook Watch series' premiere episode.

Smith, 50, joined his wife, 47, once again on the talk show she hosts with daughter Willow Smith and mother Adrienne Banfield-Jones.

The two discussed hitting rock bottom in their nearly 21-year union.

"We essentially had to destroy our marriage," Smith said. "She was like, 'I can't do this anymore,' and to me... it was over, but divorce was never even an option."

"It never crossed my mind," Pinkett Smith agreed. While she understands the need for divorce, she said it didn't feel like the right solution for the couple. "We just needed to get to an agreement between he and I."

"I was devastated even worse than a divorce," Smith remembered of their rough patch. "We broke up within our marriage and got back together again and had to rebuild with new rules and something way completely different."

"You have to go your separate ways and get out of each other's way to really see yourself," Pinkett Smith said of their resolution. "I had to go away, gain my strength as Jada again - not Mommy, not wife."

Smith said their marriage struggles led him to spend a lot of time researching and learning about relationships. After acting in 2008's "Seven Pounds," Smith didn't return

to the big screen until "Men in Black 3" in 2012.

"I took off for two years. I've worked on myself; I've read

50 books on marriage and relationships and behavioral psychology," he shared. "I was not going to fail in this

marriage. But, I shut down for two entire years to see what was I doing wrong."

"It takes a lot of beating up

on each other," Pinkett Smith advised of overcoming their marital strife. "Because really what you're breaking down is

all the fantasies."

She also said she and her husband have nixed the idea of being married.

"Will and I have decided to even throw away the concept of marriage," she shared. "It's a life partnership in the sense that we created a foundation together that we know is for this lifetime."

He added, "There's nothing that could happen that we won't be together and love each other."

Before the end of the episode, the "Bright" actor took the time to clear up some rumors. For the record, they've never been swingers or Scientologists. Smith also laid out on the red table why the two never got a divorce.

"Cause I've never met anyone like you, and I knew if I wasn't with you, I'd be searching in vain for the rest of my life."

USATODAY



The 'Full House' star shared a sweet shot with his bride on Monday to announce that the pair "went and did it."

YAHOO

Pharrell not 'Happy,' threatens to sue Trump for using song after mass killing

Pharrell Williams is not "Happy" that President Donald Trump used his song.

The singer, 45, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Trump after the president played Williams' 2014 smash hit "Happy" at a political event in the Midwest Saturday, just hours after nearly a dozen people were gunned down in a Pittsburgh synagogue.

"On the day of the mass

murder of 11 human beings at the hands of a deranged 'nationalist,' you played his song 'Happy' to a crowd at a political event in Indiana," Williams' lawyer, Howard King, wrote in the letter obtained by USA TODAY.

Williams' legal team noted that the use of the song was not only poorly timed, but in violation of "copyright infringement" and "trademark rights."

"There was nothing 'happy' about the tragedy inflicted upon our country on Saturday and no permission was granted for your use of this song for this purpose," the letter read.

The letter made it clear that Williams "will not" allow Trump to use any of his musical catalog in the future: "Demand is hereby made that you cease and desist from any further

unauthorized use of Pharrell Williams' music."

This is not the first, or second, time Trump has caught flak for the song choices at his political events.

In August, Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler sent Trump a cease-and-desist letter after the commander in chief played the band's hit song "Livin' on the Edge" at a rally in Charleston, West Virginia.

"Mr. Trump is creating the false impression that our client has given his consent for the use of his music, and even that he endorses the presidency of Mr. Trump," Tyler's legal team said in a letter obtained by USA TODAY.

R.E.M., Prince's estate and Queen are among the other artists who have objected to the president's use of their music. USATODAY

Kanye West backs Blexit movement in US

Kanye West has designed merchandise for Blexit - a campaign to encourage black Americans to quit the Democratic Party.

The movement, led by conservative commentator and social media star Candace Owens, launched at the weekend.

Owens said the rap star designed the logo - with human figures forming letters to spell the word Blexit - which appears on shirts and hats.

She said the pair's recent trip to Uganda "motivated Kanye and inspired what came to

be the Blexit design".

West has supported Republican Donald Trump since his 2016 election, and recently visited the White House.

Owens flew with West and wife Kim Kardashian West to Uganda. Owens wrote on Breitbart: "It's hard to put into words what that level of innovative energy felt like."

"We were overwhelmed with inspiration as soon as we landed in Uganda. There was a real rooted tribal vibe and hora around us."

"That feeling of going back to our homeland, being in

Africa - the feeling of family and togetherness that we as a people have moved away from - motivated Kanye and inspired what came to be the Blexit design."

The rapper created two different designs for the Blexit campaign - one spells out the name of the movement and the other has the slogan "We free."

The former GQ Most Stylish Man winner and owner of the Yeezy clothing label has high fashion credentials, with his Adidas collaborations often an instant sell-out.

His Blexit designs were revealed at the Young Black Leadership Summit in Washington DC, ahead of the US mid-term elections

on 6 November.

The event was organised by conservative group Turning Point USA, for whom Owens acts as director of communications.

She said Blexit was "for those who have taken an objective look at our decades-long allegiance to the left and asked ourselves, 'what do we have to show for it?'"

The name Blexit is adapted from Brexit, which refers to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

West also recently donated \$73,540 (£57,355) to Chicago mayoral candidate Amara Enyia, who is advocating for more support for poor communities in the state and a better response to violent crime. BBC

Chris Evans slams Trump in mocking tweet: 'No one has EVER been treated so unfairly.'

Captain America is taking on the president of the United States.

Chris Evans tweeted a mocking reply today to President Donald Trump's tweet about the "Fake News Media."

Writing as if the tweet were coming from Trump, Evans said, "Help! I've never done anything wrong in my entire life, but somehow hostility is at an all time high. Just because I kick beehives all day, it's not MY fault when people get stung! No one has EVER been treated so unfairly. Sad. Also, where's Obama's birth certificate?"

The actor's tweet was in response to one earlier in the day from @realDonaldTrump.

On the heels of the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh and explosive devices sent to his critics, the president tweeted, "There is great anger in our Country caused in part by inaccurate, and even fraudulent, reporting of the news. The Fake News Media, the true Enemy

of the People, must stop the open & obvious hostility & report the news accurately & fairly. That will do much to put out the flame..."

The "Avengers" actor has been outspoken about politics on his Twitter account, and has confronted former Ku Klux Klan grand wizard David Duke in his timeline. Evans talked to Esquire about why he chooses to be so openly political and his thoughts on President Trump's election.

"I feel rage," he told the magazine of his reaction to the new administration. "I feel fury. It's unbelievable. People were just so desperate to hear someone say that someone is to blame. They were just so happy to hear that someone was angry. Hear someone say that Washington sucks. They just want something new without actually understanding. I mean, guys like Steve Bannon — Steve Bannon! — this man has no place in politics." **USATODAY**



Ariana Grande performing in the Halloween-themed TV special "A Very Wicked Halloween: Celebrating 15 Years On Broadway," airing on NBC on Oct. 29. NBC

Twitter slams Cardi B for telling internet trolls to 'cut your veins'

Cardi B is facing backlash after clapping back at internet trolls in a way some social media users are

labeling as insensitive. The "I Like It" rapper, 26, went on an expletive-laden rant on Instagram Live

in defense of her sister, Hennessy, after accusing Nicki Minaj's fan base of relentlessly targeting them

online as the beef between the reigning hip-hop queens intensifies. As for Cardi B's response to

her haters: "Throw yourself off a (expletive) balcony. ... You need to cut your (expletive) veins. You people

need help." Cardi B described more than one way for online trolls to commit suicide, despite someone off-screen appearing to tell the rapper to stop.

OK, I am convinced The Voice is just trolling rival show American Idol at this point.

First, NBC poached two of Idol's biggest stars, Kelly Clarkson and Jennifer Hudson, to be coaches, and every Monday and Tuesday night soon became one giant drinking game: Taking a sip every time either Kelly or J.Hud mentioned that they had once competed on a "show like this" without ever uttering the word "Idol." (Actually, don't try that as home, lest you become drunker than Blake Shelton before the first commercial break.)

Then, last week, The Voice enlisted Keith Urban, who served as an Idol judge for seasons 12 through 15, to be Blake's Battle Rounds mentor. Now, this week, none other than Keith's Season 12 co-star, ex-Idol judge Mariah Carey, served as the Knockout Rounds' key adviser. (What's next? Kara DioGuardi showing up in a bikini to mentor the Live Playoffs? Bass-playing

Mariah Carey jumps ship from 'American Idol' to 'The Voice'

Randy Jackson sitting in with Paul Mirkovich and The Voice house band?)

Of course, in the past, Mariah made no secret that she hated her one-and-done Idol season — despite taking home a reported record-breaking \$18 million. And she barely earned that eight-figure Idol salary, as she mostly rambled nonsensically and/or looked as if she would have preferred to be just about anywhere than two seats away from her nemesis, Nicki Minaj. It should be noted that on Fox's "Farewell Season" Idol finale in 2016, Mariah was the one judge that didn't take part in some way — and she later dissed the show every chance she got, calling it a "bleak experience," "hell," "the worst experience of my life," and "like going to work with Satan." **YAHOO**



"I know I shouldn't be talking, but it's just, like, you know how I get when people start with Hennessy," Cardi B said.

More than 40,000 people were tuned into her NSFW live stream, and many took to social media to slam her controversial remarks as "triggering," "disgusting" and "insane."

Twitter user @LOSINGGRIP called Cardi B's behavior "disgusting," adding "someone with such a large sphere of influence" shouldn't encourage suicide and self-harm.

@Korrinator agreed, whether Cardi B intended it as a joke or not: "It takes one suicide 'joke' to push somebody over the edge. Cardi has a huge following, u don't think anybody's gonna hear that and think 'ya know what? maybe I should.'"

So far, Cardi B hasn't addressed her comments after the controversy brewed. USA TODAY reached out to the rapper's representative's for comment. **USATODAY**

Asia's football body has signed a major commercial rights deal with sports marketing agency DDMC Fortis aimed at securing the financial future of the game in the region for the coming years.

The deal gives the agency, a joint venture between Chinese and Swiss groups, exclusive rights from 2021 to 2028 starting with the final qualifying round of the 2022 World Cup, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said in a statement.

The AFC did not say how much the agreement was worth but reports put it at \$3.4 billion, a huge boost for the rapidly growing football scene in Asia.

"This is a most significant day in the history of the AFC," the body's president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said as the deal was signed Monday in Kuala Lumpur, where the AFC is based.

"With the signing of this contract, the AFC can guarantee its member associations that the game in Asia has tremendously solid financial foundations from which to build."

DDMC Fortis CEO, Patrick Murphy, said that the group "strongly

Asian football body signs major marketing deal

feel that, in cooperation with the AFC, we are in a position to transform the way Asian football is organised, enjoyed and commercialised across Asia".

DDMC Fortis is a joint venture between Swiss group Fortis Sports and China's DDMC Sports International. The new deal signals an end to a long-running commercial partnership between the AFC and Lagardere Sports and Entertainment.

The announcement came ahead of an AFC congress Wednesday in Kuala Lumpur, in which Sheikh Salman will be seeking support for a re-election bid next year.

The Bahraini royal first took the reins in 2013 when the AFC was still reeling from a corruption scandal which saw his predecessor, Mohamed bin Hammam, banned from football for life.

At the AFC Congress

next April, Sheikh Salman could face a challenge from Saudi Arabia's Adel Ezzat, head of a new regional bloc, the South

West Asian Football Federation.

Delegates arriving ahead of this week's meeting voiced support for the Bahraini. Anura

De Silva, president of the Football Federation of Sri Lanka, said that Sheikh Salman's position looked solid.

"Sponsorship is booming

under his leadership," he told AFP. "The increase in sponsorship reflects his credibility and he is transparent in his job."

AFP



Riyad Mahrez celebrates after scoring the opening goal taking Manchester City back to the top of the Premier League as the champions won 1-0 in their pitch battle with Tottenham at Wembley stadium in London, England, Monday, Oct. 29, 2018. Photo credit - SUPERSPORT

Lakers star LeBron James' warning:

Don't test my patience

It took two weeks and five defeats and 852 points conceded, but LeBron James is starting to get mad and he's not going to bite his tongue any longer. After preaching patience ever since his arrival in Los Angeles, that virtue has finally worn thin for James following a 124-120 defeat at Minnesota on Monday night that dropped the team to 2-5.

"We talk about patience but you can't have reoccurrence of the same thing," James told reporters. "If you are doing the same things over and over and over and expecting the same result then that's insanity.

"So we have to get better. We can't keep having the same mistakes over and over."

Defensively, the Lakers have been unable to get critical stops when needed in virtually all

of this season's defeats. Preventing the opposition from going on scoring runs has been an issue, as has holding onto late leads. The Timberwolves were allowed 20 offensive rebounds on Monday and got to the free-throw line twice as often (30 to 15) as the Lakers.

James knew he would be spearheading a building

project with an eye firmly on the future when he switched Cleveland for California, but he's sick of losing with such frequency and has no interest in seeing the early-season trend continue.

"You probably don't want to be around when my patience runs out," James added. "I'm serious."

Many of the mistakes

have been a result of the inexperience in the squad, but the Lakers' youngest members have also shown serious potential and can be expected to improve over the course of the campaign. For James, that progress can't happen quickly enough.

L.A.'s gloomy record could have looked a whole lot brighter but for some tiny

margins. In an overtime loss at home to San Antonio, James missed two key free throws and a potential game-winner. In the Lakers' home opener, things were in the balance until the Rajon Rondo-Chris Paul punch-up.

The squad is now fully stocked again now with Rondo and Brandon Ingram back from

suspensions. With five of the team's next seven games at home, there will be pressure to get the chemistry fixed soon and get on pace in the Western Conference.

"We got to figure it out," James said. "It is not one guy. We are all in this together, so we got to figure it out. We got another one on Wednesday (against Dallas) on our home floor and we got to be really good." **SUPERSPORT**

Dele Alli signs new Spurs deal

England midfielder Dele Alli has signed a new long-term contract, keeping him at Tottenham until 2024, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.

The 22-year-old joined Spurs in 2015 and has scored 48 goals in 153 competitive appearances for the club.

He joins Harry Kane, Son Heung-min,

Davinson Sanchez and Harry Winks in signing long-term deals at the club in recent months.

"We are delighted to announce that Dele Alli has signed a new contract with the Club, which will run until 2024," Spurs said on their website.

"The midfielder joined us as a teenager from boyhood club MK Dons in 2015 and

immediately set about making an impact in the Premier League, being named PFA Young Player of the Year and earning a spot in the PFA Team of the Year in each of his first two seasons with us."

Spurs are fifth in the Premier League following Monday's 1-0 home defeat against leaders Manchester City. **SUPERSPORT**

By Alex Chilumbwe

National team coach Sven Vandenbroeck says it is imperative to remind national team players that no one has a permanent spot in the squad. Vandenbroeck noted that reminding players that they do not have permanent spots in the national team would help them stay in good form as they desire to impress soccer fans across the country. In an interview with Goal Diggers! Vandenbroeck also said the reminder for players to fight for their space was not mere rhetoric, adding that there was stiff competition for slots in the squad. "I do not expect any national player to relax

Fight for your spot, Sven urges players

simply because they have been called several times. It is all about competition and who is the most impressive. They all need to keep themselves in top form," Vandenbroeck said. The Belgian further mentioned that the national squad could

change depending on the players' behaviour inside or outside camp. "Good conduct is cardinal to a player whether inside or outside camp especially when there is a very important assignment ahead of the squad. They all have to behave right

and desist from anything that would put their national team chance in jeopardy," advised Sven. Vandenbroeck further urged the players to exhibit their best abilities in their respective clubs in order to convince not only the coach and the

executive, but the fans as well that they truly deserve a spot in the national team. "Do not expose us to attacks by fans because sometimes we will call a player to the squad because we are well aware of their potential. We want to convince the fans as

well that you can deliver. This is why I am urging you to work just as hard for your respective clubs," said Vandenbroeck. The national team is yet to regroup ahead of the AFCON qualifier away game against Mozambique on 16th November, 2018.

Buffaloes in netball title clash with Nkwazi

Alexis Chilumbwe

Nkwazi netball team and Green Buffaloes will on November 3 get into league action that will either make them level points or escort Buffaloes to being crowned as League Champions. While that is to be decided on the weekend, today, a week 15 rescheduled game between Prison Leopards and Nkwazi can either rule out both teams on the league title. Buffaloes has 56 points while Nkwazi has 53. A win by Nkwazi against Buffaloes can help the police side square up with points while a win by Prisons in tomorrow's game can make Prisons square up with Nkwazi in points. Nkwazi however has an advantage because they have a game in hand against Mazabuka Queens. It is the second time Buffaloes and Nkwazi have engaged into netball mathematics of who would win the

league title with the first being in 2016 when Nkwazi lifted silverware. Nkwazi coach Charles Zulu said he was not worried about the weekend encounter

adding that his side was more youthful than the army side. "I'm not worried about it the encounter because my players are more youthful and can outrun Buffaloes.

They have been preparing for this game for a long time so it would be unwise of them to lose," said Zulu. Meanwhile, Buffaloes coach Catherine Chanda said she has confidence

in her players and that she would let them enjoy. She added that players performed better when they played with enjoyment. "They have all the

experience they need so I'm going to let them play their own game. I will just tell them to enjoy the game and from that, they will find own winning tactics," said Chanda.

By Alex Chilumbwe

Hosts Zambia, defending champions South Africa and last years' runners-up Lesotho have been named as the three seeded sides for today's pool stage draw for the 2018 MOPANI Copper Mines COSAFA Under-20 Championships to be staged in Kitwe from December 2-14. The draw will be held at 09h30 (07h30 GMT) in Kitwe and will be covered live on COSAFA platforms. The three seeded sides will head the pools, with Zambia claiming position A1 in Group A, South Africa to take B1 in Group B and Lesotho penned for C21 in Group C. The remaining nine sides would be placed in two pots based on

Mopani explains U-20 COSAFA draws

their ranking according to performance at the 2017 COSAFA Under-20 Championships that were also held in Kitwe. Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Swaziland will be placed in Pot 1, with Mozambique, Mauritius, Angola, Botswana and newcomers Reunion in Pot 2. Three teams will be

drawn from Pot 1 to fill up the second positions in Groups A-C, before another three nations are drawn from Pot 2 to fill up the third positions in those pools. The remaining three balls (one of from Pot 2 and two from Pot 2) will then be placed together in a single pot, with the teams to take up the

fourth and final positions in each group drawn. That would leave each group with four nations, while only the top team in each pool and the best-placed runner-up will advance to the semi-finals. The winner of Group B will take on the best-placed runner-up in the semi-finals, while the top two sides in Groups

A and C will face-off in the knockout stage. The format is the same as last year, when East African guest nation Uganda topped Group A. South Africa won Group B and Lesotho were the surprise package in Group C. North African guest nation Egypt advanced from Group B as the best-placed runner-up with six points, which incidentally would have been enough to top both Groups A and C. 2018 MOPANI Copper Mines COSAFA Under-20 Championships draw:
Seeded teams:
Group A -Zambia (Host country)
Group B -South Africa (Winners in 2017)
Group C -Lesotho (Runners-up in 2017)
Pot 1
Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Swaziland
Pot 2
Mozambique, Mauritius, Angola, Reunion, Botswana

Maintain playing grounds at own cost, FAZ tells clubs

By Alex Chilumbwe

FAZ president Andrew Kamanga says it is not his association's responsibility to maintain football pitches for any club affiliated to it. The football chief said respective teams should find means of maintaining or improving their playing grounds and not wait for the association to intervene adding that it was too simple a matter to involve the association.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Kamanga advised football teams to engage their fan clubs to help them do little things that their clubs' executives could not do singlehandedly. "We cannot go round the country maintaining or improving football pitches. Clubs can use initiatives such as engaging fan clubs to help them carter for certain things. Look at the Nkana supporters group that donated wire

fence for Edwin Imboela stadium and even fixed it. Those are the simple things that should be emulated by others too," Kamanga advised. There had been an outcry by Division one outfits in the Southern province about the dry pitches that made playing difficult for teams. Livingstone Pirates is one of them with a desert pitch and players have sustained injuries because of a rough playing field.

There's no permanent place for any player, warns Sven

By Alex Chilambwe

National team coach Sven Vandenbroeck says it is imperative to remind national team players that no one has a permanent spot in the squad.

Vandenbroeck noted that reminding players that they do not have permanent spots in the national team would help them stay in good form as they desire to impress soccer fans across the country.

In an interview with Goal Diggers! Vandenbroeck also said the reminder for players to fight for their space was not mere rhetoric, adding that there was stiff competition for slots in the squad.

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FIGHT FOR PLAY TIME



FIFA president Gianni Infantino with the Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.

See story on page 14



Tom Brady extends his record of dominance over the Buffalo Bills as the New England Patriots run out 25-6 winners to tighten their grip on the AFC East - AFP

