

AS PRESIDENTIAL FEVER PEAKS

Candidates unleash strong campaign arsenals



From the ever-grinding machine of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM party of incumbent Paul Biya to newcomer Hiram Samuel Iyodi of the Democratic Front of Cameroon, the 10 candidates of the October 12 poll have fully released their strongest weapons targeting nationwide coverage in bids to woo voters as the race to become the next occupant of the Unity Palace's top office nears crescendo. **P.8**

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START-UP 237

French Embassy, AUF, Back Young Innovators in Ngaoundere **P.7**

ROUNDUP

STARTUP 237

Seven Projects Evaluated in Ngaoundéré

These projects, funded by the Fonds Équipe France of the French Embassy in Cameroon, were visited on September 29 and 30, 2025, in the regional capital of Adamawa.

By Brigitte BATE

The Start-Up 237 Project continues its evaluation tour of initiatives supported since 2023. In Ngaoundéré, a joint delegation from the French Embassy and the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), led by mission head Donald Boulelou, reviewed seven local start-ups. Six of them emerged from the incubator of the University Institute of Technology (IUT) at the University of Ngaoundéré. Despite structural and economic challenges, these young companies show remarkable resilience, create value, and generate jobs, reflecting the entrepreneurial drive of a youth eager for innovation.

The tour began at Maths 237, founded by Yannick Kouakep Tchatchue, which develops digital solutions for education, an egg incubator, and a cosmetic product called Baume Rose. It continued with Ets Mixo, specialized in agri-food processing, followed by Ets Hayatou Maïgari's Biofarm, also active in agro-industry.

Zuciya, the only start-up outside the incubator, stood out with its ginger processing into juice and powder. Wems, led by Joel Freddy Katchouagang Pouambe, showcased its approach combining renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. Meanwhile, Ets Ntaba Composites recycles sawdust to produce pallets, fur-



niture, and wood-plastic equipment. The visit ended at Wang Math Center, which is involved in agro-pastoral activities, green energy, and construction. This follow-up mission reflects the commitment to strengthening support for young entrepreneurs and assessing the impact of allocated funding, while highlighting the role of university incubators as drivers of regional economic development.

Launched in 2023, the Start-Up 237: 100 Projects Made in Camer initiative, with a budget of €2 million, aims to strengthen university incubators, support young entrepreneurs, and build bridges with the private sec-

tor. Supported by AUF, the French Embassy, and several ministries, the program brings together 46 mentors, 18 support structures, and funds 100 start-ups.

After participating in several major fairs, the program is now preparing a national pitch competition and new calls for applications. With a focus on sustainability and scaling up its impact, it plans to launch the Pitch Start-Up 237 Contest with additional funding opportunities, select promising start-ups for national and international events, and mobilize more resources to accelerate project growth.

CEMAC

BEAC consolidates rates despite slight economic growth slowdown

The Bank of Central African States, BEAC made the announcement during a conference meeting by its Monetary Policy Committee last Monday 29, September 2025.



By Brigitte BATE

The Bank of Central African States, BEAC, has announced it will keep interest rates unchanged, following a slight slowdown in economic growth and a significant drop in inflation. In its press release, the BEAC revealed that the region's economic growth is expected to slow slightly to 2.6% in 2025, down from 2.7% in 2024. Governor Yvon Sana Bangui explained that the modest slowdown primarily reflects reduced activity in the petroleum industry. BEAC in the report stated that, while the oil and gas sector is projected to contract by 1.5% this year, non-oil activities are expected to grow by 3.2%. The bank said this demonstrates the region's

increasing economic diversification. In positive news for consumers, the BEAC forecasts that inflation will fall significantly to 2.6% by year end, down from 4.1% in 2024. According to the press release, this decline brings inflation closer to the regional target. Faced with these conditions, the BEAC Monetary Policy Committee decided to maintain current interest rates. The committee stated this decision reflects the balancing act between supporting growth amid the oil sector slowdown while ensuring inflation remains under control. Looking ahead, Governor Bangui said despite current challenges in the petroleum sector, they remain hopeful for positive growth in the near future as the economic diversification efforts continue to show results. He emphasized that the region's economic fundamentals remain solid.

BAMENDA

Flood sweeps man to his death

The 25-year-old was swept away by floodwater at City Chemist Roundabout last Monday evening, leading to a search operation that ended on Tuesday, according to reports.

By Brigitte BATE

The 25-year-old man has been swept to his death by a flood in Bamenda in the North West Region. According to reports, the body of the man who has been identified as Agyingi Hamlet was found yesterday morning by the Army Rescue Unit in Bamenda. Elements of the unit found the body after they launched a formal operation with the support of local volunteers, according to Senior Warrant Officer Taku Paul, Chief

of Center of the Army Rescue Unit in Bamenda. "This morning at seven o'clock, we went to City Chemist where the young man fell into the water," Senior Warrant Officer Taku Paul stated about the search which came after a video was shared on social media platforms on Monday showing a man being washed away by flood after unsuccessfully trying to escape from the waterflood around the City Chemist neighborhood in Bamenda. "We created two search teams, one to comb from City Chemist to Presbyterian Church Bridge, and

another from the bridge down to the Army Rescue Bridge" the Army Rescue Unit official added. He said the rescue teams and volunteers scoured the drainage canals, bushes, and waterways. After about 35 minutes of searching, the teams received a call. The body of Agyingi Hamlet had been spotted in a swamp at Mulang Street IV, more than 15 kilometers from where he had fallen. With the help of the local population, the rescue unit recovered the body. Officer Taku Paul further stated that "the population did a great job. They were



not just watching, they searched alongside us and alerted us when the body was found." He confirmed that the body was then cleaned and transported. The Army Rescue Unit confirmed that this was the third drowning in Bamenda in just two weeks.

Officer Taku Paul issued a warning to residents, saying, "We are calling on everyone, children and adults to stay indoors when it rains and stay away from waterways. That is the only way to avoid future tragedies."

NEWS

NORTH WEST

Suspected gunmen kill three in Bamenda

By Brigette BATE

Three persons have been killed in Bamenda in the North West Region by suspected gunmen. Bodies of the three were found yesterday morning in Mile 6 Nkwen, according to Bamenda-based broadcaster, Star TV Bamenda. Per the broadcaster, the three are believed to be suspected separatist fighters. It is reported that residents reported hearing gunshots around 9:45pm on Monday evening, adding that the bodies showed signs that the three men had been tortured before they were finally shot and killed. According to Star TV Bamenda, a resident living near the scene



that the victims were brought in uniformed men. The broadcaster reported that the resident alleged that the three could have been separatist fighters although the station further stated that it could not independently verify and confirm the claims. Bamenda and most parts of the North West and South West regions are presently under a lockdown that has been declared by separatist groups as part of their strategies in the ongoing armed conflict in the North West and South West regions. The lockdown has grounded activities drastically across the two regions with most residents opting to stay indoors with an even fewer number of people moving in the night.

LIFELINE FOR MOTHERS, CHILDREN

Health ministry launches scheme to cut maternal deaths

The Minister of Public Health announced the new program that covers all the 10 regions during a recent outing. It is aimed at lowering maternal deaths and assisting safe childbirth.

By Brigette BATE

A new program guaranteeing affordable maternal care has now been officially expanded to cover all the 10 regions of the country. The Minister of Public Health, Dr Manaouda Malachie made the declaration recently. The initiative, known as the «Health Cheque», is designed to break down the financial barrier between pregnant women and the medical attention required. Costing a small fee of just 6,000 CFA francs, the program provides a comprehensive package of essential services. Among them, prenatal consultations and follow-up examinations, assisting childbirth by qualified personnel, including caesarean sections if medically necessary, postnatal care for both the mother and her newborn for up to 42 days after delivery. The minister said moves like the expansion of the program to the West Region, is a critical step toward attaining the goal



of the Universal Health Coverage program. It specifically aims to tackle a dangerous statistic, in the West Region, as the minister says more than half of all women were still giving birth at home, a major factor in maternal mortality. The health ministry issued a powerful call to action, urging authorities, health professionals, and families to work together. The minister emphasized that the shared mission is to ensure that no woman loses her life while bringing a new one into the world.

YAOUNDE

Growing concern amid rising tension between taxi drivers, passengers

By Saju Linda

The once routine taxi ride across Yaounde has increasingly become a source of conflict as relations between drivers and passengers worsen over rising fares, poor service, and mutual distrust. For many residents, taxis remain the most affordable means of transportation in the capital. Yet in recent months, arguments between drivers and passengers have become frequent and sometimes heated. Passengers complain about reckless driving, overloading, and sudden fare hikes, while drivers argue that rising costs and growing insecurity make it difficult to maintain normal operations. “I paid 500 francs CFA yesterday for the same distance I paid 350 francs CFA last week,” says Clarisse Ndanga, a university student who relies on taxis on a daily for movement. “Drivers



keep inventing excuses like traffic or even rain. But the truth is they just want to exploit us.” Another passenger, Samuel Mbarga adds: “Sometimes I wait 30 minutes for a taxi only to be told the fare has increased. It’s frustrating because we don’t have many alternatives, yet the drivers treat us like we are at their mercy.” Taxi drivers, however, insist they are not to blame. “We are struggling like everyone else,” explains Paul Nchout, a driver at the Melen neighborhood. “Fuel is expensive, spare parts cost more, and we spend hours stuck in traffic. If we don’t increase fares, we won’t survive.”

Disputes also arise over passenger treatment. Some complain about insults and rudeness from drivers, while others highlight the unsafe practice of cramming five or six passengers into small vehicles. “We are treated like luggage,” remarks a frustrated office worker. “The customer is never respected.” Observers say the growing mistrust reflects deeper economic struggles facing both sides. Cameroon has witnessed repeated fuel shortages and persistent traffic congestion, especially in major cities like Yaounde and Douala, which add pressure on drivers and inconvenience passengers. As frustrations mount, the daily taxi ride has shifted from a simple means of mobility to a tense encounter. What should be a straightforward service has now become an uncomfortable standoff, a reflection of the larger economic and social pressures gripping Cameroon’s capital.

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By TEMBA Junior SUH

The 2025 Presidential Election race is steadily driving towards full-blown crescendo point as the 12 candidates unleash their arsenals seeking to win millions of voters' hearts days into last Saturday's start of the campaign window of the Sunday October 12 poll. From the ever-grinding machine of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM party of incumbent Paul Biya, to newcomer Hiram Samuel Iyodi of the Democratic Front of Cameroon, the candidates have taken the country by storm, marketing promises and ideologies in bids to woo voters as they set sights on the Unity Palace plum job. The CPDM of incumbent Paul Biya who is seeking to extend his over four-decade stay in the Unity Palace, has been unsurprisingly leading the race. The party's bigwigs, including former Prime Minister Philemon Yang, his immediate successor, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute and the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon Cavaye Yeguie Djibril, all hit the ground running over the weekend as they launched the CPDM's campaign across the 10 regions. While former Prime Minister Philemon Yang and CPDM Senator, Elizabeth Regina Mundi flagged off the exercise in Bamenda in the North West Region and presented Biya as the only trustworthy party that the region's population must align with to guarantee what they described as the zone's continuous growth, Prime Minister Chief Joseph Dion Ngute led the race in launching the same exercise in Buea for the South West Region. Up in the Far North Region, Honorable Cavaye Yeguie Djibril reechoed similar messages to the population, restating the need for the population of the locality to renew its fruitful loyalty to Biya by going all out on October 12 and voting the incumbent who is running under the slogan "Greatness and Hope. The Septennate of Great Hopes". The party's other bigwigs brought to the fore familiar rhetoric across the seven other regions where



campaign rallies were organized at the various regional capitals and down to the divisional and subregional levels.

Tchiroma and Bello leading race among opposition candidates

Among the 11 oppositions, the race is notably led by former longtime allies of incumbent Biya; Issa Tchiroma Bakary of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSNC party and Bello Bouba Maigari of the National Union for Democracy and Progress, UNDP party. Tchiroma launched

his campaign yesterday in Yaounda in the Mayo-Danay Division of the Far North Region during a crowd-pulling event. The former Minister of Communication and of Employment and Vocational Training, in the course of the outing, urged voters to be objective. Tchiroma Bakary, like he has consistently done since he announced his breakaway from Biya in July this year, promised to address the country's economic situation where notably cited what he described as poor living condition, insecurity challenges, poor infrastructures and other

social and political limitations that have been recorded during the Biya regime. The groundbreaking campaign launch in the Far North Region marked the official start of what had been a mouthwatering journey for Tchiroma in the presidential election journey. Before the start of the exercise, the outspoken former Communication boss had earlier held crowd-pulling outings across several parts of the country during the pre-campaign period of the electoral period. The FSNC leader pulled thousands of supporters and sympathizers in Bertoua in the East Region early last month where he made one of his biggest outings since the start

in the Littoral Region last Saturday. Bello Bouba was categorical while launching the campaign: he urged the population to vote for him come October 12, promising to work for their interest and those of the rest of the Cameroonian people. The UNDP leader has been one of the most vibrant candidates since the start of the pre-campaign and campaign periods in the leadup to the forthcoming election. Before launching the campaign, Bello Bouba received a major boost in his bid. He was backed by candidates Akere Muna of the Universe party and Ateki Caxton of the Liberal Alliance Party, PAL. The two candidates announced over the weekend that they had dropped from the race to officially back Bello Bouba who is running for president for since the 1992 poll. They joined Bello Bouba in Douala as he launched his campaign.

Enter other candidates

Honorable Osih Joshua of the Social Democratic Front, SDF party and Tomaino Ndam Njoya of Cameroon Democratic Union, CDU party and the other candidates have also been strongly engaged in the campaign. Tomaino Ndam Njoya launched her campaign in Yaounde last Saturday and has continued the exercise with stopovers in major markets in the nation's capital. Honorable Osih Joshua flagged off his campaign exercise in Bamenda in the North West Region and has since hit other parts of the country. Honorable Pierre Kwemo of the United Socialist Movements, UMS party tipped off the exercise in Penja in the Mounjo Division of the Littoral Region on Sunday. During the launch, he continued urging Cameroonians to massively vote for him on October 12, promising to completely change the country's situation if elected. Serge Espoir Matomba of the United People for Social Renovation, Hiram Iyodi of the Democratic Front for Cameroon and Cabral Libii of Cameroon party for national reconciliation, PCRN and the other candidates made similar promises when they launched theirs and continued campaigning.

of the 2025 Unity Palace race. Tchiroma made a similar outing in the West Region the man who is now being tagged the strongest among all the 11 opposition candidates, toured and continued selling his ideas and program to the population to bolster his chances of unseating his old-time ally on October 12.

Enter bullish Bello Bouba

Bello Bouba Maigari of the UNDP has been having a similar ride. The former Prime Minister who most recently served as the Minister of Tourism and Leisure, launched his campaign in Douala

NEWS

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS

PM Dion Ngute inaugurates new head office in Yaounde

From inaugurating the Minim Martap bauxite project, to celebrating 150 years of the Douala port, the Prime Minister yesterday inaugurated the new head office of the Ministry of Public Works in Yaounde, officially restating his position as the Head of State's mission man.

By Brigette BATE

Cameroon has continued introducing and celebrating the existence of major infrastructure milestones. The government this week added another achievement, the official inauguration of the head office of the Ministry of Public Works in the Etoudi neighborhood in Yaounde. Inaugurated by Prime Minister, Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, the ceremony included a ribbon cutting at the new site which is located in the Etoudi administrative centre near the Unity Palace. Speaking while opening the ultramodern facility, the Prime Minister stated that the new facility equips the ministry with the necessary re-



sources to meet its important responsibilities. He emphasized

that a ministry responsible for national infrastructure must it-

self operate from facilities that enable efficient and effective

service. The Head of Government also acknowledged the work of the project team and the company for their role in completing the complex. The new complex is large and modern. It is made up of a 13-story main tower, a 10-story building, and another six-story facility. It has an overall total of 307 offices, nine meeting rooms, a conference hall for 124 people, and six elevators. To help workers, the building also includes a restaurant, a library, and a gym. The government emphasized that these modern facilities will enable the Ministry of Public Works to perform its crucial role more effectively. The ministry is responsible for major national infrastructure projects, including the design and maintenance of bridges, highways, and public buildings.

NEWS | POLITIC

2025 PRESIDENTIALS

Parents hesitant to enroll children in schools amid fears of violence

The uncertainty surrounding the polls has created fear of possible unrest, with rumors of looming riots, looting, and road blockages spreading quickly.

By Saju Linda

As the country heads toward the 12 October 2025 presidential election, many parents are increasingly anxious about sending their children to school. The uncertainty surrounding the polls has created fear of possible unrest, with rumors of looming riots, looting, and road blockages spreading quickly. The atmosphere has caused a noticeable hesitation among parents who are now reconsidering on whether or not to enroll their children in schools, particularly in urban centers and areas with a history of political tension. At the Ornel Bilingual Academic Complexe, one of the well-known private schools in Yaounde, several families have postponed enrolment despite the start of the school year. "I cannot risk sending my daughter to school now," says Mrs. Amina Ngassa, a mother of two. "If unrest breaks out, who will protect her? Until I see guarantees from authorities, we will

wait," she added. Her concerns are echoed by other parents. Mr. Jean Taku, whose son is due to begin Form One this academic year, admitted that he feels safer holding back. "Every time elections come, rumors spread that roads will be blocked, that buses could be attacked, that schools might even become targets. I'd rather keep him home and safe than regret later." These fears are not without precedent. In recent years, particularly in the English-speaking North West and South West regions, separatist activity and school boycotts led to prolonged closures of institutions. Armed groups ordered populations to stay indoors, imposed curfews, and in some cases directly attacked schools. Such memories remain vivid in the minds of parents, making them wary of exposing their children to potential danger. Administrators at Ornel Bilingual Academic Complexe insist they are taking security seriously. They point to measures such as reinforcing school gates, hiring additional guards,



and maintaining communication with local authorities. Yet for many parents, these efforts are not enough. "We hear about measures, but we don't see much on the ground," one

father remarked after visiting the school premises. As the 12 October election draws closer, the lingering hesitation among parents threatens to affect enrolment figures nationwide. If

families continue to hold back, thousands of children may miss the beginning of the academic year, adding yet another layer of strain to Cameroon's already fragile educational system.

SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF MAROUA

Students begin receiving presidential excellence prize

The campus of the University of Maroua was last Monday buzzing as 1,674 top-performing students began collecting a special excellence reward for their performances in the 2023/2024 academic year.

By Paul MARCEL

The total amount allocated is 83,700,000 FCFA, offered by the Head of State to reward students who performed outstandingly in the higher education sector. According to sources, the usual calmness of the Ouro Chédé campus gave way to a lively atmosphere on Monday, September 29, 2025. Under the supervision of the accounting officer and his collaborators, the payment was



done under the rigorous respect of protocol. To benefit from it, students were expected provide several supporting documents: a photocopy of the national identity card, that of the student card or the registration form for the current academic year, as well as university fee receipts. The documents are carefully checked to prevent any fraud attempt. Per the roles, it is strictly forbidden to be represented: no power of attorney is accepted. However, students who are unable to apply can apply to their institution of affiliation. This mea-

sure aims to ensure the transparency of the process. The granting of the academic excellence award of the Head of State is part of a national policy to enhance excellence in public higher education. For a large number of beneficiaries, this bonus represents much more than just financial support. It is an official recognition of their work and a motivation to persevere. If some students deplore administrative slowness or a lack of prior communication, the entire operation takes place in a climate marked by discipline and enthusiasm.

ESSEC GAROUA

480 new students ready for new school year

The institution published the result of its competitive entrance examination for the 2025/2026 academic year. Per the result, 300 students are admitted to undergraduate students and 180 to master's degrees. The new students will be welcomed at the campus on October 3, 2025, before the resumption of classes on October 6.



By Inès Marie NGA (Intern)

The important point today was to prepare a serene and satisfying return to school,» says Prof Souleymane Kadoamaï, Director of the higher institute of economic and commercial sciences, ESSEC Garoua. According to him, everything is ready as each department now knows the exact number of students who will integrate the institution for the 2025/2026 school year. Newly-admitted students received notifications on their phones to inform them of important dates, including the welcome and orientation meeting scheduled for October 3. Per the institution, old students will resume classes on September 29, 2025, while new students will begin on October 6. ESSEC is not limited to theoretical teaching. «The school's label is a student, a profession; a student, a company,» explains the director. Each student is encouraged to create their entrepreneurial project from level 1, supported by entrepreneurship courses from the first to the third

year. «We select the best projects and often award a bonus of 500,000 FCFA. Projects not selected can continue to be developed the following year,» he added. This approach aims to prepare autonomous graduates ready to embark on professional life. **A second chance for others** For those who did not pass the competition, ESSEC offers continuous training accessible from level 3 (BTS, DUT or equivalent). «If you do not enter through the competition, you can enter through studies and files and benefit from the same teachings,» Professor Kadoamaï said. This training covers five sectors: economic development analysis, social policy analysis, control-audit-accounting-finance, human resources management and business science management. It has been operating for three years and allows students to join the school despite failing the competition. With 480 new students and innovative devices, the ESSEC de Garoua confirms its reference position in economic and commercial education in Cameroon.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Fresh start as new academic year begins

Most higher institutions of learning are preparing to welcome students next Monday October 6 marking the start of new academic year after the long holiday.

By Brigitte BATE

The long break is finally over, and students are getting ready to return to the classrooms. This year brings a different approach to learning, as university requires more independence than secondary school. For many, preparation means visiting bookstores and organizing study materials. Penda Yves, a first-year student, shared: «I have spent the last week buying all my required items, especially A4 papers because this time I will be using loose sheets instead of textbooks. It feels good to be prepared and get back into a productive routine.» New students face this transition with mixed emotions. An incoming freshman confessed: «It is a completely new environment and a new chapter in my life. I'm both excited and nervous about starting university.» The transition after the long holiday



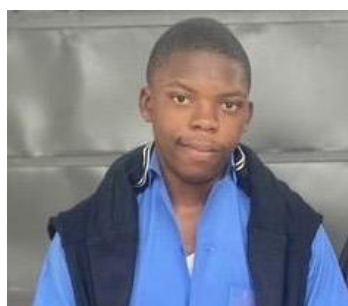
proves challenging for some. Njie Oceane admitted that: «To be honest, it's hard to resume after this long break. But I think it's time to get back to work.» The search for accommodation also marks the new academic year. Penda Yves added: «I'm still looking for a small apartment or room to rent be-

cause I'll be studying in Soa. I hope to find a safe and affordable place before lectures begin.» With backpacks filled with supplies and minds set on new goals, the student community prepares to fill lecture halls and libraries, ready to begin a fresh chapter of academic growth and personal development.

REACTIONS

PENDA YVES, Student

"I spent the last week getting ready"



I have spent the last week getting all the things I need for my classes ready. I bought a lot of A4 paper because our teachers told us we will need to write on loose sheets instead of using normal textbooks. It feels good to be so prepared. I am also still searching for a place to live. I need to find a small apartment or a single room to rent because the university I will be attending is in Soa. I am hoping I can find a place that is both safe and not too expensive before my classes officially begin.»

NJIE OCEANE, Student

"It has been difficult to get ready"



«To be honest, it has been difficult to get ready for school after such a long holiday. I had gotten used to relaxing and not having a schedule. But I know the break is over now, and I believe it is time to focus and start working hard again.»

SPORTS

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Colombe to face Algeria's MC Alger in final qualifiers

By TEMBA Junior SUH

Colombe Sportive of Dja and Lobo will lock horns with Algerian team, MC Alger next month in the second and final preliminary round of the 2025/2026 African Champions League. South Region club, Colombe will host the first of the series in Yaounde on October 15 before travelling to Algiers for the return fixture at the Ali La Pointe Stadium on October 24. Colombe and MC Alger confirmed their tickets to the ultimate qualifying round after knocking out FC Fassel of Liberia and Senegal's ASC Jaraaf in the first round of the ongoing two-stage preliminaries. The qualifications followed the teams' outstanding performances during the return leg matches of the series. The matches were played last weekend with MC Alger booking their place on Saturday after beating FC Fassel 3nil at home in Algiers to claim a 3-0 aggregate victory. Colombe stunned host ASC Jaraaf 1nil in Dakar on Sunday to secure a 1-0 aggregate win over the West Africans. Colombe is making its debut appearance in the CAF Champions League. The team is on that ground, considered an underdog against MC Alger which has a proven record of being a winner both domestically in Algeria and at the continental stages. The North African team has won nine Algerian topflight championship titles including the last two editions of the competition and has also claimed eight Algerian national challenge cup trophies. The team is making its 10th appearance in the CAF Champions League where it emerged as champions during its maiden participation in 1976 and reached the quarterfinals in their last two appearances in the event during the



2020/2021 and 2024/2025 editions. Despite Colombe's underdog status, head coach Richard Towa and the side are expected to give the Algerian team a real run for their money. The Cameroon flagbearer is particularly expected to build on its proven defensive solidity which has been credited for its recent consistent success of winning the 2024 Cup of Cameroon, the 2024/2025 first division championship in Cameroon and qualifying for final of the 2025 Cup of Cameroon where the team will face Panthere of Nde. Colombe registered a mind-blowing run of staging over 860 minutes of football without conceding a goal during the 2024/2025 domestic season in Cameroon. Team captain Randy Kwalar and his teammates further demonstrated the defensive strength when they kept two clean sheets during their two meetings with ASC Jaraaf in the recent first round of the ongoing CAF Champions League preliminaries. Colombe is seeking to become the first Cameroonian club

to reach the final phase of a CAF interclub football competition since Coton Sport of Garoua made it to the group phase of the 2022/2023 CAF Champions League showpiece. Since the 2022/2023 season, Coton Sport of Garoua, PWD Social Football Club of Bamenda, Victoria United and Fovu Club of Baham all attempted to make the group phase but were all eliminated in the first round of the preliminaries across the CAF Champions League and the CAF Confederations Cup. Colombe is the lone Cameroonian club left in the CAF interclub competition this season. Cameroon's second representative which entered the campaign this season, Aigle of Menoua was knocked out in the opening round of the preliminaries of the CAF Confederation Cup. The West Region side suffered a 3-2 aggregate defeat to Cote d'Ivoire's FC San Pedro after losing 1nil in Yaounde during the first leg and playing out a 2-2 draw last Saturday in the reverse fixture in San Pedro in Cote d'Ivoire.

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FC Ebolowa misses out on historic qualification



By TEMBA Junior SUH

Cameroon flagbearer, FC Ebolowa has failed to secure a qualification ticket to the final phase of the African Women's Champions League. The outfit missed out on the ticket after losing its final match last Monday at the just-concluded Central African zonal qualifiers to the 2025 edition of the continental showpiece. The African Women's Champions League is the flagship women's competition organized by the Confederation of African Football, CAF. FC Ebolowa finished the Central African qualifiers ranking second on the final standing after losing 3nil to Equato-guinean team, 15 de Agosto in Malabo. The Guinean club got the three goals through forwards Jessy Ornella Mezui who opened the scoring at the fifth meeting and Anna Maria Nchama who completed the mission with two additional goals at the 35th and 86th minutes of the encounter. Following the comfortable victory, 15 de Agosto emerged as champions of the tournament and secured the qualification ticket to the final phase of the 2025 continental championship as the representative of the Central African zone. The Equato-guinean outfit finished the tournament with 10points, one point ahead of FC Ebolowa which entered the fourth and final round of matches on Monday totaling 9points. The Cameroonian outfit managed by experienced trainer, Oudou Kpoumie had beaten FA M'Sichana 2nil in its opening game and followed up the fixture with victories over Chad's TP Elec-Sport and AC Colombe of Congo Brazzaville. The South Region outfit whitewashed the Chadian outfit 5-1 and defeated AC Colombe 2-0 in its third game. Despite the brilliant run of results, the Cameroon representative fell short of glory in the final game where the side needed just a draw with the host Guinean outfit to be able to qualify for the 2025 finals. FC Ebolowa's failure to qualify for the 2025 showpiece prolongs Cameroon's wait to produce its first ever representative in the final phase of the CAF Women's Champions League since the competition was introduced in 2020. The club joins Louves MINPROFF, Awa Football Filles and Lekie Football Filles on the list of Cameroonian clubs that attempted to make the finals over the years and failed to break through. Cameroon's first representative in the qualifying phase of the championship, Louves MINPROFF, was knocked after losing to Malabo Kings of Equatorial Guinea in the semifinals of the Central African zonal qualifiers. Awa Football Filles and Lekie Football Filles both missed out after failing in their missions in different editions of the qualifying phase over the last four years.

CENTRAL AFRICAN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Cameroon flags of campaign with bullish Congo win

By TEMBA Junior SUH

Cameroon is off to a flying start in the women's series of the 2025 Central African zonal volleyball championship. The team registered the excellent start after bagging an authoritative 3-0 sets victory over host

Congo Brazzaville in its opening match of the tournament. The Volleyball Lionesses launched the onslaught after holding on enough to beat the Congolese 25-20points in the first. The team later completed the mission with two subsequent set wins against the Brazzaville girls in the second and third sets of the fixture. The Cameroon team clai-

med a comfortable 25-14points victory in the second set and downed the host nation with a 25-10points humbling in set three of the showdown. The ongoing showpiece in Brazzaville is the first edition of the Central African zonal volleyball championship organized by zone four of the Confederation of African Volleyball, CAVB. The tournament

assembles participants from Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Chad and other nations that make up the Central African CAVB lineup. Cameroon is represented by both the men and women's teams in the tournament which flagged off on September 28 and is scheduled to roundup on Thursday

September 2. The tournament is one of two tournaments that are scheduled to be organized by CAVB zone IV in recent weeks. The event will give way for the Central African zonal beach volleyball championship which is scheduled to run in Kintele in Congo Brazzaville from Friday October 3 to Monday October 6.