

OCTOBER POLL

Tchiroma takes campaign by storm



The president of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSCN party has morphed from the shadows of what had notably been summoned up as one of the most useless oppositions in continental Africa into becoming a fierce force that has left the other candidates in panic mood as he storms towns and cities across the country ahead of next Sunday's 2025 presidential poll. **P.5**

ROUNDUP

CAMEROON-CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BORDER

BIR strengthens presence to counter armed incursions **P.7**

STARTUP 237

Evaluation commission counts three success stories in Dschang **P.4**

South Region: Customs seizes consignment of alcoholic products allegedly smuggled from Equatorial Guinea **P.3**

ROUNDUP

GAROUA

Cathedral consecrated as Archdiocese marks 70 Years

The consecration was marked by a solemn pontifical mass celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, Bishop José Avelino Bettencourt.



By Saju Linda

An On Saturday, October 4, the consecration of the new Cathedral of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus of Nkolbivès in Yelwa witnessed a historic moment coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Diocese of Garoua, making the event both spiritual and symbolic for the Catholic community in Cameroon's northern region. The consecration was marked by a solemn pontifical mass celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, Bishop José Avelino Bettencourt. He was joined by about fifteen bishops from Cameroon and abroad, underscoring the significance of the occasion. Among the dignitaries present were Gabriel Mbairóbé, Minister of Agriculture, and Jean Abate Edji, Governor of the North Region, alongside government officials, traditional rulers, and thousands of the faithful who gathered to

witness the milestone. The Cathedral of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, now consecrated, stands as a testimony of faith and unity for the Archdiocese of Garoua, which has played a central role in the evangelization and social development of northern Cameroon. The celebration also served as an opportunity for the faithful to pay glowing tribute to Mgr Faustin Ambassa Ndjodo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Garoua, who has been credited with the vision and determination that brought the project to completion. "This cathedral is not only a house of God but also a heritage for future generations," said one parishioner, praising the Archbishop's dedication. As the Diocese of Garoua enters its eighth decade, the consecration of its cathedral is seen as both a renewal of spiritual commitment and a reinforcement of the Church's presence in the region. The jubilee and the cathedral consecration have left the faithful with a renewed sense of pride and hope for the future of the Archdiocese.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Gov't begins paying academic debts to lecturers, others

According to a release from the Higher Education Ministry, the disbursement of funds began and is being processed in phases.



By Brigitte BATE

Manchester United have completed the signing of Brentford star and Cameroonian international Bryan Mbeumo, in a deal reportedly worth up to 71 million United Kingdom Pound, over 50 billion FCFA. The forward becomes the Red Devils' marquee signing so far this summer, as the club looks to rebuild its attack under new manager Ruben Amorim. According to American sports news portal, The Athletic, the agreement includes an initial 65 million fee to be paid in instalments, with a further £6 million in performance-related bonuses. Negotiations between the two clubs had been ongoing for weeks, with United seeing two initial bids rejected before finally meeting Brentford's valuation. Mbeumo's arrival adds proven Premier League quality to a United attack that has struggled for consistency. Last season, the 26-year-old registered 20 goals and eight assists in 38 league games,

his most productive campaign yet. His pace, creativity, and work rate made him one of Brentford's standout performers and a fan favourite since joining the club in 2019 from Troyes in France. He leaves the West London side after five seasons, racking up 242 appearances, 70 goals, and 51 assists across all competitions. Brentford had already turned down multiple offers for fellow forward Yoane Wissa, making it clear only one of their prized attackers would be allowed to depart this window. United's interest in Mbeumo intensified following a disappointing season that saw the team struggle for goals and fail to secure a top-four finish. With the club looking to offload out-of-favour attackers like Anthony Martial and Jadon Sancho, Mbeumo's signing is seen as a fresh start for United's frontline. The Douala-born winger, who represents Cameroon internationally despite featuring for France at youth level, was also reportedly on the radar of Arsenal, Newcastle, and Tottenham. However, sources close to the player say he made it

clear that Old Trafford was his preferred destination. United manager Ruben Amorim is said to be a keen admirer of Mbeumo's tactical intelligence and versatility. The forward is comfortable playing on either wing or as a central striker—qualities that will be crucial as Amorim looks to implement a fluid attacking style. Mbeumo is expected to undergo a medical and finalize personal terms in the coming days before being officially unveiled. The deal is part of a broader restructuring at United, who are also working to offload several players in a bid to balance their books and comply with UEFA financial fair play rules. The signing is not just a show of ambition by United's new sporting structure but also a signal to fans that the club is serious about returning to the top tier of English and European football. Mbeumo's Premier League experience, coupled with his international pedigree, having represented Cameroon at the 2022 FIFA World Cup, adds leadership and depth to United's squad heading into the new season.

NEWS

2025 RECRUITMENT RESULTS

Police Force Warns Against Fake News

The National Police is raising an alarm about the increase in false information circulating on social media about 2025 police results.

Lesly AHANDA

In an official statement signed on October 4, 2025, by Divisional Commissioner Cécile Mandeng, the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) has warned the public about

fake news being spread online regarding the 2025 police recruitment results. On Friday, October 3, a false statement claiming to be signed by the head of the National Police was shared online. It announced through what appeared to be official channels such as the DGSN website and CRTV that the written exam results

from February and March had been published. The following day, fake lists of successful candidates for the Police Inspector and Peacekeeper exams also circulated. The DGSN has strongly denied this information, labeling it as «fake news.» It reminds the public that only official channels are authorized to publish the

results at the appropriate time. Given the situation, the institution is calling on the public especially candidates and their families not to be misled by these attempts to create doubt and confusion. It reaffirms its commitment



to ensuring a transparent selection process and urges patience until reliable information is shared through its official platforms.

HAVE YOUR SAY

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession

Cameroon celebrated the 31st edition of Teachers' Day yesterday under the theme "Teachers at the Heart of a Collaborative Profession," recognizing those who build all others with their knowledge.

By Brigitte BATE

Famed After their own studies, they go the extra mile to get professional knowledge so as to transfer it to the new generation. They are no other person but teachers. These dedicated individuals begin their day early. They stand in classrooms filled with young minds eager to learn. They write on chalkboards and explain difficult topics with patience. When a student does not understand, the teacher finds another way to explain. They do this not once, but many times, until the concept becomes clear. Their

work continues long after the final school bell rings. They sit at home in the evening, marking stacks of exercise books. They prepare lessons for the next day, thinking of how to make their teaching better. Many go as far as taking less academically-advanced students home for extra lessons. They do this quietly, without complaint, because their mission is to see children learn and succeed. The impact of their sacrifice touches every corner of society. The doctor who treats patients in a hospital first learned science from a teacher. The minister in government who helps make laws was once taught civics in a classroom. Even the president



and governors leading the country today were guided by teachers in their early years. Without teachers, no other profession would exist, according to Effa Gidoen Mim-

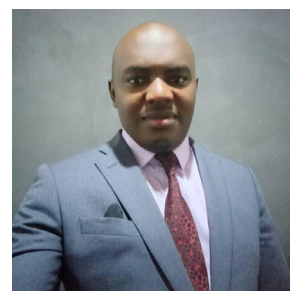
boman secondary school teacher. Despite this vital role, teachers often feel overlooked. After years of hard work and even strikes to demand better conditions, many

still lack the support they need. Nsagah Lyzie recently expressed her feeling, saying, "We are doing our best, but it is not encouraged. Teachers are key persons in the society because without us, who will teach the president and governors in the country" her words carry a powerful message. A nation that does not value its teachers is forgetting the very people who build its future. As the country celebrates Teachers' Day and prepares for elections, the connection is clear. The leaders on the ballot were once students in a classroom. Supporting teachers means supporting the foundation of the nation itself Dr Njankouo says.

REACTIONS

Dr Jankouo Sandamoun Zounedou,
University lecturer

"The conditions for teachers in Cameroon is inseparable from better governance"



whether there is a change of regime or continuity, improving the conditions for teachers in Cameroon is inseparable from better governance of the education system, which must translate into respect for their status and the concrete valuation of their mission in service of the nation. The single most important thing a Cameroonian teacher might

hope for from a new government is the global revaluation of the profession which is broken down into three globally inspired areas of expectation; salary revaluation, security and respecting career, training and skill.

Takang George, Teacher

"Teachers should be protected against all sorts of violence"



be it in the school milieu or the society in general.

Well what I can say is that, be it the new or old regime what the government should do in order to improve the lives of teachers is to increase their salaries, we all know that, it is the main problem we teachers faces and teachers should equally be protected against all sorts of violence

Kelly NJEIJE, Teacher

"Our efforts alone deserve recognition"



This profession is not easy, because the act of sharing knowledge is a bridge built between two minds. Even when you cannot see the other side, you continue building. That effort alone deserves recognition. Every lesson taught, every concept understood these are small victories in the human journey of growth. So let us value these moments, for in teaching we not only share what we know, but we also create something

new together, any new regime or old should know how to appreciate this act.

BAMENDA**Humanitarian Support Reaches Vulnerable Residents**

The aid distribution was overseen by the Minister of Territorial Administration during his visit to the Northwest Region.

By **Brigette BATE**

Over five hundred vulnerable residents in Bamenda have received humanitarian assistance as part of ongoing efforts to support communities affected by ongoing challenges. The assistance, provided on behalf of the Head of State, included essential items such as sleeping bags, hygiene kits,



and food supplies. During the ceremony, the city mayor expressed appreciation for the presidential couple's gesture, noting its importance for those facing difficult circumstances. The minister, Paul Atanga Nji acknowledged the resilience of the local population, particularly praising motorcycle taxi drivers for what he described as their patriotic commitment to peace despite security challenges. According to the local humanitarian plan

coordinator, this assistance represents just the beginning of a broader initiative. The same support per the minister will be extended across all 34 subdivisions of the region in the coming weeks, aiming to provide sustained help to families experiencing hardship. The coordinated effort forms part of a larger framework to address basic needs while encouraging social cohesion and stability in the area.

SOUTH REGION**Customs seizes consignment of alcohol allegedly smuggled from Equatorial Guinea**

Per Customs officials, the haul consisted of 131 boxes of whisky, 16 boxes of red wine and 10 pallets of beer.

By **Saju Linda**

The Ambam Customs Brigade in the South Region has intercepted a large shipment of alcoholic beverages allegedly smuggled from Equatorial Guinea as part of Cameroon's reinforced crackdown on cross-border trafficking. The operation took place at the Yama checkpoint in Ambam in the South Region's Ntem Valley Division, a zone that is believed to be a hotspot for illicit trade. According to customs officials, the haul consisted of 131 boxes of whisky, 16 boxes of red wine, and 10 pallets of beer. The officials said the contraband goods were discovered aboard a passenger vehicle attempting to cross the border. They said none of the products bore the official tax stamps required for distribution in Cameroon. Authorities stressed that such products not only pose a health risk to consumers, given their unregulated production and storage, but also undermine state revenues, as taxes are evaded. "Each seizure is a reminder that smug-



gling harms both the economy and the wellbeing of citizens," a customs officer noted after the operation. The recent raid is part of customs' broader surveillance strategy, which extends across border areas and into the national territory, according to Custom officials. Officials say the goal is to deter traffickers while encouraging legal trade practices. The Ambam corridor, given its proximity to Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, is known as a high-risk zone for contraband circulation. Customs authorities have reiterated their call for collaboration with citizens

and economic actors, urging vigilance and timely reporting of suspected trafficking activities. They stress that effective cooperation between law enforcement, traders, and the public is essential to combating illegal flows of goods. The seizure underscores the Cameroonian government's determination to curb smuggling networks and protect both the economy and public health. For many, it is also a signal that the stakes are rising in the fight against cross-border trafficking, where smugglers continually adapt their methods to evade control.

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✉ contact@thenationalpost.com

☎ (237) 222306079/698 933 346/677 137 263

Publisher

Boris Landry KOUKAM

General Supervisor

Paul Reinhard WANDJI

Managing Editor

TEMBA Junior SUH

Editor-in-Chief

NDUEH Eratus NDIMIDA

Deputy Editor-in-Chief

KUME Marius

News

Brigette BATE

Horizon

Michelle MBESSA

Reporters

Edith LAMNE, Paul DOUKSOUM

Production

Central Media Communication and Technologies-CMCT

RCCM: **RC/YAO/2022/B/1633**

P.O Box: **17019 Yaounde, Cameroon - Cami-Toyota Roundabout, Coron, Lucas Mill Building, 1st floor**

Contacts : **(+237) 677137263/ 698933346**

Website : **www.thenationalpost.com**

NEWS

STARTUP 237

Evaluation commission counts three success stories in Dschang

On October 3, 2025, a monitoring and evaluation mission was carried out in the capital of the Menoua Division, as part of the program funded by the French embassy in Cameroon, Startup 237.

By Paul Marcel MBEMBE

Three young local entrepreneurs presented the concrete progress of their projects, which benefit from strategic and material support. The mission, conducted by a delegation from the Francophone University Agency (AUF), the Center for Technology, Innovation and Incubation Support (CATII), and entrepreneurial mentors, was led by Professor Alain Kiyindou, Regional Director of AUF for Central Africa and the Great Lakes. The objective: to assess the progress made, measure the impact of the support received, and identify future prospects. Among the projects visited, DNA Maraî-

cher, initiated by Alex Djoumessi Ngouffo, an agricultural engineer, attracted attention. Thanks to the equipment obtained, including a vehicle, a motorcycle, and processing machines, the project has strengthened its production capacity across several sites. In Kentsop, a 2,500 m² plantation produces about 6 crates of chili peppers every 10 days. In Tchoule, another plot recently generated 1,100 crates of tomatoes. A third site, not visited, completes the operation. Another notable initiative, Djimi Quick, led by Brice Leonel Nono Wandji, transforms local products like sweet potatoes or corn into various food items. Thanks to new equipment (oven, chopper, flour machines), production has si-

gnificantly increased, particularly for sweet potato biscuits, which have gone from 10 to 60 packets per production cycle. The founder, mentored by entrepreneur Kamgang Loveline, aims for regional expansion. Finally, the mission concluded with a visit to the Semences d'Avenir (Seeds of the Future) nursery, founded by Magellan Gabin Nanfack Tsafouet. Created in 2017, the project has become more professional with the acquisition of eight motorcycles, facilitating the distribution of quality seedlings to a growing customer base. The goal is to sustainably improve agricultural yields in the region. Launched in 2023, the Startup237 initiative is part of a drive for economic transformation through local



innovation. In Dschang, the results are tangible: the supported young entrepreneurs are creating value, stimulating agriculture, and strengthening food self-sufficiency. The monitoring carried out by AUF and its partners underscores the effectiveness of the model: combining training, targeted funding, and mentoring to

bring out talent. The project leaders are now looking to the future with broader ambitions: industrialization, job creation, and conquering new markets. Post-incubation support, emphasized during the mission, appears essential to consolidate these gains and ensure sustainable growth.

EAST REGION

PM inaugurates modern finance house in Abong-Mbang

The new facility, dubbed an “architectural gem,” is expected to play a key role in modernizing state revenue collection and stimulating the local economy.

By Saju Linda

The town of Abong-Mbang witnessed a historic milestone on Thursday, October 2, 2025, with the inauguration of a modern Finance House by the Minister of Finance, Louis Paul Motaze. The new facility, dubbed an “architectural gem,” is expected to play a key role in modernizing state revenue collection and stimulating the local economy. Built on more than 2,000 m², the Finance House features around twenty modern offices, meeting rooms, and state-of-the-art IT equipment. It is designed to embody the vision of a tax and customs administration

that is efficient, accessible, and future-oriented. “This building is not just a structure; it is the living symbol of the Head of State’s desire to bring the administration closer to citizens and to build modern governance in the service of development,” declared Joseph LE, Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform, during the ceremony. Officials stressed that beyond providing comfort for public servants and improving the quality of service, the Finance House will serve as a strategic lever for economic growth. By facilitating better revenue mobilization, the infrastructure is expected to support major development projects in the Eastern Region. Abong-Mbang,



the capital of Upper-Nyong Division, occupies a strategic

crossroads position. Linking Yaoundé, Bertoua, and border

areas, it functions as a hub for the sale of agricultural products such as cocoa, coffee, cassava, and maize, alongside forestry and fisheries trade. Authorities believe the Finance House will help secure public revenue and provide tailored support to local economic actors in these sectors. With a total investment cost of 828.6 million FCFA, the new Finance House reflects the government’s determination to decentralize public services and reinforce proximity to citizens. For many residents, the inauguration marks not only a step forward in administrative modernization but also a symbol of pride and renewed hope for development in the East. The Abong-Mbang Finance House thus represents more than an office complex, it signals a new era of governance and economic vitality for the region.

NEWS

OCTOBER POLL

Tchiroma takes campaign by storm

The president of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSCN party has morphed from the shadows of what had notably been summoned up as one of the most useless oppositions in continental Africa into becoming a fierce force that has left the other candidates in panic mood as he storms towns and cities across the country ahead of next Sunday's 2025 presidential poll.

By TEMBA Junior SUH

Former Minister of Communication and of Employment and Vocational Training, Issa Tchiroma Bakary has left Cameroonians stunned as he tours cities and towns across the national territory campaigning ahead of next Sunday's presidential election. The president and candidate of the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSCN party has morphed from the shadows of what had notably been summoned up as one of the most useless oppositions in continental Africa into becoming a fierce force that has left the other candidates in panic mood. For over two decades, Tchiroma enjoyed elite level treatment as one of the biggest allies of the now incumbent President Paul Biya of the ruling Cameroon's People Democratic Movement, the CPDM party. The fruit of the ally with the Biya regime was his compensation as member of government where he notably globetrotted between three ministries. He globetrotted between the Ministry of Transport where he made his debut in the government in 1992 to the Ministry of Communication where he gained wide-spread popularity to the top office of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training where the 75-year-old shifted from coordinating government communications to handling mainly youth unemployment-oriented challenges.

Tchiroma takes campaign by storm

When Tchiroma finally shattered the link between him and Biya in June this year by resigning from his position as Minister of Employment and Vocational Training and declaring his candidacy for the October 12 poll, very few Cameroonians and political bookmakers saw in him a man who had what it takes to pose any form of challenge. That special status was reserved for Prof Maurice Kamto, originally of the Cameroon Renaissance Movement party whose subsequent candidacy which was filed under the banner of the MANI-DEM party was later rejected by



the elections management body, ELECAM and the Constitutional Council. In fact, despite the storied exit of Prof Kamto who had been the opposition firebrand since ranking second in the 2018 Presidential Election, Tchiroma still failed to get the top rating. He continued riding behind the shadows of the likes of another of Biya's longtime allies; former Prime Minister, Bello Bouba Maigari of the National Union for Democracy and Progress, NUDP. Bello Bouba had also resigned from the Biya government in June and later declared his candidacy for the Unity Palace top job. Things however changed when the pre-campaign and campaign window for the upcoming election flagged off. Since the campaign began, Tchiroma has been taking towns and cities across the country by storm, pulling thousands of supporters and sympathizers during his meetings and campaign rallies. The former communications boss flagged off the exercise with mega meetings in his native Far North Region before hitting the roads to other localities like Bertoua in the East Region where thousands showed up as he continued dishing out his message of a renewed Cameroon that is focused on prioritizing the interest of Cameroonians and "putting an end to the old system" as "The time has come for the current regime to step down with dignity." He later continued the journey across the West Region where he made

his final pre-campaign outing before officially launching his campaign in Yagoua in the Mayo-Danay Division of the Far North Region last Wednesday. The candidate punctuated the launch with similar crowd-pulling outings in Kousseri in the Logone and Chari Division also of the Far North Region.

Rare eye-opening outings in Yaounde, Bamenda, Buea...

The back-to-back crowd-pulling rallies held by Tchiroma finally transformed his campaign outings from being just ignored political meetings into a nationwide fiesta. The outings particularly earned the status after he made similar groundbreaking outings in the Centre Region last Friday. In what have since been described as a never seen before approach in Cameroon, the former minister pulled thousands of supporters during his rally and attracted a similar size of crowd during his drive through the streets of Yaounde. This, as he continued drumming his message of a new Cameroon that will cover up for the lapses that had been created by the over four-decade old Biya leadership. He made a similar outing in Bamenda in the North West Region and across Limbe and Buea, both in the Fako Division of the South West Region. During his Bamenda outing last Saturday, one of the towns where Tchiroma easily secured thousands of hatters for himself when, as Minis-

ter of Communications, he stated controversially that there was no Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, he went straight to the point and quickly apologized for the move. Tchiroma said he made the declarations on the high instructions of his hierarchy at the time. The former member of government promised to address grievances of Anglophones if elected as Head of State during the forthcoming October 12 poll by introducing well-tailored solutions to the problems behind the grievances. Down south Tchiroma in his campaign outing across the two towns Sunday, made similar promises about resolving the problems of Anglophones and those of the larger Cameroonian people by making decisive decisions that match with the need of the population.

Enter Tchiroma's mega rally in Douala

The candidate followed up the outing in Limbe and Buea yesterday with an even grandiose showing in next door Douala in the Littoral Region later that evening. In the economic capital, he was forced to address the population from his car after the massive crowd that had come out to receive him had overpowered the security disposition that had been put in place. In Douala, he touched on what he described as the endlessly rising economic hardship that Cameroonians have been forced to leave with under the Biya regime. "Came-

roonian youth cannot continue dying in deserts while desperately attempting to travel abroad in search of greener pastures," Tchiroma notably stated in the country's economic chief town. "To those who are threatening me, I want you to stop because you cannot threaten an entire people. The people of Cameroon have created their own coalition and chosen the leader and the leader of the coalition is Issa Tchiroma Bakary," the candidate stated amidst thunderous cheers from the thousands of fans who turned out at the campaign venue.

Biya, other candidates doing firefighting

Although incumbent Paul Biya is still to make an official outing since the campaign window flagged off, members of his party, including members of governments, have hit the ground in quest to woo voters for their national president. The CPDM foot soldiers and the other candidates in the race have particularly changed their approach since Tchiroma's unexpected emergence changed the dynamic. The likes of Prime Minister and Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute has been on the ground launching multiple projects across towns and cities in what has been described as one of the indirect approaches to woo voters. Other candidates like Cabral Libii of the Cameroon party for national reconciliation has also been on the ground, pulling crowds in Douala and Kribi in the Littoral and South regions. He was in Bamenda late last week where he promised to fix the Anglophone problem if elected president. Joshua Osih of the Social Democratic Front and the likes of Pierre Kwemo of the Union of Socialist Movements, UMS party have also been on the field using one-on-one approach across the localities in the North West, Littoral, South West and Centre regions. Tomaino Ndam Njoya of the Cameroon Democratic Union, the lone woman candidate in the race, has been crisscrossing towns and cities and reaching out to voters across markets and other populated areas.

NEWS

CAMEROON-CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BORDER BIR strengthens presence to counter armed incursions

The operation was led by the Commander of the 22nd Light Intervention Unit of the 2nd BIR, who visited the Zamboi Command Post to evaluate the security situation and ensure surveillance measures were in place.

By Saju Linda

The Rapid Intervention Battalion has reinforced its presence along the Cameroon-Central African Republic border, following a mission on October 3, 2025, aimed at securing the Kadéï River area, a zone frequently threatened by cross-border incursions. The operation was led by the Commander of the 22nd Light Intervention Unit of the 2nd BIR, who visited the Zamboi Command Post to evaluate the security situation and ensure surveillance mea-

sures were in place. The region has long faced challenges from armed groups, illegal trafficking networks, and persistent insecurity, making it a strategic concern for Cameroonian authorities. During the mission, the commander held consultations with traditional Baya and Boros authorities, local vigilance committees, and residents. The discussions emphasized the importance of civil-military cooperation in countering cross-border threats. "Security is everyone's responsibility. The BIR is here to protect, but the community plays a vital role in vigilance and information-sharing," one local leader

noted during the meeting. The 22nd Light Intervention Unit has been carrying out regular patrols, relying on its flexible territorial network and capacity for rapid intervention to maintain constant surveillance of the border. This strategy is credited with curbing the activities of armed groups and ensuring the protection of Cameroon's territorial integrity. The BIR's approach, which integrates local populations into the security framework, is seen as key not only to stabilizing the frontier but also to fostering peace in an area historically exposed to volatility.



TO BOOST MEDICINE PRODUCTION PM launches construction of pharmaceutical factory in Yaounde

Following similar projects in Martap in the Adamawa region and Kribi in the South, the Prime Minister, Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, acting on behalf of the President of the Republic, has brought the vision of President Paul Biya to the Meyo neighborhood in Yaounde 4.

By Brigitte BATE

In the capital city, another major achievement of the current leadership has been marked in golden letters. Accompanied by the Minister of Mines, Industry and Technological Development, Professor Fuh Calixtus Gentry, and several other government colleagues, the Prime Minister presided over the foundation stone laying ceremony for a new pharmaceutical factory by the YICHENG group. This project according to Prime Minister aims to strengthen health sovereignty and economic development through local production of essential medicines and medical devices that meet international standards of safety, efficacy and quality. The development plan spans three phases, factory establishment from 2025-



2027, hospital complex construction and industrial expansion 2027-2029, and regional expansion in the CEMAC zone with research center creation 2031-2035, representing a total investment of 300 billion CFA francs. He says the factory will have an annual production capacity of 100 million bottles, 2 billion ampoules, and 10

billion tablets across 100 medical products. It is expected to create 1,000 direct jobs for pharmacists, engineers and technicians, plus 3,000 indirect jobs in transportation and distribution. The project per the minister also includes university industry partnerships to train the next generation of scientific professionals.

FOSTERING GLOBAL SECURITY

Military Academy Opens Doors to New International Class

A defense academy in the capital city has launched its academic year, welcoming a new group of military officers from across Africa and Europe.



By Brigitte BATE

The ceremony known as the 21st intake named «New Era,» brought together fifty-seven students from twenty-six nations for advanced training in military strategy and leadership. Senior defense officials presided over the event, joined by faculty members and military leaders. The institution's commander addressed the incoming class, emphasizing the importance

of discipline and cohesion in modern military service. The gathering also featured an inaugural lecture exploring Africa's role in the evolving global security landscape and the need for the continent to assert its voice in international affairs. The diverse class includes officers from countries such as Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, France, and multiple Central African nations, fostering an environment of cross cultural dialogue and collaboration. The ceremony concluded

with General Valère Nka reminded attendees that discipline, perseverance and cohesion remain essential values for the modern soldier. The incoming class of fifty-seven officers from twenty-six nations now begins their training program focusing on strategic leadership and international security cooperation according to officials. The gathering marks the start of an intensive program designed to strengthen professional ties and strategic thinking among military personnel.

SPORTS

U17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

China stuns Cameroon in pretournament friendly

Team captain Tiwa Lys Fraiche scored the lone goal during the 4-1 defeat inflicted on the Under17 women's national football team of Cameroon by their Chinese peers in Morocco on Sunday.

By TEMBA Junior SUH

The Under17 women's national football team of Cameroon has suffered a 4-1 loss on the hands of China as it begins final preparations ahead of the forthcoming 2025 Under17 FIFA Women's World Cup tournament scheduled for Morocco. The team suffered the loss after allowing in multiple goals in the early minutes of the game to trail the Asians by 4nil at halftime during Sunday's fixture which took place at the Mohammedia Lanuria Club complex in the West coast of Morocco. Team captain Tiwa Lys Fraiche scored the U17 Lionesses' lone goal in the game after finding the back of the net in the second segment. Sunday's game was the first of at least three test matches



that the U17 Lionesses are expected to play in Morocco before the World Cup flags off in the North African country on Friday October 17. The team is also expected to lock horns with the African pair of Morocco and Zambia and South American nation, Ecuador before the side takes on the Nether-

lands on Saturday October 18 in its first game of the tournament. The U17 Lionesses next test game is expected to take place on Friday October 10 against Morocco.

Lionesses World Cup expedition threatened by coaching crisis

Cameroon will be making just its third participation in the final phase of the U17 Women's World Cup when it features in the 2025 tournament in Morocco, the team having only previously participated in the 2016 and 2018 editions of the showpiece since its launch in 2008. The team which will compete in Group B of the tournament alongside familiar opposition, North Korea, Mexico and the Netherlands, is threatened in Morocco by a coaching crisis that has relatively left the outfit in dispersed ranks 10 days before the World Cup begins. The side is destabilized by the suspension of its head coach Joseph Brian Ndoko by the Cameroon Football Federation, FECAFOOT. FECAFOOT suspended Ndoko last Wednesday October 1 over what it blamed on moral misconduct from the part of the former

lead trainer of the senior women's national football team of Cameroon. Following the suspension, the deputy head coach of the senior women's national football team, Josephine Mike Ndoumou was named as caretaker coach and travelled with the U17 Lionesses girls to Morocco barely 24 hours after Ndoko's suspension. The U17 Lionesses have since come out in a shocking plot twist urging FECAFOOT to reinstate the suspended trainer. In a video recording that has been circulating on social media platforms since last Saturday, the youngsters under the leadership of team captain Tiwa Lys Fraiche said the suspension have had a negative impact on them, begging the federation to bring back the sidelined trainer for the interest of the team and the larger interest of the Cameroonian people.

WOMEN'S AFCON

CAF expands 2026 tournament to 16 nations

The latest expansion means that the 2026 showpiece will have twice the number that featured in the inaugural 1991 edition.

By TEMBA Junior SUH

The Confederation of African Football, CAF has expanded the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations tournament to 16 nations, up from the 12 nations that were originally billed to compete in the Morocco showpiece early next year. The continental football governing body confirmed the expansion last weekend, according to numerous media sources, including the BBC. The confirmation ends weeks of speculation on a possible increase in the number of participating teams. It marks the third time that the competition is getting expanded since the inaugural edition was staged in 1991. The women's Africa Cup of Nations which has been Africa's flagship women's national football team competition since its introduction, flagged off as an eight-team event in 1991. It was held as an eight-nation showpiece until 2022 when Morocco hosted the first ever 12-nation version. Ghana hosted the last eight-team edition in 2018, the 2020 showpiece having been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. According to African



football pundits, the recent expansion is expected to affect the previous format that had been put in place for the qualifiers to the 2026 tournament. The qualifying series to the 2026 showpiece is presently in the second and final round with 22 nations set to battle for 11 qualification tickets that will hand them a pass to join Morocco which is automatically qualified as the host nation. Sources say the increase is likely to oblige CAF to introduce a third round in the qualifiers to determine the 15 nations that will finally qualify to join Morocco. The increase in the number of participating teams comes barely a year after CAF increased the prize money of the competition by 45% in the leadup to the 2025

edition which took place in Morocco with Nigeria bagging a winner's prize of one million United States Dollars. CAF president Patrice Motsepe told reporters in a declaration after confirming the expansion that the increase in the number of participants is in line with the institution's strides in continuously developing football across the African continent. "I am pleased with the progress we've made in women's African football. Part of my starting point is making sure (men and women) are paid well and they can make a career out of football. I can assure you women's football will continue to improve because that is an area we are focusing on a lot," Motsepe stated as quoted by BBC Sport.

WNBA FINALS

Aces widens lead over Makani's Mercury

The Las Vegas team expanded the lead after outsmarting Cameroon's Makani Monique Akoa and her Phoenix Mercury outfit in game two of the 2025 finals of the United States women's topflight basketball championship, the WNBA.

By TEMBA Junior SUH

The Las Vegas Aces have taken a two-zero lead over Cameroon women's national team sensation, Makani Monique Akoa and her club, Phoenix Mercury in the 2025 finals of the United States women's topflight basketball championship, the WNBA. The two-time WNBA champions expanded the lead after outsmarting Phoenix Mercury 91-78points yesterday in game two of the finals. The comfortable victory followed the hard-earned 89-86points win that the outfit registered against the Mercury team last Saturday October 4 in game one of the finals series. As traditionally expected, Aces were led to the game two victory on Sunday by record four-time Most Valuable Player of the WNBA championship and 2025 MVP, A'ja Wilson. The 29-year-old center contributed 28points, 14 rebounds and three assists on Sunday. The performance came in as an upgrade to the 21points, six rebounds and five assists that the acclaimed basketball sensation registered during game one of the series last Saturday. Wilson's performances in the ga-



me-two series did just enough in pushing the Vegas outfit which had its biggest points contributions in Sunday's game coming in from guard Jackie Young. The 28-year-old chipped in 32points, eight rebounds and two assists during 34 minutes of game time in yesterday's showdown. The Aces' victory came after Makani Akoa and her teammates struggled against the outfit. The Cameroonian contributed nine points, seven assists and a rebound for the three-time champions in the game. The performance was just slightly inferior to the 11points, three assists and two rebounds contribution that the 24-year-old had in game one when she made history by becoming the first Cameroonian to appear in the finals of the WNBA since the competition was launched

close to three decades ago. The Mercury's biggest performance on Sunday came in through 27-year-old forward, Satou Sabally who powered in 22points, two assists and nine rebounds and ace guard, Kahleah Copper who chipped in 23points and three rebounds. The two zero lead taken by the Aces entails that Mercury needs to avoid losing the next two matches in the ongoing finals series to be able to prevent Aces from becoming the 2025 WNBA champion after game four. The next two matches in the finals are scheduled for Thursday October 9 and Saturday October 11. If Aces wins both matches, it will claim the WNBA title. The Las Vegas' team's failure to win the two matches could possibly extend the finals beyond a four-game series to a maximum of a seven-game series.