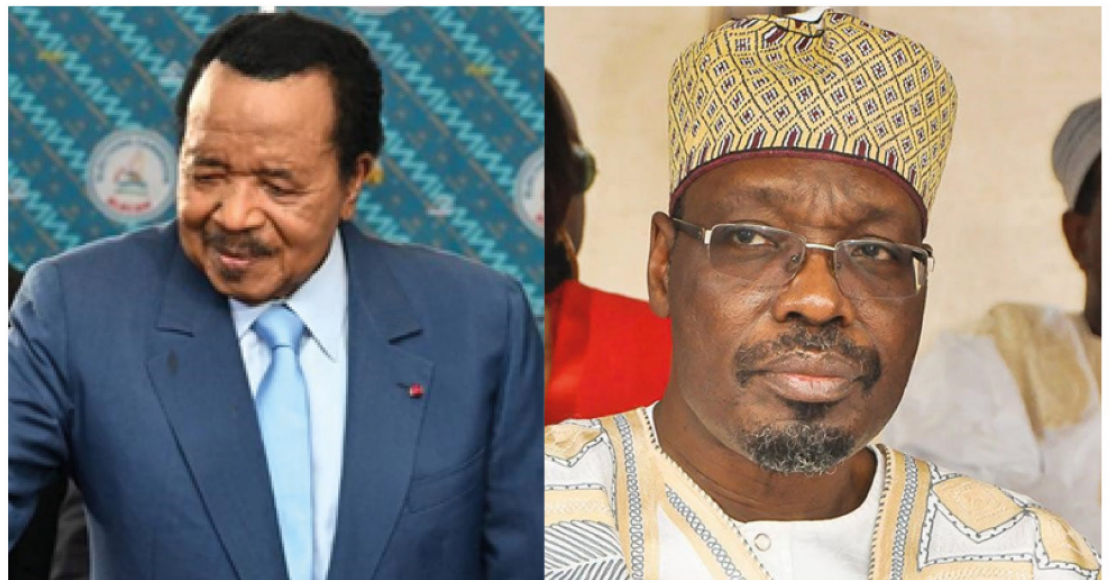


OCTOBER 12 POLL

Vote counting battle sweeps internet

As the countdown to official proclamation of Sunday's presidential election in two weeks begins, Cameroon's social media space has been awash with preliminary results from different polling stations showing incumbent Biya neck and neck with former ally and government spokesperson, Issa Tchiroma Bakary. Slightly over eight million Cameroonians, both at home and abroad, voted to elect the country's Head of State for a seven-year mandate. The government says the election was generally peaceful across the country. **P.4**



POLITICS

PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Candidates, int'l bodies... demand fairness, transparency **P.5**

SPORTS

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Cameroon faces Angola in do-or-die game today **P.8**

ROUNDUP

YAOUNDE

Renaissance Santé Association Signs Partnership with General Hospital

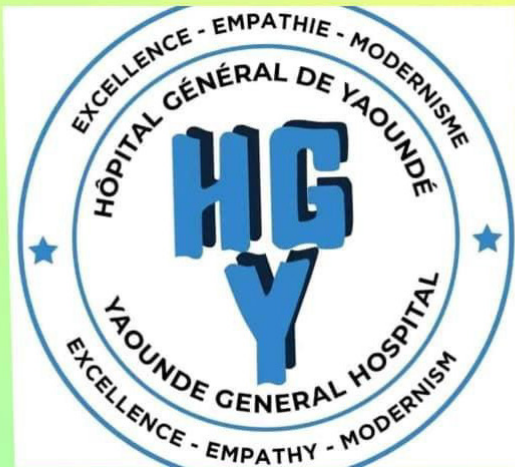
This agreement, concluded a few days ago, stems from resolutions adopted during the association's general assembly held on August 10 in Paris.

By Saju Linda

The Renaissance Santé Association has signed a partnership agreement with the Yaoundé General Hospital to provide medical support for children undergoing hemodialysis at the hospital's nephrology department. This agreement, concluded a few days ago, stems from resolutions adopted during the association's general assembly held on August 10 in Paris. The initiative is led by President Claire Carine Ntolo, under the patronage of Dr. Odile Wandji Teunkam. According to Mr. Noël Emmanuel Essomba, Director General of the Yaoundé General Hospital, the partnership pursues three main objectives: facilitating access to care for children requiring hemodialysis, strengthening the nephrology department with equipment and medication, and supporting secondary prevention efforts. He stressed that it is also a way to assist caregivers who often face the challenge of diagnosing conditions without being able to provide adequate treatment due to financial constraints. The Renaissance Santé Association, founded on September 4, 2023, in Nemours, France, has been active in promoting health care through scientific conferences, donations to hospitals, and awareness initiatives. In the past, the group has supported Laquini

nie Hospital in Douala and organized several seminars and events, including a gala in Paris on May 10 to honor the medical profession. From October 10 to 20, the association is preparing an official mission to Cameroon, during which members will conduct field visits and

launch concrete actions with the Yaoundé General Hospital. Beyond this project, the group is also marking "Pink October" by raising awareness and offering support to people affected by breast cancer, as well as those struggling with kidney failure and other costly illnesses in Africa.



CENTRE REGION

Shock lifeless body of man found hanging from tree

Medical teams who examined the scene reported unusual signs that raise questions about the cause of death. "The deceased's hands and feet were tied up.



By Saju Linda

Mbangassina, a locality in the Centre region of Cameroon, was rocked by a disturbing discovery of the lifeless body of Mathurin 2 Elélé, also known as "Gabonais," was found hanging from a safou tree branch approximately one kilometer behind the Mbangassina Public School Group. Medical teams who examined the scene reported unusual signs that raise questions about the cause of death. "The deceased's hands and feet were tied up," said Dr. Mbena, chief physician of the Mbangassina CMA. The assessment was conducted in the presence of Chief Warrant Officer Major Idrissa Mahamat, commander of the Mbangassina gendarmerie brigade, police officers, and the head of the Social Affairs Center. Health professionals also noted the absence of stool or urine on the body, which casts doubt on the theory of suicide. "These medical findings tend to rule out the possibility of voluntary

hanging," they stated, highlighting the unusual circumstances surrounding the case. The gendarmerie has opened an investigation to determine the exact circumstances of Mathurin 2 Elélé's death. Officials emphasize that all leads are being explored to clarify whether the incident was an act of foul play, an accident, or otherwise. Local residents expressed shock and concern over the incident, noting that such events are rare in the commune. Authorities urge the population to remain calm while the investigation continues and caution against spreading unverified rumors that could hinder law enforcement efforts. Cameroon Tribune reports that further forensic analysis and witness statements will be critical in uncovering the truth. As the inquiry progresses, the community remains anxious for answers about the mysterious death and the events leading up to it. The case underscores broader concerns about security and safety in Mbangassina and reflects the importance of thorough, methodical investigations in handling deaths under suspicious circumstances.

FAR NORTH

Intensification fight against cannabis cultivation

A recent large-scale operation by the Mokolo gendarmerie company in the village of Moudji, Bourha District, Mayo-Tsanaga Division, uncovered a vast field of cannabis, leading to multiple arrests and the seizure of a significant quantity of the illicit crop.

By Saju Linda

The fight against illegal cannabis cultivation has intensified in Cameroon's Far North region, with security forces stepping up crackdowns on growers and traffickers. A recent large-scale operation by the Mokolo gendarmerie company in the village of Moudji, Bourha District, Mayo-Tsanaga Division, uncovered a vast field of cannabis, leading to multiple arrests and the seizure of a significant quantity of the illicit crop. According to security sources, three suspects believed to be behind the cultivation were taken into custody and are currently being interrogated at the Mokolo Gendarmerie headquarters where investigations are ongoing to dismantle possible networks involved in the dis-



tribution of cannabis across the region. Authorities say the operation, described

as a "punch action," is part of a wider strategy to combat the cultivation and

trafficking of cannabis in border zones where such illegal activities have long thrived. The region's porous frontiers and difficult terrain are believed to facilitate the movement of traffickers, complicating enforcement efforts. Security experts highlight that cannabis production in the Far North is not only a criminal act but also a threat to public health and social stability. Local youths are said to be the most vulnerable, with increasing cases of drug abuse reported in recent years. "It is not just about uprooting plants; it is about saving lives and protecting future generations from addiction," a gendarmerie officer involved in the operation explained. The government has repeatedly stressed its zero-tolerance stance on drug-related crimes. Over the past five years, several similar operations have been conducted in the northern

regions, with hundreds of kilograms of cannabis seized and dozens of traffickers prosecuted. Authorities also insist that dismantling cannabis fields contributes to the wider fight against cross-border criminality, including smuggling and terrorism financing. For residents of Bourha District, the recent operation is both a relief and a reminder of the scale of the problem. Local community leaders have expressed support for the crackdown but are also calling for preventive measures, including awareness campaigns and support for alternative livelihoods for farmers tempted by the lucrative drug trade. As the investigation continues, security forces reaffirm their determination to maintain pressure on traffickers and growers, ensuring that the Far North region is no longer a safe haven for illegal cannabis cultivation.

CAMEROON VOTES

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Cameroonian intellectuals drum peace

Speaking to journalists on October 11 in Yaoundé, members of the Citizen and Transpartisan Dynamic for Peace, Nonviolence, and Justice urged Cameroonians to ensure the nation's unity regardless of the election outcome.

By Saju Linda

As tensions rose ahead of Cameroon's presidential election, a group of intellectuals warned that the country risks descending into chaos if peace is not prioritized. Speaking to journalists on October 11 in Yaoundé, members of the Citizen and Transpartisan Dynamic for Peace, Nonviolence,



and Justice urged Cameroonians to ensure the nation's unity regardless of the election outcome. The panel, led by President Fridolin Nké and including Dieudonné Essomba, Moussa II, Abel Moussi, and Bouba Ngomna, signed a Manifesto for Peace, Justice, and Nonviolence calling on citizens, candidates, and institutions to reject violence. They condemned what they described as two dangerous trends: alleged plans by the ruling

camp to manipulate results and possible attempts by the opposition to declare false victories, both of which could lead to unrest. The group said its mission is to prevent a national catastrophe by promoting dialogue, tolerance, and nonviolence. They also highlighted multiple sources of tension, including banned rallies, arrests, and intimidation, and called on journalists to act as witnesses for peace.

2025 PRESIDENTIAL

Tchiroma, Minister Atanga Nji go head-to-head

The FSNC candidate and the Minister of Territorial Administration have been directly and indirectly exchanging verbal blows in the last few days since the 2025 presidential fever reached its peak.

By Brigitte BATE

“Your public threats of arresting me if I announce, on the evening of October 12, the truth from the polls are unacceptable,” Tchiroma fired back. “Let's be clear, the voice of the people and the transparency of the electoral process are constitutional principles.” Grounding his defiance in law, the opposition leader asserted, “Article 113 of the Electoral Code and the basic rules of democracy allow the publication and circulation of results from the vote count. To threaten a candidate for informing the people is to threaten the very sovereignty of the nation.” He directly challenged the minister's conviction, stating, “If you are convinced of the legality of your threats, then come and assume them publicly.” Turning to security forces, Tchiroma made a passionate appeal, “You took an oath to protect the Cameroonian people, its institutions, and its dignity. Your weapons, your uniforms, and your positions give you a sacred responsibility.” He warned against blind obedience, declaring, “If an order is given to you to suppress the free expression of the people, to



intimidate voters, to steal votes, or to repress peaceful citizens refuse it. Protect first the people you serve.” To citizens, he offered both reassurance and direction, “Do not be afraid. Stay calm and determined. Go out and vote. Exercise your rights. Protect your votes.” Revealing their preparedness, he noted, “We have established teams of poll watchers, a legal task force, and a transmission network to collect and publish the official results.” Addressing those in power, Tchiroma issued a stern warning, “To those who are using the State apparatus to intimidate others, Know that you underestimate the determination of the people. The Nation is watching. History will record your responsibilities.”

In his final challenge to the minister, he declared, “I make this last public appeal to you, stop these intimidations. Act with historical responsibility. Show Cameroon and the world that our institutions respect the law.” He concluded with unwavering resolve, “I will not yield to fear or provocation. We will defend the people's voice by all legal and peaceful means.” The public strongly appreciates his brave stand against government intimidation. Many people see him as much bolder than other opposition leaders, whom they view as being too careful. They believe he has both the courage to fight the current system and the political skill to handle Cameroon's complicated politics

ELECTION RESULTS

Cameroonians guard vote through counting process

As Cameroonians prepared to vote yesterday, October 12, their role extended beyond that of mere voters to become vigilant guardians of the results.



By Brigitte BATE

They did not just come to cast their ballots, but also to stand guard. When it was time to count the votes, people did not go home. They moved closer. They stood in the doorways. They looked through the windows. Everyone was quiet, but everyone was watching. Inside the voting room, the election workers did their job but not alone; citizens were

there observing, making sure the numbers were written correctly and even helping in the count. From their watch at the windows and doors, these citizens became messengers, sharing the results from their polling stations with the waiting crowds and the rest of the country. Citizens started creating short and catchy nicknames for some candidates, which spread quickly through the crowd. This scene, repeated in countless stations, was a national audit conducted not by

institutions, but by the people. They were there to ensure that the journey of the results card from the box, to the count, to the final declaration was transparent and fair. The long hours stretched on, but the vigil held. As the vote drew to its end, the most powerful instrument was not the ballot itself, but the unwavering will of the citizens to protect it. Even though the official results are weeks away, some voters have already decided who their winner is.

CAMEROON VOTES

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Vote counting battle sweeps internet

As the countdown to the official proclamation of Sunday's presidential election result in two weeks begins, Cameroon's social media space has been awash with preliminary results from different polling stations showing incumbent Biya neck and neck with former ally and government spokesperson, Issa Tchiroma Bakary. Slightly over eight million Cameroonians, both at home and abroad, voted to elect the country's Head of State for a seven-year mandate. The government says the election was generally peaceful across the country.

By Brigitte BATE

Vote counting has begun across the national territory and abroad after yesterday's presidential election. As the countdown to the official proclamation of Sunday's presidential election result in two weeks begins, Cameroon's social media space has been awash with preliminary results from different polling stations showing incumbent Biya neck and neck with former ally and government spokesperson, Issa Tchiroma Bakary. The tallying flagged off shortly after voting ended at 6pm on Sunday. Over eight million Cameroonians had registered to vote in the 2025 presidential poll where 12 candidates, including incumbent Paul Biya of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM party, were on the starting bloc. The government and other sources stated in different outings at the close of voting yesterday that the election was largely peaceful despite a few hitches recorded in some parts of the country including in the North, Littoral, West regions and other localities.

Vote counting sweeps internet

The final result of Sunday's election is not expected until at least October 27. But that has not contributed enough in limiting the drama around the vote counting process and the publication of preliminary results. The dram which has now been likened to battle between the two leading candidates has been particularly intense across social media platforms and other internet platforms. Since the close of polls, social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and X, formerly Twitter, have been awash with what is reported to be results from various polling stations across the national territory. Although early results shared across the platforms suggested that former member of government, Issa Tchiroma Bakary of



the Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSNC has been leading, the trend gradually balanced up as the day became older, indicating a close race between Tchiroma and incumbent. Even before voting concluded in Cameroon, early results from the diaspora indicated that Tchiroma had won in several polling stations and nations in the diaspora. One of the notable results came through from Peking in China which is placed at GMT+ eight, seven hours ahead of Cameroon. Other results from the diaspora indicated that Tchiroma had won in polling stations in Russia, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and other parts of the world. The dynamic however became balanced when results that are believed to be from polling stations in Cameroon started being spread across social media platforms. That was despite the fact that results that were believed to be from most urban areas across the country indicated that Tchiroma was winning in most polling stations including in the capital Yaounde where the FSNC leader reportedly bagged victories of wide margins. Per the results, candidate Cabral Libii of the Cameroon Party for National Reconciliation, PCRN was placed third on the tentative classification while the National Union for Democracy, UNDP of former Prime Minister Bello Bouba Maigari was fourth. The Social Democratic Front of candidate Jo-

shua Osih struggled heavily alongside the likes of Tomaino Ndam Njoya of the CDU. Pierre Kwemo of the Union of Socialist Movements, UMS party and Serge Espoir Matomba of the United People for Social Renovation were both having a more challenging ride. The final result of the election is expected by October 27 from the Constitutional Council. The confirmation of the result by the Council is expected to come after post electoral litigations that are expected to be filed by the various candidates after the first publication of results by the national election management body, Elections Cameroon, ELECAM.

Candidates calm after "peaceful" poll

Speaking in separate interviews after yesterday's poll, the various candidates said they are pleased with how the election unfolded. They said they are calmly waiting for the proclamation of the result. Incumbent Paul Biya said he is glad that the poll went through smoothly and despite stating that he will not hurry to make promises on what he will offer the Cameroonian people in the next seven years until the final results are confirmed. "Everything has been going on smoothly without any hitches. That alone is impressive," the incumbent candidate stated after voting at Government Primary School Bastos in Yaounde. "I don't want to dabble into predictions but I am happy and

hope that everything will go on calmly. I cannot make declarations on what I will do. For now, we have to wait and see what the result looks like when it comes out. I cannot make declarations without being sure of getting elected," Biya added. Issa Tchiroma Bakary made similar declarations. He said if he is proclaimed winner, he will role for the interest of all Cameroonian people. "It was a very great day for me. I dedicate my entire existence to the protection and promotion of our country. I have fulfilled my civic duty which is that of choosing with all peace and freedom. I just did that with all pleasure and responsibility," candidate stated.

"I am happy to preside over

Osih Joshua of the Social Democratic Front in an interview after voting at Lycee Joss in Douala in the Littoral Region said "We are waiting. We are calm. We had difficulties on the field, in Mundemba and Mbonge in the South West Region." Tomaino Ndam Njoya of the Cameroon Democratic Union, CDU party said she is satisfied with the process despite the few hitches that were recorded notably in her native and fief, Noun in the West Region where she voted. She said she has switched her attention on the tallying and proclamation of the final results.

Administrators hail smoothness of process

Administrative authorities in



the destiny of our country. I will take care of Cameroonians and their wellbeing. We have the value of pride, honour and dignity. I will like to reawaken these values, which are within all of us..." Tchiroma added. Ateki Caxton of the Liberal Alliance Party, party also expressed full satisfaction. "I am very proud and filled with hope about this country. For me, this is something that raise our hopes about the democracy of our country. We have also watched with pleasure that so many persons were on the hands to coordinate the exercise. I didn't notice anything negative," the candidate stated.

Enter Osih, Tomaino

separate outings, also hailed the smoothness of the process. The governors of the North West and South West regions where there was fear before the start of the polls over insecurity, both said the exercise was smoothly organized. Bernard Okalia Bilai of the South West Region said the conduct of the exercise was impressive and worthy of being praised. He hailed the population of the region for participating in the exercise. Governor Adolphe Lele L'Afrique said the polls were held without any hitches despite the heavy rainfall that threatened to disrupt that exercise across several parts of his area of command, the North West Region.

NEWS

PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Candidates, int'l bodies demand fairness, transparency

The 12 candidates and the international community have called for fairness, transparency and peace as the nation heads towards the proclamation of the final result of Sunday's exercise at the end of this month.

By TEMBA Junior SUH

The 12 candidates who are on the starting bloc in Sunday's presidential election Cameroon have urged fairness, transparent and peace as the country switches its attention to the proclamation of the winner of the presidential poll after yesterday's election. Over eight million Cameroonians headed to the polls across Cameroon and the diaspora on Sunday to elect the nation's leader for a seven-year mandate that is expected to run until 2032. The voting process was largely peaceful both in Cameroon and in the diaspora, according to the government and other sources. Preliminary results that have circulated since voting ended has indicated that incumbent Paul Biya of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM is running neck and neck with his former ally, Issa Tchiroma Bakary of Cameroon National Salvation Front, FSNC party. The preliminary results have provoked an atmosphere of excitement and tension across social media platforms as supporters of Biya who is eyeing an eighth term battle out



with Tchiroma, a man who is seeking to unseat his long-time ally.

Candidates, int'l communities demand fairness, transparency

In several declarations before and after Sunday's polls, the 12 candidates on the starting bloc and the international community both drummed fairness, transparency. International bodies that have joined the call include the African Union

and the International Organization of the La Francophonie. While most of the candidates made calls for peace after electing, international bodies like the AU and the La Francophonie engaged with national bodies and candidates to push forward the peace agenda. The La Francophonie team to Cameroon notably had an audience with the President of the Cameroon Rights Commission, Prof James Mouangue Kabila to chat the way

forward. "We have had the honor of having a very frank, very transparent and very enriching discussion with His Excellency the President of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission. We made our observations clear," the head of the commission, Mohamed Aujjar stated after the audience. "We had objective and legal answers on the ongoing electoral process and especially on the respect of human rights throughout the elec-

toral exercise," he added. Speaking in an interview after an audience with the president of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission, the delegation head of the AAU observation mission to Cameroon, Bernard Makuza made similar declarations. The former Prime Minister of Rwanda and current Senate President of Rwanda said the commission was focused fully on ensuring that the sexercise goes on peacefully without any hitches. "The fact that there is an AU commission for human rights in a good thing first of all. The African Union can only operate within the framework of the laws that exist in a country, but also within the constitution and other legal or regulatory instruments," the AU commission observation mission leader stated. "We put all the observations together so that the country can take into consideration for a possible improvement. We not only observe what had been happening from the pre-election period and the campaign period but also what will follow after the poll," Bernard Makuza who is heading a commission comprising some 40 short-term observers to Cameroon, further stated.

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Minister Atanga Nji warns against unauthorised release of results

Speaking at a press conference in Yaounde on October 12, 2025, shortly after polls closed, the minister cautioned candidates and their supporters against using "illegal platforms and unauthorized applications" to release election outcomes.

By Saju Linda

The Minister of Territorial Administration draws a firm line as vote counting continues across Cameroon following Sunday's presidential election, the Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, has issued a stern warning against any attempt to publish unofficial results. Speaking at a press conference in Yaounde on October 12, 2025, shortly after polls closed, the minister cautioned candidates and their supporters against using "illegal platforms and unauthorized applications" to release election outcomes. "Until yesterday evening, administrative authorities presented consistent evidence indicating attempts by certain candidates to publish results through illegal means," Atanga Nji declared. "I take this opportunity to reiterate my warning to those tempted by this criminal activity that this is the red line that must not be crossed." He emphasized that the law strictly reserves the announcement of official results to the competent institutions, and any parallel



publication would be treated as a serious offense. "The administration will go on the offensive to put an end to the fabrication of false results," the minister added. "Violators, regardless of their political status or social standing, will face the full force of the law without any leniency." Nearly

eight million Cameroonians were expected to cast their ballots to elect the country's next president for a seven-year term. The vote counting process continues under the supervision of ELECAM and administrative authorities nationwide.

The National POST

N°62- Monday October 13, 2025

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NEWS

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

AU mission calls for free, transparency poll

The African Union Election Observation Mission has established its presence in the country with the mission's head, Bernard Makuza, calling on a free and fair election.

By **Brigette BATE**

Speaking after meeting with the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission and his team, Makuza emphasized the importance of proper electoral conduct. «The AU wishes for a transparent and calm election, and to avoid violence,» he stated. «We wish for a fair play and free democratic process.» The AU delegation has been actively engaging with various stakeholders since arriving in Cameroon. Their meetings have included presidential candidates,



government institutions, and other key organizations involved in the

electoral process. This comprehensive approach demonstrates

the mission's commitment to thoroughly observing all aspects of

the election. Across the country, voters have been expressing their thoughts about the electoral process. Many citizens emphasize the importance of maintaining the integrity of the vote. There are strong opinions about ensuring that ballot papers remain within polling stations, as some voters worry that if ballots are taken outside, they could be misused to pressure voters or compromise the secrecy of their choices. This concern reflects the public's desire for a truly free and fair electoral process where every vote remains confidential and every citizen can choose without any external pressure.

HAVE YOUR SAY

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Day of choice, Cameroonians cast their votes

On a quiet Saturday morning, some schools served as areas for casting votes. People gathered at their different centers to make their voices heard.

By **Brigette BATE**

At places like the Bastos Government Bilingual Primary School in Yaounde, the Government Bilingual High School in Essos, and the Government Bilingual High School in Etoug Ebe, which served as voting areas, the quiet morning air was filled with a sense of expectation. These familiar places, usually full of students, had become centers for decision making. Some Cameroonians walked to their voting centers to choose their next leader. «If we all stay home, who will vote and bring change? That is



why I am here,» said Noubiap Brice. The polls opened, and voting started at exactly 8:30 a.m. Each voter had their special card, well-kept in an envelope picked up at the voting center. The cards were simple, but their colors were important. They helped voters know which candidate they were voting for. There was a red card, an orange card, a yellow card, and others. As the lines grew longer, you could feel the different reasons people had for coming. For many, just being there was a powerful act. They were practicing a right they have as citizens. They believed it was their duty to vote, no matter who they chose. They were proud to have a say in their country's future. But for many

others, the day carried a deeper meaning. It was not just about a right, but about a desire for change. They hoped their vote could help bring a different kind of future for Cameroon. «For me, it is my right, and one person cannot make it, so I am here to contribute in bringing change,» shared Salam Ngeminin. So, as the day went on, the voting centers buzzed with life. People young and old came together. Some came to honor their right. Others came with a hope for change. But together, with their red, orange, and yellow cards, they all took part in writing the next chapter for Cameroon. It was a quiet, steady process, but each vote was a powerful voice in the story of the nation.

REACTIONS

WILLIAM NDANGO

“I vote for change”



Voting first is my civil right as a Cameroonian, it's my right as a citizen of this our beautiful nation. Secondly, as you know, Cameroon has been in a series of changes, and we need a change not only for us but for the generation to come. Thirdly, as a leader of an upcoming NGO, it is by leadership I went for. After voting, I had that feeling that change can be done, and change is by us, the youths of this nation.

JUNIOR BRANDON

“I am tired of the way things are”



This polling station is the only place we are respected. They do not respect us anywhere, and I think it is the regime. My voting today is to contribute to a change. I am tired of the way things are. We need a new government that will listen to its people. Our voices matter. Let this vote be the beginning of a new Cameroon where every citizen is valued every day, not just on election day.

OCTOBER 12 POLL

Fraud attempt sparks outrage at Douala polling station

A young man was caught filling out 16 result sheets at the Government English Practicing Primary School polling center in Bonamoussadi, prompting voters to immediately demand the suspension of the process and call for a complete restart.

By **Brigette BATE**

The sacred trust of the ballot box was violently shattered at the Government English Practicing Primary School in Bonamoussadi, when a young man was caught in the act of fraud, sending back the electoral process. The incident unfolded in the midst of the busy voting day. The furious crowd immediately descended on him; their anger fueled by the betrayal of their democratic rights. For a few chaotic moments, the scene turned violent as the crowd attempted to mete out their own justice. The situation



was only stopped when police officers on site intervened, escorting the man away. His removal, however, did little to calm the public outrage. In the aftermath, voters at the center stood their ground, refusing to continue with the process. They demanded a complete and total restart of the voting procedure at that location, insisting that only such a decisive action could restore the integrity of their votes. As news of the event spreads, comments are already calling for a thorough investigation. Many are pointing to the nature of the act, suggesting that the individual was likely not acting alone and was probably paid by political actors to tamper with the election's outcome.

OPERATION ALPHA

BIR enhances protection of women, children

According to the commander of the Central Zone of OPS Alpha, the BIR places the safety and dignity of civilians especially women and children at the heart of its mission.

By **Saju Linda**

The The Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) has reaffirmed its commitment to protecting women and children, the most vulnerable groups during security crises. This comes as the elite force intensifies its field operations under "Operation Alpha," aimed at restoring peace and reinforcing trust between the military and local populations. According to the commander of the Central Zone of OPS Alpha, the BIR places the safety and dignity of civilians especially women and children at the heart of its mission. During a recent patrol, he assured residents of the army's continued presence and strict respect for international humanitarian law. This humanitarian-centered approach, officials say,



demonstrates that beyond combating armed threats, the BIR remains a shield for civilians caught in conflict zones. Created in the early 2000s,

the BIR is an elite unit of the Cameroonian army reporting directly to the Presidency of the Republic. Supported by the United States, it operates

mainly against Boko Haram insurgents in the Far North and separatist groups in the Anglophone regions. The unit, headquartered in the Bastos

neighborhood of Yaoundé, is known for its discipline, autonomy, and efficiency in protecting lives and maintaining national stability.

SPORT

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Cameroon faces Angola in do-or-die game today



The team heads to the game against the Angolan team hoping to garner all three points to ensure that it claims an automatic qualification ticket to the final phase of next year's global showpiece although the chances will also depend on how the other final matches in the pool unfold.

By **TEMBA Junior SUH**

The team heads to the game against the Angolan team hoping to garner all three points to ensure that it claims an automatic qualification ticket to the final phase of next year's global showpiece all the chances will also depend on how the other final matches in the pool unfold.

Cameroon will take on Angola this Monday in its final group game in the qualifiers to the 2026 FIFA World Cup scheduled for the United States of America, Canada and Mexico. The Indomitable Lions will challenge the Black Antelopes as from 5pm at the Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium in Yaounde. The team heads to the game against the Angolan team hoping to garner all three points to ensure that it claims an automatic qualification ticket to the final phase of next year's global showpiece although the chances will also depend on how the other final matches in the pool unfold. The five-time African champions held multiple training sessions in Yaounde under the coordination of head coach Marc Brys to finalize preparations in the buildup to the ultimate game Monday. Cameroon currently sits second in Group D after securing 18points in its nine opening matches. The team trails pool leaders Cabo Verde by two points. The Blue Sharks total 20points and are set to make history by becoming the second smallest country to qualify for the World Cup if they reach the 2026 finals. The island nation will automatically qualify for next year's tournament if it outsmarts Eswatini in its final game at home this Monday. If the Cabo Verdeans fail to beat Eswatini and Cameroon overpowers Angola in Yaounde, Cameroon to claim the pool's lone automatic qualification ticket in what will see the Indomitable Lions further extending their record to an African record-extending ninth

World Cup participation.

Cameroon monitoring situation of playoff window

Asides going all out chasing the automatic ticket, Cameroon will also head to this Monday's game monitoring chances that it has in qualifying through the playoff window in case it fails to claim the direct ticket. Cameroon is presently placed fifth on the tentative standing among the second-placed teams and has chances of qualifying for the continental playoff as one of the best four runners up nations on the African continent. The team sits behind Gabon, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar. Gabon leads the contingent with 22points while Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar follow suit with 21 and 19points respectively. The Indomitable Lions have the opportunity to break into the top four bracket if they beat the Black Antelopes of Angola today as a victory will see the team climbing to 21points on the point count. Africa has nine automatic qualification spots for the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament. By the end of action yesterday, five of the tickets had been bagged. The North African contingent of Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria claimed the first four tickets before Mohammed Kudus' strike against the Comoros Island in Accra last evening handed the Black Stars of Ghana the fifth. The African continent has a chance to claim a 10th qualification ticket. The 10th ticket is up for grabs through the playoff window. The ticket is open to the best four group runners up in the African zonal qualifiers. The four teams will matchup in a continental playoff tournament in Morocco with the winner claiming the lone qualification ticket to the intercontinental playoff competition. In the intercontinental playoff, the African flagbearer will have the chance to qualify as one of the two winners of the six-team competition.

2026 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Morocco to host African play-off tournament November

According to a circular signed by Samson Adamu, CAF's Director of Competitions and Events, the tournament will take place from November 13 to 16, 2025, in a high-stakes knockout format.



By **Saju Linda**

CAF unveils dates, format, and contenders for decisive qualification stage. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has officially confirmed that Morocco will host the African play-off tournament to determine the continent's final contender for the intercontinental play-offs ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. According to a circular signed by Samson Adamu, CAF's Director of Competitions and Events, the tournament will take place from November 13 to 16, 2025, in a high-stakes knockout format. The semi-finals are set for November 13, while the final will be played three days later on November 16. The competition will feature the four best runners-up from the nine African qualifying groups, based on results after the 10th matchday in mid-October.

Among the potential participants are football powerhouses Cameroon, DR Congo, Gabon, Burkina Faso, and Madagascar. CAF also revealed that the October 2025 FIFA rankings, due on October 23, will determine the seedings. The top-ranked team will face the fourth-ranked, while the second and third will clash in the other semi-final. The winner of the Moroccan play-off will earn the right to represent Africa in the intercontinental play-offs scheduled for March 2026, where they will face opponents from Asia, South America, Oceania, or Concacaf for a final World Cup ticket. This marks a crucial step in Africa's road to the expanded 2026 World Cup, co-hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada, with ten African nations expected to feature. A system that promises explosive duels and maximum pressure, where every detail, every FIFA point, could change the destiny of a nation.