

Nurses resume strike



Trainee nurse helps relatives move a patient (image: Lusaka Times)

Nurses and midwives at the University Teaching Hospital have gone on strike – again – just over a month after calling off a 7-day strike. They are protesting against government's failure to award them an acceptable pay rise.

The health workers resumed work last month believing that government had promised to address their grievances, but this week Health Permanent Secretary Peter Mwaba refuted any promises: "The Minister of Labour (...) just told them that he had received their complaint, and he would look into it. He did not say 'I am promising that I will bring you this and this,'" Dr Mwaba explained.

Details were confusing, but nurses complained about receiving less than the promised 4% to 21%, depending on reports. The nurses were especially miffed by the fact that civil servants such as cleaners and other general workers had received pay rises of up to 200%, putting them at almost the same salary as nurses. This week, there were reports of some nurses demanding a minimum salary of K10,000.

"This Shamenda man came here last month, when we initially went on strike, and told us that we should put his head on the chopping board, if government does not pay us our 21% salary increments. Our October salaries are still showing 4%, and now we want Shamenda to come back to UTH, and we chop off his head," one nurse told the Lusaka Times.

Later in the week, government met with the four unions in the health sector (Zambia National Union of Health and Allied Workers, Zambia Union of Nurses Organisation (ZUNO), Health Workers Union of Zambia and the Civil Servants and Allied Workers Union of Zambia). ZUNO called for a stop to the strike – to no effect:

"We had a meeting with ZUNO, and they only told us to resume work, and then what? Some of us cannot even afford to pay rentals because of the money that they give us. We work very hard here at UTH. (...) We will be coming here just to sit and go home when it is time to knock off. This time around no one will force us, I am telling you, because we are tired of their promises," another nurse told the Post.

While the strike spread to other hospitals, UTH was manned by trainee nurses supported by health personnel from the defence forces. Nevertheless the media was full of stories of desperate patients and relatives appealing to nurses to put lives over money.

On the seventh day of the strike, government had enough: It gave the nurses up to 17:00 hours on 28 November to report for work – or be charged for absenteeism.

10 things you should know this week

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Editor's note

Imagine this: You are an expatriate working in a company in Zambia. You start out on a short-term contract, which may get extended, sometimes several times, but chances are that you eventually will leave Zambia for another job somewhere else. Most do. Now, do you think you would want to return to Zambia to collect your pension from the National Pension Scheme Authority (NAPSA) when that time arrives? Probably not, as the costs involved (in travelling but mostly in time) would surpass your pension by far. Nevertheless NAPSA has this year clarified that all expatriates must contribute to the pension scheme. The only exception is "an employee of an international organisation who is not a citizen of Zambia". In this case an international organisation is declared by the president (by statutory order) as an organisation of which Zambia and other states are members. A typical example is the United Nations. Therefore, unless you work for the United Nations or similar organisations, if you are an expatriate, you have to contribute to NAPSA. I am still to hear about an expatriate who had the patience to try and get money out of NAPSA. Perhaps because very few hitherto have actually contributed anything – and why should they?

New Ambassador in China

President Sata has appointed Gertrude Mwape as Ambassador to China. She replaced Eva Fundafunda – for unknown reasons – who was appointed in February 2013. Mwape comes from a job as counsellor, political and administration, at Zambia's mission at the United Nation in New York. According to the *Zambian Watchdog*, Mwape is a niece of First Lady Christine Kaseba.

New contractor for president's lodge

Government will retender the rehabilitation of the Presidential Lodge in Kitwe – after the current contractor, Mercury Lines, was fired over poor workmanship. Recently, President Sata admonished Works and Supply Minister Yamfwa Mukanga, Copperbelt Minister Mwenya Musenge and Kitwe District Councillor Elias Kamanga over the lack of progress at the Presidential Lodge. Mercury Lines was contracted in April 2011.

Small opposition alliance formed

Three political parties have formed a coalition called the National Coalition of Political Parties – with the intention to form government in 2016. The three are Zambia Direct Democracy Movement (led by Edwin Sakala), National Revolution Party (Cosmo Mumba) and Zambia Development Conference (Langton Sichone). The new coalition will use a lion as its symbol as it has decided to follow the big cat's traits. Other parties are welcome to join.

PF wins Mansa - new MP already in govt

The ruling PF party has won last week's parliamentary by-election in Mansa – convincingly. Its candidate, Chitalu Chilufya, polled 9,671 votes, followed by FDD's Albert Mwape (1,279 votes), MMD's Alfred Malama Kapolyo (1,103), UPND's Rosemary Mwiche (388) and UNIP's Charles Mwelwa (162). The seat fell vacant with the death of Minister of Information and Broadcasting Kennedy Sakeni (PF). A total of 12,769 people cast their votes, equivalent to 22.5% of the registered 56,628 voters. The opposition pointed out that Luapula Province is a bit of a stronghold for the ruling party – while UNIP's candidate threatened to petition the result: "I was aware that the PF was bringing people, making donations in churches in the name of fundraising, and we can't accept that," Mwelwa told the Post.

...Sata responded by appointing Chilufya deputy minister in the Ministry of Health, where he replaced Christopher Mulenga, who was transferred to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to replace Stephen Masumba, who was fired this week (see page 3).

Money set aside for swine fever compensation



Government has set aside about K25 million to compensate farmers who will have their pigs culled to stop the outbreak of swine fever in Lusaka Province. Last week, government estimated that it would have to cull about 25,000 pigs. The compensation is not paid for infected pigs dying "naturally" of swine fever.

Debt ceiling raised

Parliament has approved a proposal by government to allow it to increase its external borrowing limit (the amount outstanding at any one time) from K20 billion to K35 billion. The proposal was passed with 74 voting for, 50 voting against, and 1 abstaining.



Indeni shut for maintenance

Government has stocked about 30 million litres of petrol and 60 million litres of diesel to cater for the 30-day routine shut-down of Indeni Petroleum Refinery – which apparently started on 9 November. The annual maintenance was delayed from its usual start in October due to lack of fuel stock.

Constitution will be published next month

Vice-President Guy Scott has assured the nation that the controversial 10 copies of the final draft constitution are meant for the ceremonial hand-over of the final draft constitution – and that the final draft would be presented to the Zambian people by the end of next month. Earlier this month, the Technical Committee assigned to draft the new constitution refused to sign off its final draft, as it had been instructed by the Ministry of Justice "to only print 10 copies for hand-over to the Appointing Authority". It accused government of forcing it to break its mandate to "make full public disclosure" of the outcomes of the constitution-making process, including handing over the final draft constitution to the president (the appointing authority) and the public *simultaneously*.



Pangolin found in Lusaka

A pangolin, which somehow appeared in high-density Ibex Hill of Lusaka, has been rescued by a resident lawyer, Charles Siamutwa, who found the animal outside his yard. Siamutwa captured the pangolin, and drove it to the headquarters of the Zambia Wildlife Authority in Chilanga. The pangolin is now in temporary residence at Munda Wanga across the road. It is expected to be released in the Kafue National Park, reported New Vision.

Masumba fired as minister



President Sata has fired Stephen Masumba as Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports – following the latter's 12-month jail conviction for obtaining pecuniary advantage by false pretences. The court ruled that Masumba had used an erroneously issued National Institute for Public Administration (NIPA) accounting technician diploma to get a job in 2008. In 2012, Masumba, at the time MMD Mufumbwe MP, was appointed deputy minister in the PF government, eventually leading to him jumping party from the MMD to the PF, causing a parliamentary by-election in Mufumbwe, which he re-took. Masumba has appealed to the High Court, and is out on bail. "I will always be indebted to

the president, and I will remain loyal to him because he is still my president, and I feel he has decided to help me focus on this court matter without divided attention," he said – further explaining that Sata has had "a very soft spot" for him. The Law Association of Zambia commended Sata for relieving Masumba of his duties. It also explained that Masumba will remain an eligible MP until his appeal is determined, but advised Masumba to nevertheless resign as it would be the "honourable thing" to do. Masumba rejected the advice, calling it "a bit malicious" – but told Muvi TV that he would let his voters decide whether he should resign or not. Masumba (picture), in his 30s, was one of the youngest ministers in government, and some youths expressed regret at seeing him go.

M'membe sues RB

The editor-in-chief of the Post Newspaper, Fred M'membe, has sued former President Rupiah Banda (RB) for defamation, demanding K5 million in damages. M'membe stated that RB had alleged that the former was an unscrupulous person, who interferes in the work of Director of Public Prosecutions Mutembo Nchito: After being prevented from travelling to South Africa in June 2013, Banda said President Sata was allowing "outsiders" and a "bunch of criminals" to interfere: "Obviously, the two of them [Nchito and M'membe] are running his [Nchito's] office. This issue [passport] has been raised by eminent people, and they have ignored it. I have tried to stay away from this kind of thing, but they are pushing me on and on," he stated.

Chinese refuses to testify against RB?

A state witness has refused to testify against former President Rupiah Banda (RB), alleged the Zambian Watchdog. This is in the case where RB is accused of corrupt practices by public officer and concealing gratification in the form of nine light trucks received from Sogecoa Zambia and Sogecoa Construction and Engineering Investment, both subsidiaries of China's Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Group. The state responded by adding Jack Gao, who represents Sogecoa in Zambia, to the case, charging him with corruptly having given ten motor vehicles to Banda. In RB's other case, in which he is charged with abuse of authority of office in connection with a \$2.5 million Nigerian crude oil contract, state witnesses have also refused to implicate Banda.

19 state advocates fired

Government has fired 19 state advocates, all holding management positions. According to government (Daily Mail), the lawyers had gone on an illegal strike over the fusion of their non-private practice allowance of K3,600 with their basic salary. According to the lawyers (Daily Nation), the allowance, which is meant to make up for salaries being lower in the public sector, was abolished all together.

CLARIFICATION

Last week we reported that Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry Miles Sampa has been awarded K578,000 by the Supreme Court as compensation for wrongful dismissal by the Bank of Zambia. We further wrote that the case went back to November 2011, when President Sata, then in the opposition, appeared before the money-laundering unit of the Drug Enforcement Commission in connection with a \$100,000 transaction made in 2008 by Sampa. The correct date for the origin of the case is November 2010.

Quote



When you look at national statistics, the indicators, they're heading in the right direction. The question is: What can we do to increase the pace? While poverty is reducing, it is reducing very slowly, and what is growing is inequality. That is an area that everyone has to put attention to, because when you look at national averages, you don't see that behind the averages there are growing gaps. That is why the government and everyone must be concerned about closing the gap, because the country is growing in wealth, but the wealth has to be shared.

Outgoing United Nations resident coordinator Kanni Wignaraja giving a final word of advice (Post 25).

We are in a hurry to enact the Access to Information Bill. We will shame critics, who think we have grown cold feet over this issue.

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mwansa Kapeya (Daily Mail 22). Ever since assuming office, the PF government has promised to introduce Freedom of Access to Information legislation, which gives everyone the right to access state-held information. It has even scheduled the launch of the Bill several times – with specific dates – only to postpone it again.

We have had people crucified: the Fred M'membes [Post editor-in-chief] of today; people like KK [first president Kenneth Kaunda]. He was also locked up at some point. We have had Nelson Mandela, who was locked up for 27 years. The jail cell is part of the [political] training. You are groomed and subjected to difficult things because (...) politics is not as easy as chewing groundnuts.

Fired Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports Stephen Masumba (see this page) putting himself in fine company (Post 26).

I am told that I was a physical coach or assistant coach, but I have been coach for more than 10 years. I am coach; I have got my UEFA A qualification. I am just continuing my way. For you of course you are saying I am the one, now I am new, but I am doing the same job as coach [as I did before].

Chipolopolo's new coach Patrice Beaumelle assures doubters (see page 9) – (Lusaka Times 25).



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Moses Simuwela to have third post-mortem?

The debate about whether or not PF cadre Moses Simuwela, who died in PF intra-party clashes recently, was killed may call for a third post-mortem. The first post-mortem was carried out by Viktor Telenbly, a Ukrainian pathologist at the University Teaching Hospital, on behalf of the police. He concluded that Simuwela's death was caused by cardiac arrest due to cardiomyopathy (heart muscle disease). Telenbly told the Post: I have worked as a pathologist for many years, since 1995. I do about 1,000 post-mortems every year. I am a human being, I make mistakes, I do acknowledge, and I take responsibility for all the examinations that I do. I can tell you that I did not see some injuries or wounds which can cause death." However, two weeks later Simuwela's body was exhumed, and another post-mortem was carried out by pathologist Neil Nkanza, on behalf of the family. Nkanza concluded that Simuwela had suffered from no obvious diseases, but that he had bruises on the left ribs and thoracic muscles. He could however not determine the cause of death due to the advanced state of decomposition of the body. This week, the Residents Doctors' Association's president Dr Whyson Munga suggested a third post-mortem: "It is not strange to have conflicting post-mortem results (...). And we cannot say that the first pathologist was wrong or right, neither shall we say that the second pathologist was right or wrong. What we have now are two different results, which need direction, and that can only be attained by bringing in a third pathologist to break the tie," he told the Daily Nation – which claimed the family had agreed.

No typhoid at UNZA?



Mpundu Kachile, 19, a student at the University of Zambia (UNZA), had died. Initial rumours claimed she had died of typhoid, which led to the usual protests by students, accompanied by the usual intervention with teargas by riot police. University of Zambia Students' Union president Steven Kyengula demanded that management should address the 'filthy' conditions on campus. UNZA acknowledged the problem, in essence blaming government, by pointing out that there are not enough hostels and sanitation facilities to cater for its more than 13,000 full-time students. However, a check by the Lusaka City Council revealed serious neglect of existing facilities, including

blocked toilets, non-functioning showers, and burning of solid waste: "The hygienic situation at the institution is pathetic. It is uncharacteristic of higher learning institution, and unless something urgent is done to clean the place, there will be a breakout of diseases" its spokesman Henry Kapata told the Daily Nation. A later post-mortem revealed that Kachile had not died of typhoid, Vice-President Guy Scott informed parliament. He did however not offer an alternative explanation.

Water shortage shuts Mulungushi University

Mulungushi University has gone on recess for two weeks due to shortage of water caused by low water levels in Mulungushi River. The decision to go on recess was made to avoid an outbreak of waterborne diseases, the university's vice chancellor, Professor Hellicy Ng'ambi, told the Post.

Chinese falls into Vic Falls Gorge

Wang ShunXue, a 45-year-old Chinese staying at the Zambezi Sun Hotel, has fallen into the Victoria Falls Gorge – and survived. Wang was walking backwards while photographing near the Knife Edge Bridge, when the barricade gave way, according to some reports. Fortunately he did not fall all the way to the bottom of the gorge, but landed on a rock ledge. He was retrieved, shocked but with minor bruises only, by a combined team of the Fire Brigade, police and Bundu Adventures. Tourism and Arts Deputy Minister Lawrence Evans, who is also PF Livingstone MP, assured the world that Victoria Falls is safe, calling the incident a rare occurrence. On New Year's Eve in 2011, an Australian backpacker, Erin Langworthy, plunged into the Zambezi River, after her bungee jumping cord snapped. She survived with a fractured collar bone and extensive bruising.

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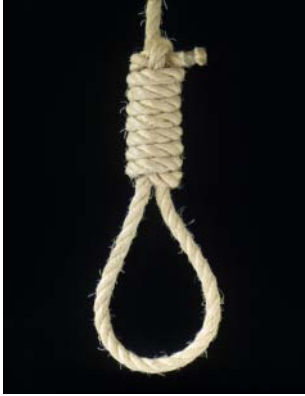


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Mohan to hang



The High Court has passed judgment in one of Zambia's most juicy murder cases: Supreme Court judge Gregory Phiri, sitting as High Court Judge, sentenced Inktech MD Mathew Mohan to death by hanging for the murder of Cyclone Hardware Proprietor Sajid Itowala. His two co-accused, Crown Paints proprietors Idris and Shabir Patel, were acquitted on lack of incriminating evidence.

Judge Phiri observed that Mohan had been trying to bribe state witnesses: "I wish you should have told the court who was the main sponsor, the source who was funding you, because you received and dished a lot of monies, an indication that there were many people interested," the judge observed. Two police investigations had to be carried out, as the first one was botched.

According to the court, Itowala was murdered in Lusaka on 21 July 2009. He was abducted and taken to a house on Ngulube Road, where he was beaten up and tied with chains before being driven to Lusaka West. Here, Itowala was shot, several times, before his body was left in his car on Mumbwa Road.

The *Zambian Watchdog*, which broke the story of the apparently hushed-up murder in 2009, added further details. Apparently Itowala, who had some dubious business dealings under his belt, had been rubbing shoulders with the then governing MMD party. The online media also disclosed that the house on Ngulube Road was owned by Igbol Rathi, father of Semyon Holdings proprietor Anuj Krishman Kumar Rathi, another financial supporter of the MMD party. In November 2009, Rathi was sentenced to 4 year' imprisonment over corruption, which he served, despite the state changing its position on his guilt halfway through. Rathi was deported back to India earlier this year after serving his sentence.

Mohan's murder case has also involved high-ranking people, with Judge Phiri wondering why other people clearly implicated in the murder, according to witnesses, were not being prosecuted. The whole case reeks of money in the form of bribes and campaign funds – and an affair with former First Lady Maureen Mwanawasa, according to Mohan himself.

Earlier this year, Mohan was sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment for corruption. Mohan and Mary Gibbons were accused of having paid former court interpreter Maxwell Jiki to remove exhibits from a prosecution docket. In 2011, he was sentenced to 30 months in jail for obtaining goods (motorbike, radios and batteries) worth K67,200 by false pretences from Rolf Pfeifer. His co-accused, Alpine Pipi, was acquitted.

Clive Chirwa re-arrested

As expected, the Anti-Corruption Commission has re-arrested former Zambia Railways CEO Clive Chirwa after the Director of Public Prosecutions last week discontinued the same case to enable it to transfer the case from Kabwe to Lusaka. Chirwa is charged with failure to disclose interest, having recommended giving a contract for training of railway employees to his own company, Clavel Incorporated Limited. In addition, he is jointly charged with Regina Mwale for abuse of authority of office for paying a total of K144,564.42 (the figure was earlier reported as K289,128.84) to Fallsway Apartments in Lusaka for Chirwa's accommodation beyond his entitlement.

BoZ to bolster Kwacha

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) plans to bolster the poorly performing Kwacha (see figure). Its governor Dr Michael Gondwe pointed out that other currencies, like India's Rupee, had fallen more than the Kwacha, "but, of course, we are (...) looking at mopping up liquidity in the economy, and a lot other measures," he told Bloomberg. Gondwe said the slide was mainly due to a lack of foreign-currency liquidity in the market. Zambia's foreign currency reserves are rapidly shrinking, partly because BoZ has tried to stabilise the exchange rate for quite some time.

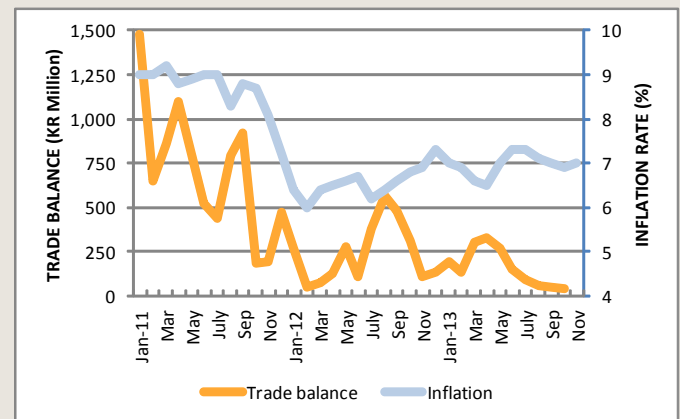


The exchange rate for the Kwacha to the US Dollar over the last three years (image: Bloomberg)

FIGURES Inflation and trade balance

The annual inflation rate increased to 7.0% in November, up from 6.9% in October.

The trade surplus declined to K43 million in October, the lowest recorded since 2009, down from K53 million in September.



Kapeya publishes book

Minister of Information and Broadcasting Mwansa Kapeya has written a book on the history of radio and TV in Zambia, including a 'do's and don'ts' section for the broadcasting industry. Kapeya has worked in the industry for 40 years.



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Zambeef to treble milk production

Zambeef expects to almost treble its milk processing capacity following the commissioning of a \$3 million dairy processing plant in Chisamba from 35,000 litres per day to 100,000 litres per day. The company will have to rely on small-scale farmers to supply the new plant, Zambeef chairman Jacob Mwanza told the Times of Zambia. Zambeef already operates one milk processing plant at its Kalundu Farm in Chisamba, but only 10% of the milk comes from small-scale farmers. Government expects the new plant to assist in raising milk consumption in Zambia.

Madison to fund road contractors

Madison Finance has signed an agreement with the Road Development Agency and the National Road Fund Agency about the provision of finance to small-scale road contractors. The initiative will allow road contractors to draw funds against their sales invoice before they are actually paid. The two road agencies earlier this year entered into a similar agreement with Finance Bank.

Prima raises K19m on LuSE

Prima Reinsurance has raised K19 million in a rights offer on the Lusaka Stock Exchange, becoming the first insurance company to list on the local bourse. Prima listed earlier this month by way of introduction, thereby avoiding an Initial Public Offer.

ZRA commissions container scanner

The Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) has commissioned a K2.9 million non-intrusive container scanner at Kazungula Border in Southern Province. It was not immediately clear who had supplied the scanner. In February 2012, upon the recommendation of a Commission of Inquiry set up by the PF government to probe ZRA under the MMD government, the PF government reversed contracts with Bradwell International and Cargo Scan for operation and maintenance of border scanners, but ordered Nutech of China to complete the installation of eight scanners single-sourced by the MMD government. ZRA also has two mobile scanners, which were supplied by Smith Detection of France.

Zambia addresses gender-based violence

Zambia is currently in the middle of its 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which runs from 25 November to 10 December, every year. The international 16-day campaign is held to promote the security of women and girls across the world. In Zambia, this year's event also saw the launch of an 'I care about her' campaign spearheaded by the defence and security forces, in collaboration with Oxfam, Young Women's Christian Association and the Zambia National Women's Lobby, under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development, including an "I care about her" march by 500 to 2,000 men, depending on reports.

FIGURES GBV dropping?

Zambia has recorded 6,055 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in 2013 – so far. Last year, at the same time, at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the number stood at 9,612 cases, while a total number of 11,908 cases were reported in the *whole* of 2011.

Girl gang-raped by 7

Seven prefects at Nchelenge Secondary School in Luapula Province have been arrested for gang-raping a 14-year-old girl from a nearby school, reported the Daily Mail.

Man to spend life in jail over incest

Ilunga Kapimbi, 39, of Mujimanzovu Village in Solwezi, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for sexually abusing his 15-year-old daughter for two years after the death of her mother. She also fell pregnant – but miscarried, reported the Times of Zambia.

Girl dumps baby in pit latrine

A 15-year-old girl has been arrested in Kabwe accused of having dumped her one-day-old baby in a pit latrine. The baby has been retrieved and is admitted to Kabwe General Hospital, while the girl was charged with child desertion, reported the Times of Zambia.

Bigamist goes to jail

Golden Phiri, a Lusaka-based businessman, has been imprisoned for four years for bigamy. Apparently, Phiri, in his forties, wed Mazabuka police officer Lizzy Machina, despite being married to ZESCO employee Emmah Chima since 2010. Chima was saddened by the sentence, reported the Post, as it would make it difficult for her to recover K52,500, which Phiri allegedly had borrowed to invest in a business.

First awake craniotomy at UTH



The University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka has carried out its first "awake craniotomy" operation, reported the Daily Mail. A team of neurosurgeons led by UTH deputy MD Lastone Chikoye removed a tumor from the brain of a 69-year old man using only local anesthesia. The man was awake during the three-hour operations.

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Zambia qualifies for World Cup

The U-17 Shepolopolo have managed to do what the Chipolopolo could not: Qualify for the World Cup – in this case the 2014 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. The youngsters beat South Africa 3-1 in Johannesburg to advance to the finals 6-4 on aggregate. The Shepolopolo arrived back home to a thunderous welcome: "It's a great moment for our women's football. (...) to play at our first-ever women championship in the year of the golden jubilee of our independence makes it even more wonderful," Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) president Kalusha Bwalya raved. Youth and Sports Minister Chishimba Kambwili told FAZ to find the resources necessary to prepare the girls for the finals: "I have been put in an awkward situation, because government runs on budgets, and (...) government's policy is only to finance the senior national team," he said at a dinner held in honour of the team. Government will however reward everyone on the U17 Shepolopolo team with K10,000 for qualifying. The World Cup will be held in Costa Rica from 15 March to 5 April.

... The U-20 Shepolopolo is about to embark on a similar quest – to qualify for the 2014 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in Canada. They face Equatorial Guinea in their first match.

Beaumelle new coach

The Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) has confirmed Patrice Beaumelle as national team coach. Beaumelle was assistant coach to Herve Renard – but led the Chipolopolo during Renard's absence in 2010/11, and some say he laid the groundwork for Zambia's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) victory in 2012. FAZ spokesman Erick Mwanza explained that Beaumelle would have his contract reviewed when it expires in August 2014.

Zambia off to CECAFA Cup

Zambia has sent a 20-member team to Kenya for the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) Senior Challenge Cup – but the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) warned that the team was not there to win the Cup: "Our mission is not about winning it, but to build a team. (...) as you know, we are in a phase where we are just out of the World Cup qualifiers and have to look far ahead," FAZ president Kalusha Bwalya calmed eager fans. Zambia met Tanzania in its first match on 28 November. They settled for a one all draw.

The CECAFA squad included goalkeepers Joshua Titima and Toaster Nsabata; defenders Kabaso Chongo, Jimmy Chisenga, Chris Munthali, Bronson Chama, Roderick Kabwe and Salulani Phiri; midfielders Sydney Kalume, Justin Zulu, Kondwani Mtonga, Misheck Chaila, Matthews Nkowane, Felix Katongo and Julius Situmbeko; and strikers Stanley Nshimbi, Alex Ng'onga, Bonwell Mwape, Festus Mbewe and Ronald 'Sate Sate' Kampamba.

Zambia bids for 2019 AFCON

Zambia has filed its bid for hosting the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) – on the final day for entries. Doubters had otherwise begun to question whether the country would manage in time. The Confederation of African Football (CAF) announced that six countries had bid for the 2019 and 2021 AFCONs, including Algeria, DR Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Zambia. Minister of Youth and Sports Chishimba Kambwili said he would embark on a "vigorous campaign" to garner support for Zambia's bid.

RUGBY: Red Arrows win Super 8

Red Arrows have wrapped up the rugby season by winning the inaugural Super 8 Cup, beating 'Men at Work' Diggers 8-5 in the finals played in Chingola. Diggers coach Robertson Kang'ongwe was not happy. He told the Post that referee Reuben Mkandawire had travelled to the final on Arrows' bus and was accommodated by Arrows in Chingola.

Scrabble champion found

Patrick Mpundu has won a Scrabble Ratings Tournament in Lusaka with 10 wins in 12 games, followed by Justin Chansa (7.5 wins) and Mwenya Munkonge (7 wins). The tournament served as preparation for next month's World Scrabble Championship in the Czech Republic.

Deaths in brief

Game farmer killed by hartebeest

An 84-year-old farmer, Peter Green, has apparently been killed by a hartebeest (picture) at his game farm outside Choma in Southern Province, reported the Times of Zambia.



Toddler drowns in drain

Elias Mulilo, 2, has drowned in a drain five metres from his parents' house in Mpata-matu Township, Luanshya, after a heavy downpour, reported the Times of Zambia.

Man kills self over K50?

Felix Sichinga, 27, of Kampumbu Village in Isoka District in Muchinga Province, has killed himself after his wife lost the K50 he had given her to buy relish. When he found no food upon returning from a drinking spree he instead drank an organophosphorous insecticide called Rogor, reported the Times of Zambia. It was not immediately clear whether Sichinga realised what he was drinking.

Tractor driver dies in Mazabuka

Biston Libeta, 36, of Manyonyo Area in Nega Nega, Mazabuka, has died from head injuries after his tractor fell into a drain. Libeta had failed to negotiate a curve, reported the Post.

Zambia Weekly

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