

LOCAL NEWS 14TH AUGUST 2010.

Suspected robbers nabbed in Eldoret with a pistol.

Police in Eldoret arrested three suspected men robbers in Munyaka area today morning. The police officers who were acting on a tip off nabbed the suspects with a pistol loaded with rounds of ammunition in their home. Residence revealed that the suspicious culprits settled in the area about three weeks ago. Meanwhile, the police have appealed to the citizens to be vigilant and report any sort of crime in order to apprehend the robbers. The three suspects will be arraigned in court on Monday.

Ends.....Stanley Magut.

New law a boost to Kenya's Vision 2030

The board charged with implementing Vision 2030 says it will now concentrate all its energies into fully developing the economic pillar of the development blueprint in order to transform Kenya into a middle income state in the next 20 years. Vision 2030 Delivery Board Chairman James Mwangi said the passage of the new Constitution gives them the impetus to unlock economic opportunities and start executing reforms needed to achieve all the flagship projects outlined in the document and within the set timelines.

There have been concerns that Kenya might not be able to attain its development objectives due to a number of setbacks and shocks such as the post election violence, drought and effects of the financial crisis that the country has experienced in the last two years. However, the board sought to assure that the country was now back on a growth momentum that would see these targets reached in order to eliminate poverty, create wealth and improve the quality of life of the Kenyan people. Despite this progress however, the board felt that Kenyans will have to play their role in the transformation of their economy through for example increasing productivity in their work.

Telkom Kenya welcomes scrap metal ban

Integrated telecommunications provider, Telkom Kenya, has supported the recent decision by the East African Community (EAC) partner states to ban scrap metal exports in the region, which will stem exports of vandalized Telkom copper cables. The export ban comes in the wake of rising concerns around the impact of scrap metal exports on industries within the EAC region.

In a statement, Telkom Kenya Deputy CEO, Jane Karuku, welcomed the decision, saying it will save the company huge amounts of lost revenue and funds deployed to replace vandalized copper cables. She explained that to cope with rising number of vandalism incidences, Telkom Kenya has been forced to retaining security companies to carry out regular surveillance on its cable routes and in some cases installing cable alarms. The Deputy CEO explained that due to the rampant cases of vandalism Telkom Kenya losses over Sh2 billion annually. Most of vandalized

copper cables are exported to the emerging markets in Asia.

Kenyans warned over fake motor insurance

Traffic police in Nairobi are warning motorists to be vigilant when purchasing insurance certificates for their vehicles due a rising number of fake stickers on sale. Nairobi Traffic Commandant Patrick Lumumba said the Association of Kenya Insurers (AKI) had alerted them of thousands of motorists who were using fake insurance certificates sold to them by unscrupulous brokers. He said traffic officers across the city are under firm instructions to scrutinise insurance stickers displayed on vehicles to identify the fake ones. Once you purchase insurance, you should look at the back of the sticker issued to you where there is a box which when scratched, reveals the word 'valid.' Lumumba told journalists that several motorists had been arrested since last week, and charged in court. He said traffic police would work jointly with officials from AKI to identify the culprits. Under the Traffic Act, it is an offence to drive an uninsured vehicle.

Reach for Kenya mobile TV to expand

DSTV Mobile plans to expand its network to cover Kisumu, Nakuru and Eldoret by next year. The service which offers satellite television on mobile handsets currently covers Nairobi and Mombasa only. Digital Mobile Television (DMTV) - a subsidiary of MultiChoice - which runs the service, says it is conducting consumer research to establish what content and pricing module would be most suitable. He added that with the changes in technology consumption of television was becoming increasingly personal with consumer convenience playing a central role.

This has seen broadcasters go out of their way to find new ways through which consumers can access their preferred content on the move. DSTV Mobile currently offers 14 channels on its bouquets including Channel O, SuperSport7, SuperSport3, Cartoon Network, Africa Magic, BBC, CNN and the current Big Brother Show.

Media Forum to Tackle Issue of Funding for African Media and New Business

Funding African Media in an Age of Uncertain Business Models will be the main theme of the African Media Leaders Forum (AMLF) when it meets in Yaoundé, Cameroon in November. The Forum is the flagship programme of the African Media Initiative (AMI) and is the only annual gathering of African media owners and operators from around the continent. The main objective of the Forum is to facilitate the emergence of an African media sector that is professional, financially sustainable, technologically adaptable and socially responsible. The Forum, which will take place on the 18th and 19th November, is being hosted by the Spectrum Media Group, one of the largest broadcasters on the continent, which operates out of West and Central Africa. Over 250 participants including CEOs, managing directors, publishers and media leaders from Africa and

beyond are expected to attend.

Call to Boost Disaster Preparedness in Marginalized North

Response to disasters and emergencies in northern Kenya continues to be hampered by lack of infrastructure - airstrips, communication, health facilities and personnel. This is amid calls by aid workers and disaster response experts for more preparedness. They say that prepositioning more emergency supplies in "rescue centres" in key locations would greatly enhance disaster response. The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) already has non-food items set for distribution to 5,000 people in case of a disaster in Northeastern province.

However, disaster response experts say the government should urgently tackle the poor state of roads, lack of critical facilities required for the effective provision of healthcare and frequent conflict in the remote region, which is prone to drought, floods and disease outbreaks.

Framework for Small Business Funds Ready

The framework for the running of the Small and Medium Enterprises Fund as envisioned under this year's budget has now been set up by Treasury. The Sh3.8 billion fund set aside by the Finance minister is meant to be loaned out to businesses through banks and agencies to support growth of the sector. There will be steering and technical committees, and a micro-finance unit to determine how the money reaches financial institutions and intended beneficiaries.

In his budget speech, the minister for Finance, Uhuru Kenyatta, said Sh3 billion would be lent to banks for onward lending to small enterprises through their agencies, while Sh88,000 million will be grants to prop up institutions in the programme.

Speaking at the Kenya School of Monetary Studies, Anne Waiguru, head of governance coordination at the ministry of Finance stated that while implementation will link businesses and other programmes, it will be flexible to allow arrangements to be revised. This is in light of the perceived underperformance of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund and the Women Enterprise Fund established in previous years.

Kenya: New Network Rates Next Week

Cross-network call costs are expected to come down next week when new interconnection or termination rates are announced. The move is expected to reduce the punitive interconnection rates charged by telcom operators and reduce the 'club effect' (where people subscribe to a network because they can make and receive cheaper calls to a larger pool of subscribers).

A recent report by UK-based consultants, Analysys Mason, appointed by the Communications Commission of Kenya to study calling rates in Kenya last month, recommends halving of the fee telecoms providers charge one another for terminating calls.

According to sources, the Communications Commission of Kenya will unveil the new rates in about five to seven days. Technically known as interconnection or termination charges, Analysys

Mason said the fee should be cut from the current Sh4.42 starting September, and then going down in phases, eventually to be scrapped by January 2014. In 2007, the fees stood at Sh6.4, in 2008 at Sh5.6 and Sh4.72, in 2009.

5,000 Refugees Enter Monthly

An estimated 5,000 refugees troop into the country every month, according to the United Nations. Most of them find their way through the porous Kenya-Somalia border (4,000) to cap the number of foreigners seeking asylum in Kenya at 400,000. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on Thursday said that a contingency plan had already been put in place in case the situation in Somalia worsened.

Ethiopia, Djibouti and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the other countries whose nationals have continued to flock in their droves into Kenya. UNHRC country representative Liz Ahua on Thursday said it was the responsibility of Kenya to protect the refugees as demanded by international law.

Kofi Annan Calls for United Effort to Accelerate Africa's Green Revolution

African Heads of State, industry representatives, the International donor community and farmers, will meet in Ghana at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in the first week of September. Delegates will create an action plan on the acceleration of a Green Revolution in Africa. Chaired by Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General and chair of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), this is the first time the forum will be held in Africa. It is expected to be one of the continent's major gatherings of both public and private players to focus solely on agriculture development. The AGRF promotes investments and policy initiatives that will drive income growth for African farmers in an environmentally sustainable way. The AGRF will also show progress in unlocking Africa's agricultural potential and facilitating sustainable economic growth, thanks to new investment and public-private partnerships.

Regional News

US concerned over Rwanda vote

The United States is "concerned" about human rights violations that occurred before recent presidential elections in Rwanda, the White House said Friday. According to Rwanda's National Electoral Commission, President Paul Kagame was re-elected to a seven-year term by about 93 percent of the vote in the August 9 election. Washington has expressed those concerns to the Rwandan government, and they hope the leadership will take steps toward more democratic governance, increased respect for minority and opposition views, and continued peace.

Kagame has ruled the small east African country since his Rwandan Patriotic Front stopped the 1994 genocide against his Tutsi minority that killed some 800,000 people in a 100-day genocidal spree. The White House said it was up to Rwanda's electoral commission "to handle any election

complaints fairly and promptly. Human rights activists have become increasingly critical of the situation in Rwanda, with UN chief Ban Ki-moon joining calls for a full probe into the two high-profile deaths in the build-up to the election. Foreign observers noted no major irregularities during polling, but said the Rwanda election was marked by a lack of "critical opposition voices".

France condemns conduct of officer after Togo dispute

French officials have condemned a senior soldier who was filmed threatening a Togolese journalist. In a video released on YouTube, Lt Col Romuald Letondot is shown ordering the journalist to delete images from his camera during a protest in Lome. When the journalist refuses, Col Letondot threatens to smash his camera and have him arrested.

French defence officials said they wanted an investigation and said the soldier may face punishment. The foreign ministry said it "firmly condemned" the soldier's actions. The footage shows Col Letondot involved in an argument with local photographer Didier Ledoux.

Bodies found in gold mine after shooting

Four bodies have been found in an unused shaft of a mine run by relatives of South Africa's President Jacob Zuma and ex-leader Nelson Mandela. Police said investigations were continuing into reports that up to 20 alleged illegal miners were shot dead by security at the mine on Monday. The owners of the Grootvlei gold mine east of Johannesburg confirmed their guards had clashed with some miners. The governing African National Congress (ANC) has condemned the shooting. The Grootvlei mine is owned by the company, Aurora Empowerment Systems, whose chairman is President Zuma's nephew, Khulubuse Zuma.

Global News

US firm awarded \$110m for salvaging Titanic artifacts

A US judge praised the company's extensive efforts to retrieve and conserve the artifacts. A judge has awarded a US exhibition company \$110m for salvaging artifacts from the wreck of the RMS Titanic. The US federal judge ruled that RMS Titanic Inc, which displays the artifacts in museums across the world, is entitled to their full market value.

The court will decide whether to grant the company ownership of the objects or sell them and give it the proceeds. The ship sank on its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York on 14 April, 1912, killing more than 1,500 people. RMS Titanic Inc, a subsidiary of Premier Exhibitions Inc, has undertaken seven expeditions to the wreck site 2.5 miles (4km) below the north Atlantic, and has retrieved more than 5,500 artifacts.

UN ramps up medical aid to flood-hit Pakistan

Fears of disease are adding to the already desperate plight of many Pakistanis. Health workers are stepping up their battle against waterborne diseases in flood-hit Pakistan, as the UN confirms a case of cholera for the first time. The UN said it would start widespread treatment of the deadly disease. Pakistan has cancelled official celebrations of its Independence Day on Saturday, as officials try to co-ordinate relief efforts. Meanwhile, Pakistan's UN envoy has voiced renewed criticism of the international response to the disaster.

Canada processes Tamil migrants

Almost 500 migrants crammed on to the 194ft ship, the MV Sun Sea. Canadian immigration officials have begun processing some 490 migrants, thought to be Tamils from Sri Lanka who have spent three months at sea. Officials say they want to establish whether any of them are militants from the Tamil Tiger group, which Canada regards as a terrorist organisation. The Tamils' ship reached Canadian waters on Friday and was escorted to a British Columbia navy base.

Dozens of border officials were waiting to remove those on board from the ship. Sri Lanka's civil war ended in crushing defeat for the Tamil Tigers last year, but many Tamils say they still suffer discrimination and repression from the government.

Brazilian airline TAM plans to merge with Chile's LAN

Two major South American airlines are planning to merge and create the biggest carrier in the region. Brazil's largest airline TAM Linhas Aereas is looking to join with Chile's LAN as demand for air travel in Latin America continues to grow. TAM said a combined airline would fly to 115 destinations in 23 countries, with a 40,000-strong workforce. LAN confirmed the agreement, which it said was non-binding. The new carrier would be called Latam Airlines Group. If the tie-up goes ahead it would be headed by LAN boss Enrique Cueto while TAM deputy chairman Mauricio Rolim would be company chairman.

Pakistan PM Gilani says floods affect 20m people

Pakistan's PM Yusuf Raza Gilani says 20 million people have been affected by the country's floods, a much higher estimate than the UN's 14 million. He was addressing the nation during much muted celebrations of Pakistan's independence from the UK 63 years ago. The United Nations has confirmed at least one case of cholera among the victims, in the Swat valley. Health workers have been stepping up their battle against waterborne diseases in the flood-hit country.

In his address, Gilani said 20 million were now homeless, although it was unclear how many of those people were briefly forced to leave their homes and how many had lost their houses altogether. The UN had previously said the region's worst flooding in 80 years had affected 14 million out of Pakistan's 180 million population and killed 1,600 people.

Protesters denounce Google plan for 'two-tier internet'

Around 100 people have rallied outside Google's California offices to protest against controversial proposals to alter how data is treated over the web. Google and Verizon suggest treating fixed line services differently to wireless and some specialised content. This would allow net providers to give priority to certain online traffic. Protesters outside the famed Googleplex said this would create a "pay-to-play" service and urged Google to live up to its famous motto "don't be evil".

The proposals unveiled this week by the search giant and telecom titan Verizon champion an open net for wireline services but suggest loopholes for wireless and what they called "differentiated" content. Critics have said this would undermine the principle of net neutrality where all web data is treated equally and no-one is given preferential treatment or discriminated against.

Sports News

Koech extends Diamond lead

Paul Koech took over the leadership of the Samsung Diamond League standings thanks to a tactically astute front-running performance on Friday night. Koech ran the legs off the opposition after hitting the front with just over three laps to go. He stopped the clock in 8:17.70 to take his third victory of the series.

World champion Ezekiel Kemboi had to settle for second in 8:19.95, with the former Diamond League leader Brimin Kipruto rounding out a Kenyan clean sweep of the points positions in third (8:20.77). Former US champion Steve Slattery took up the early pace, but from the moment Koech moved purposefully to the front the race was set to be a predictably all-East African affair.

The Kenyan trio quickly opened up a gap on the rest, and such was the fearsome injection of pace by Koech, the former Olympic bronze medallist, that Kipruto badly stumbled and lost significant ground on the leader at the penultimate water barrier. Koech held a three metre lead from Kemboi at the bell, but down the back straight it was Kipruto who recovered from his water mishap and loomed on the leader's shoulder. Sensing the danger, Koech quickened the pace and simply destroyed the opposition over the last 200m to cruise to victory.

Barclays Premier League kicks off

The new Premier League season kicks off later on Saturday, with many tipping it to be the most competitive yet. Big-spending Manchester City open up away at Tottenham, with champions Chelsea completing the day's action at home to West Brom. Newly-promoted Blackpool get their top-flight return under way at Wigan, with a total of eight games scheduled. Liverpool host Arsenal in Sunday's only Premier League fixture, with Newcastle away at Manchester United on Monday.

While Chelsea remain many pundits' favourites to retain their Premier League title, Carlo Ancelotti's side could face challenges from a number of sides. But Arsenal who have kept hold of Cesc Fabregas despite Barcelona's best efforts to sign him this summer Roy Hodgson's rejuvenated Liverpool and Tottenham, who finished fourth last season, also go into the season full of optimism.

Ridiculous' squad rules will ruin EPL

Arsenal manager Wenger has rejected the idea that the England national team will be assisted by the new rules as planned while insisting they are "paralysing" the transfer market due to higher financial demands from players and their agents. The boards of the 20 Premier League clubs last year unanimously agreed that squads should be limited to 25 players, eight of which must be 'home-grown' in order to promote English players. But Wenger is far from happy with the changes and believes they will jeopardise the Premier League's status as the world's best. The Frenchman reckons the home-grown rule gives too much power to players and their agents and will lead to an increase in financial demands which are already "paralysing the market". Wenger said the limitations on foreign players would only harm England's national team by reducing the quality around them, blaming poor coaching, not imports, for England's failures.

Mancini tells Ireland to leave City

City are offering around £16 million plus Ireland in exchange for Milner, a package Villa have agreed to, but Ireland has reportedly demanded a £2million pay-off from cash-rich City to play his part in the transfer. City are believed to be unwilling to adhere to those terms, meaning Ireland remains the last frustrating stumbling block in the ambitious Manchester club's chase for one of their top summer targets. If the move fails, Ireland could see himself not included in City's 25-man squad list, meaning he won't be able to play in the Premier League this season. City manager Mancini has told Ireland, who has played for the club for his entire senior career, the time has come for him to move on to pastures new. Rather than pay Ireland £2million to leave, City would be more likely to up their transfer offer and buy Milner in a straightforward purchase. But Mancini said he is confident the transfer will go through as originally planned once Ireland considers his options over the weekend.

Liverpool takeover unlikely before October

A meeting in London on Friday assessed plans put forward by several potential new owners but no firm decision was made. Chairman Martin Broughton said last month he hoped a sale could be completed before the close of this transfer window but the process is set to drag on longer. Owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett face a £20million penalty payment - levied against them and not the club - if a sale is not completed by the end of August. That condition was imposed by major creditors Royal Bank of Scotland as part of the loan refinancing package agreed earlier this year and is in addition to the payments-in-kind fees of £2.5million-a-week. RBS also set a deadline of October for the loan to be repaid, effectively

setting a sell-by date for Hicks and Gillett. It seems likely if the club is to be sold it will be then and not now, despite the claims of the two parties who have been most vociferous in expressing their interest.

World's top three join Murray in Rogers Cup semi-finals

Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic all posted quarter-final wins to join Andy Murray in the semi-finals of the Rogers Cup in Toronto. World number one Nadal recovered from dropping the first set to beat Phillipp Kohlschreiber 3-6 6-3 6-4. Federer avenged his Wimbledon quarter-finals loss to Czech Tomas Berdych with a 6-3 5-7 7-6 (7-5) victory. Djokovic, the world number two, eased into the last four with a 6-3 6-2 win over France's Jeremy Chardy. Nadal was made to work for his seventh career win over German world number 37 Kohlschreiber after making a faltering start.

Matt Kuchar leads as Rory McIlroy shines in Wisconsin

Matt Kuchar fired a second-round 69 to lead by one shot after an abbreviated day two of the USPGA Championship at Whistling Straits. Fog again delayed the start but Kuchar was eight under at the close, one ahead of fellow American Nick Watney. Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy and England's Simon Khan are in a seven-way tie for third on five under par. Bad light meant Tiger Woods played only six holes and was seven off the pace, with half the field still to finish. Woods, needing a top-15 finish to have a chance of qualifying automatically for the United States Ryder Cup team, was at his erratic yet occasionally brilliant best in parring all six holes before being forced off the course when one under.