

Local News 14th October 2010

World Sight Day marked today

The world marks the World Health Organization's world sight day today. World Sight Day is an annual day of awareness to focus global attention on blindness, visual impairment and rehabilitation of the visually impaired held on the second Thursday of the month of October. It is also the main advocacy event for the prevention of blindness and for "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight", a global effort to prevent blindness created by WHO and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

The day comes in the wake of a revelation that over 270,000 Kenyans are blind and is feared that the number could increase as people living with diabetes in the country are at a risk of going blind. A regional surgeon at Upper Hill Eye and Laser Centre Dr. Kibata Kitheko says over 140,000 diabetes patients in the country are destined to become blind unless they are treated. Assistant Minister in the ministry of Public Health James Gesami is therefore urging Kenyans to go for screening and ascertain if they are diabetic in order to seek medical attention.

End...Chumba Silvanoh

Kanu's Mohamed Sirat clinches Wajir South constituency seat

ODM Kenya's Mohamed Sirat is the new Wajir South Member of Parliament. Sirat was announced the winner in the in yesterday's by-election after beating his only competitor and former MP Kanu's Abdirahaman Hassan in all the polling stations and in the final tally. Sirat managed to garner 9,643 votes while Hassan got 6,381 votes. In his acceptance speech Sirat pledged to help improve the infrastructure of the area.

He therefore extended an olive branch to his rival Hassan to cooperate with him towards developing the constituency. The MP elect also noted that he will lobby for Wajir South to be divided into two more constituencies.

End...Chumba Silvanoh

NHIF new rates still eliciting remarks

The Union of Kenyan civil servants in Uasin Gishu County have come out to oppose the increment of the National Hospital Insurance Fund rates saying it wasn't realistic at all. Led by the Uasin Gishu secretary general Union of Kenyan civil servants Jennifer Mogire, the servants who met in Eldoret said that NHIF should give statistic on how they have spend funds for the previous years and how they intend to use the increased amount for the purposes of accountability.

Mogire said that the contribution must also be provided with a new framework law to regulate the funds adding that last year's funds collected from members were 5 billion shillings but only 2.8 billion shillings went into paying benefits hence no need for the increment. The branch intends to introduce educational programme to members on issues related to their rights so that they can engage effectively in the union activities. The union is faced with huge challenges ranging from poor working conditions to inadequate pay

Ends.....Caro Koech

KWS donates 200,000 shillings to Rimoi dispensary

The Kenya wildlife service KWS has donated drugs worth 200,000 shilling to Rimoi dispensary in Kerio Valley. The KWS officials led by wader officer in charge of Elgeyo Marakwet county Dominic Kilonzo said that the exercise was part of KWS corporate social responsibility to the community. He added that the aid came at a time when area residents have been traveling 42 km away to Tambach sub district hospital in search of medical services.

Rimoi dispensary has in the past been lacking enough drugs and paramedical staff. Kilonzo now says that they will continue to partner with the local community in various activities that are geared towards a sustainable social and economic development.

Ends.....Caro Koech

Regional News

Prostate cancer urine test nears

British scientists have moved a step closer to developing a simple urine test to identify men at risk of getting prostate cancer. They have discovered that a protein found in urine is affected by a genetic change linked to the cancer. More research was needed, but their work could lead to the development of a reliable test costing \$8.82. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, killing about 10,000 men in Britain every year.

Jubilation as Chile mine rescue ends

Chile's president has said his country will never be the same again after the extraordinary rescue of the 33 miners trapped deep underground for 69 days. Sebastian Pinera said he thought Chile was "more united and stronger than ever", and "more valued" worldwide. There were earlier ecstatic scenes as Luis Urzua, 54, the last miner out, emerged at the top of the rescue shaft.

The 22-hour operation saw each man being winched up in a narrow capsule. They have now been taken to hospital. Some have severe dental infections, and others have eye problems as a result of living in the dirt and darkness of the mine. One has been diagnosed with pneumonia but his condition is not thought to be serious.

Japan says release of China's Liu Xiaobo 'desirable'

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan has said the release by China of the detained Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo is "desirable". He told a parliamentary budget committee that he welcomed the award of the prize to Liu, a proponent of political reform in China. China has expressed fury at the award and censored reporting of it. The government of Norway, where the Nobel prize is based, said China's reaction was "inappropriate". China described Liu as a criminal who had broken China's laws, and said the award was an insult to China's judicial system.

Three Nato troops die in an explosion in Afghanistan

Three Nato soldiers have been killed in a bomb explosion in western Afghanistan, a day after six

coalition troops died in a number of attacks. The three troops were killed when an improvised explosive device went off, the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said. Isaf has not given details of the nationalities of the dead soldiers. However American, Spanish, Italian and Lithuanian troops are based in the west of the country. Nato has lost at least 30 soldiers in Afghanistan this month. On Wednesday, six soldiers were killed in attacks in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

Iran's Ahmadinejad to tour Lebanon-Israel border

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is due to make a visit to southern Lebanon, close to the Israeli border. He is on the second day of a state visit that has been called provocative by Israel, the US and some Lebanese. On Wednesday, Ahmadinejad was greeted by large crowds and attended a rally organised by Hezbollah. He praised Lebanon for "resistance to the world's tyrants". But he also said Iran supported a strong, unified Lebanon.

Iran contributed heavily to the cost of rebuilding villages destroyed in the south during the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. The border area between Lebanon and Israel is rarely without tension.

Greek police storm Acropolis protesters

Greek police have fired tear gas and charged at workers who had occupied the Acropolis in Athens in a protest over unpaid wages and lay-offs. TV images showed police chasing the culture ministry workers around the ancient monument. Dozens of workers had shut down the Acropolis on Wednesday morning, demanding two years of back pay. They had barricaded themselves inside, padlocked the entrance gates and refused to allow in tourists.

The protesters said they intended to blockade the Acropolis, Greece's most famous tourist attraction, until 31 October. Greece has seen waves of strikes and protests over austerity measures agreed by the government in order to secure a huge bail-out from eurozone countries.

Sports News

Kenya finishes sixth at the Commonwealth games

Kenya has finished sixth on the Commonwealth Medals table with 32 medals as the games came to a close today. Kenya collected 12 gold, 11 silver and 9 bronze in New Delhi, an improvement from four years ago where they finished tenth with 18 medals. John Kelai and Irene Kosgei capped off a tremendous athletics outing for Kenya by clinching gold in the men's and women's marathon respectively.

It was the first time Kenya had taken gold in the women's event and the first gold for men in two decades. Kenya registered clean sweeps in the men's and women's steeplechase, women's 5000m and men's 800m. Olympic and African champion Nancy Langat clinched two gold medals in the women's 800 and 1500m. Glasgow will host the 2014 event.

Kenyan seal marathon gold double

Kenya's John Kelai has emphatically took gold in the men's marathon on the final day of the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. Kelai broke from halfway and finished in a time of two hours

14.35 seconds, ahead of Australia's Michael Shelley and Kenyan Amos Tirop Matui. The women's race saw Kenya win gold and silver with Irene Jerotich finishing ahead of compatriot Irene Mogaka. Australia's Lisa Weightman took the bronze with Jerotich coming home in a time of 2:34:32. The performances of the Kenyans in the marathon saw them top the athletics medal table ahead of Australia for the first time in Commonwealth Games history. It was also their 11th athletics gold medal of the Games in Delhi.

Rooney denies ankle injury claim

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney has contradicted club manager Sir Alex Ferguson by claiming he has not had an ankle injury this season. Ferguson took Rooney off during last month's 2-2 draw at Bolton and left him out of games at Valencia and Sunderland citing an injury to the 24-year-old. However, Rooney played in England's 0-0 draw against Montenegro on Tuesday. Rooney has struggled for form this season and has scored just one penalty in five games for United.

He was left out of the 3-3 draw at Everton on 11 September following allegations about his private life, with Ferguson not wanting to subject Rooney to an expected hostile crowd at his former club.