

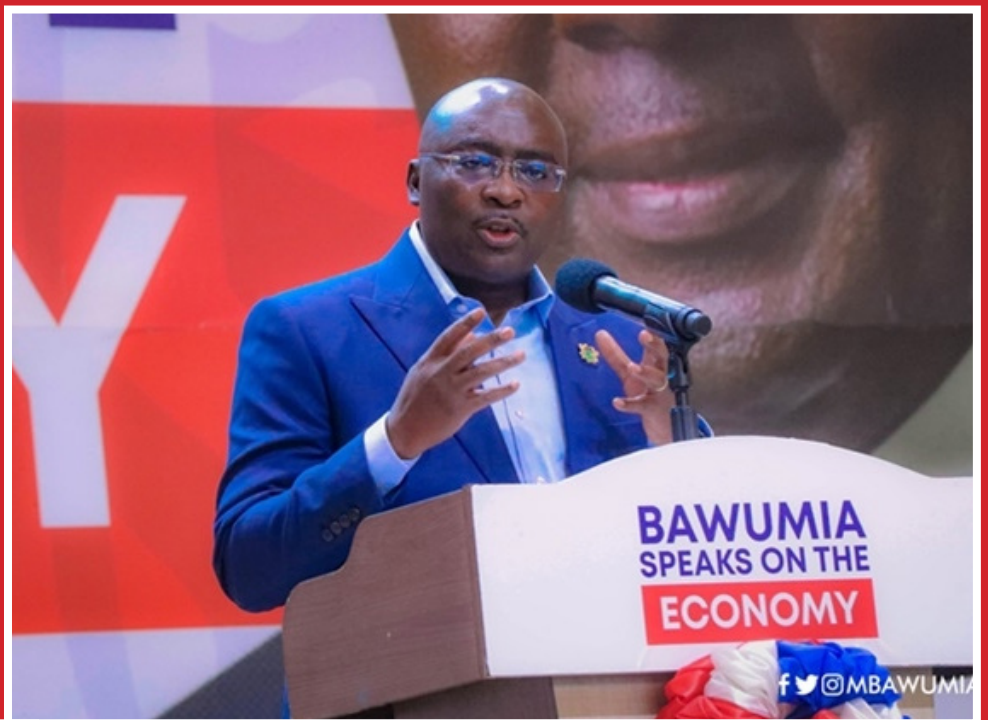


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General News

EC, National Security declares Kasoa a red zone area – NADMO director

Due to an increase in chaotic circumstances, Kasoa has been designated as a red zone region by the National Security and Electoral Commission (EC), according to George Ayisi, the director of communications for the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO).

Concerned about the recent pandemonium that broke out during the EC voter transfer process, Ayisi emphasised that there was no reason for the situation to get out of control and result in gunshots.

In an interview with the media, he stated, "It's sad. When we are transferring votes, it should not be chaotic because I am living in Accra and I have been transferred to Kasoa.

"I need to move my votes there if I cannot travel back to Accra to vote on the day of the election.

"Unfortunately, most of us seem to misunderstand the process. This is as simple as that, but there seems to be some misunderstanding."

Addressing a question about actions taken during a similar incident involving the Member of Parliament (MP) for the area, Hawa Koomson, in 2020, he said that: "Hawa Koomson was invited by the police, and she admitted she fired the gunshot.

They were saying she wasn't the one and that it was her bodyguard, but Hawa admitted she indeed did fire the gun, and that was it."

George Ayisi confirmed that the ongoing violence in the area has compelled the National Security

and the EC to classify the area as a red zone, despite his optimism that there won't be catastrophic situations in Kasoa during the next elections.

"Kasoa is a red zone already. The EC, security, and National Security have flagged Kasoa as a red zone, and so let's see how we can make

it a normal zone.

And maybe, because we have a lot of settlers in that enclave, that's also part of the challenges, and the police have created a whole region for that place in terms of security management," he added.

Source: Independent Ghana



George Ayisi, Director of Communications, NADMO

Persons under 18 and above 60 years to enjoy free kidney dialysis - NHIS

The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), in a landmark health care move, has announced a new program that will offer free dialysis treatments to individuals under 18 and over 60 years old.

This initiative, set to commence on June 1, 2024, and extend through December 20, 2024, marks a significant milestone in the NHIS's 20-year history.

The NHIA is celebrating its two decades of service with this program, which stands out among the anniversary's scheduled events. Dr. Da-Costa Aboagye, the Acting CEO of NHIA, confirmed the program's launch, emphasizing its importance in a recent statement.

To ensure the success of this health endeavour, the NHIA has secured a GH¢2,000,000.00 government allocation, as per the 2024 Allocation Formula approved by parliament. This fund is dedicated to aiding those who are vulnerable and in dire need of dialysis but lack the financial means.

In addition to the government's

contribution, the NHIA is allocating an extra GH¢2,400,000.00 from its Corporate Social Responsibility budget to bolster the program.

As part of NHIA's 20th Anniversary, the NHIA, through administrative arrangements has allocated an additional GH¢2,400,000.00, under the Corporate Social Responsibility approved budget of the scheme to support this initiative," the statement detailed.

The initiative is projected to incur monthly expenses of GH¢329,952 for the targeted age groups, with an anticipated total cost of around GH¢2.3 million by the end of December 2024.

Subsidies will also be available for patients aged 18 to 59, who will receive financial assistance for two dialysis sessions monthly at selected hospitals, excluding Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital (KBTH). These patients can expect a monthly subsidy of GH¢982.00, breaking down to GH¢491 per session.

"The cost of dialysis for this treatment category is projected

to be GH¢144,354 per month and by the end of December 2024, the cumulative cost is estimated to be approximately GH¢1.01 million," the statement added.

At KBTH, patients will benefit from a reduced rate of GH¢245.50 per session, thanks to a generous philanthropic contribution of GH¢380.00 per patient. The expected monthly expenditure for KBTH patients is GH¢147,300, which is projected to reach approximately GH¢1.03 million by December 2024.

Government has expressed its commitment to developing long-term solutions for kidney

diseases and other conditions not currently covered by the NHIS. A comprehensive plan addressing these health challenges is expected to be unveiled shortly.

"The Government is committed to finding sustainable interventions to dealing with renal diseases and other illnesses not currently covered under the NHIS in a holistic manner, and will soon unveil a sustainable plan," the statement concluded, promising a brighter future for Ghana's health care system.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



File Photo

General News

CODEO calls on Peace Council to intervene in voter transfer dispute

The National Coordinator of the Coalition for Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), Albert Arhin, has called on the National Peace Council to intervene in the disputes surrounding the transfer of votes, particularly the tension between the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the Electoral Commission (EC).

Arhin expressed concerns that if the issue is not resolved, it could hinder the smooth transfer of votes.

"It has never happened in any transfer of votes that you send people there as observers, that is the first time and look at what has happened my personal view is that the way this thing is going either the peace council can come in and talk to both parties so that peace

can prevail if we forget about it and let this continue we are not going to have a smooth transfer of votes."

His comments follow the NDC's refusal to withdraw its agents from EC offices during the ongoing voter transfer exercise, despite the EC's directive to do so.

During an Inter-Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) meeting on Monday, the NDC maintained its stance, instructing its agents to disregard the EC's directive.

The NDC also alleged that the New Patriotic Party (NPP) was moving voters from different constituencies to increase their votes in certain areas.

Speaking on the Ghana Tonight show on TV3 on June 3, Arhin said that the EC's decision to allow party agents to monitor the process was

unprecedented and that the EC's assurances of transparency were not backed by law.

He emphasised that the EC's magnanimity in granting this wish was surprising, given that it was not supported by any legal framework.

"As for the assurance, they [EC] said it again and again. They gave assurance that there's nothing untoward they would do and that they are going to be as transparent as ever. They even emphasised the fact that this is not even in the law they have allowed them to go and it shows the extent to which they can be magnanimous in granting this wish.

"I was surprised when I got there because it has never happened in any transfer of votes that you send people there as observers...it's the

first time and look at what has happened.

Arhin expressed his personal view that the National Peace Council should intervene to resolve the issue and maintain peace, as the current situation could lead to disruptions in the transfer of votes.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Albert Arhin, National Coordinator, CODEO

Ghanaian man who recently returned from Switzerland found hanging dead in his room

In the neighbourhood of Two Streams in Koforidua, the Eastern Region's capital, the body of a Ghanaian man, identified as Mr. Andrews, who had ostensibly just returned from Switzerland, was discovered hanging in his room.

Mr Andrews, believed to be in his late sixties, was found dangling from a rope that was secured to the door frame.

He had on a suit and shoes, looked well-groomed, and had on glasses. Strangely, his legs were touching the floor.

Mr. Andrews, who was born in Ghana but claimed Swiss residency, had been living in the area for about six months, according to locals.

He was known to drink and hang out with some of the younger residents.

He said he had built a house in Accra and that his extended family lived in the Central region; he also mentioned that he had a family in Switzerland.

Mr. Andrews had informed a few

residents just a few days before he passed away that he would return to Switzerland over the weekend.

A relative is said to have made arrangements a few days ago for his belongings to be shipped to his family's residence in the Central region.

The community is in shock and is full of speculation due to his sudden and unexpected death.

In anticipation of an autopsy, the police have brought the deceased person's body to the mortuary for additional investigation.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Phoebe Martekie Doku

8 persons including fetish priest and ex-soldiers sentenced to 252 years for looting gold enterprise

A group of eight, including two former soldiers and several fetish priests, have been handed a collective sentence of 252 years by the Tarkwa Circuit Court for their roles in a daring gold enterprise heist at Wassa Akropong, located in Ghana's Western Region. The

court ordered the sentences to be served with hard labor.

Emmanuel Tetteh, known as "Rocky Study," currently a private security guard, and his colleague, the unemployed Samuel Agbadoku, both ex-soldiers, are among the convicted. Joining them are Isaac Adjei, another private security guard; Yaw Adzevi, a kente weaver; Frank Afavi, a fetish priest also known as "Hero"; and Anthony Ayivie Kwame Senyo, a driver referred to as "Shoto." Each of these men received a 17-year sentence.

Further, fetish priests Pascal Koroku Atatsitsey, "Mezaya," and Dodzi Awali; Dickson Kumedzro, a farmer known as "Jaggar"; and Ruben Kportufe, a self-styled businessman with the alias "Offei," were sentenced to 25 years each.

Mohammed Buzu, an ex-convict nicknamed "Meme," faces the longest term of 50 years.

Despite their pleas for leniency, the judge, Mrs. Hathia Ama Manu, was urged by the prosecution to

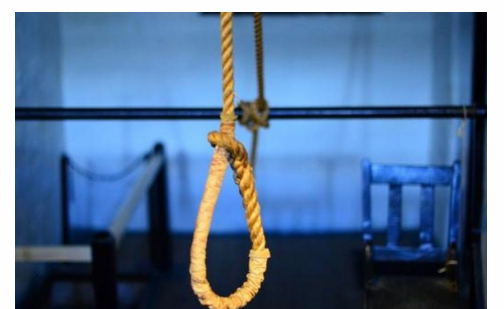
show no mercy.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Isaac Babayi argued that only stringent punishment would deter similar crimes, stating, "These offenders do not deserve mercy from the court."

The victims of the robbery, AU Resources Ghana Limited, represented by branch manager Mr. Prince Dennis, and security guard Isaac Adjei, were present during the sentencing.

The convicts hail from various parts of the Greater Accra and Volta Regions, including Saki, Klikor, Weta, Agbozume, Aflao, and Sogakope, bringing a close to a case that has captured the nation's attention since 2018.

Source: The Independent Ghana | Amanda Cartey



File Photo

General News

Ghana isn't the only country 'suffering'; it is global – Bawumia on economic hardships

Ghana cannot be exempted from the consequences of the global economic crisis, according to Dr. the flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), Mahamudu Bawumia.

During his campaign visit to the Central Regional House of Chiefs he stated that the government is making every effort to lessen the difficulties that Ghanaians face.

"It is very clear that the cost of living has gone up across the world. Even when I was in Canada just a few weeks ago, there were similar complaints.

"There has been a major increase in the cost of living, and global inflation has increased fivefold, so there is a problem."

Meanwhile, in a most recent survey results from Global Info Analytics, 60% of voters believe that Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia is partially to blame for the nation's current economic crisis.

The results show that respondents think Dr. Bawumia, as the head of the Economic Management Team, hasn't done enough to lessen the suffering that Ghanaians endure.

But 34% of Ghanaians contend that since the President has the final say, Dr. Bawumia, in his role as Vice President, cannot take full responsibility.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, NPP Flagbearer

World Bank has financed Bawumia's e-gate twice - Bright Simons alleges in shocking details

Vice President of IMANI Africa, Bright Simons, has made a startling accusation regarding the financial integrity of an e-gate project at Ghana's primary airport, spearheaded by Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia.

According to Simons, this project represents a severe misallocation of donor funds, having been financed not once but twice by the World Bank.

Simons' assertion comes in the wake of Dr. Bawumia's announcement detailing the imminent implementation of e-gates at Kotoka Airport, intended to streamline immigration processes. Dr.

Bawumia assured, "In fact, before the end of this year, if you arrive in Ghana at Kotoka Airport, you don't even need to go to an immigration officer. We are putting together the e-gates. You put your Ghana Card; it will open for you, and you'll pass and enter. The e-gates will come into service in Ghana before the end of this year. In Ghana, before the end of this year."

However, Simons challenges the

project's legitimacy, stating in a recent post, "If this new e-gate project uses a single pesewa of Ghanaian money, then it will be the most brazen abuse of @WorldBank money ever in the history of the world.

The truth is that the World Bank has paid TWICE for this same project. And recorded the project as complete & successful."

Backing his claims, Simons refers to an article he penned in April 2024, titled 'Is the World Bank saving or harming Ghana?' The article scrutinizes the e-Immigration system, a component of the e-Transform modules, which was supposed to introduce automated immigration clearance at the airport, digital visa processing, and eliminate paper-based procedures.

Despite the World Bank's records declaring the project as functional, Simons reveals that the Secure Border Management System (SBMS) has yet to be implemented, and the e-gates, reportedly operational and awaiting relocation within the airport, remain non-existent.

The controversy extends to the electronic visa management system, which, despite World Bank's claims of a successful launch in February 2019, has failed to be adopted by most of Ghana's diplomatic missions, forcing them to develop independent systems at additional costs.

Simons' revelations have cast a

shadow over the e-gate project, raising questions about the management of international donor funds and the veracity of government claims regarding the advancement of Ghana's immigration infrastructure.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Bright Simons, Vice President of IMANI Africa

General News

STC employees oppose nomination of a third deputy managing director

Employees of the State Transport Corporation (STC) vehemently oppose the appointment of a third deputy managing director, deeming it an unjustifiable expenditure of public funds.

The workers argue that the current two deputies suffice.

Consequently, they urge the corporation to prioritize procuring additional buses and addressing approximately six million cedis in outstanding pension payments.

In the petition sighted by JoyNews, the workers explained that the

company has “operated without a Deputy Managing Director for a considerable period; suggesting that the reduction in deputy managing directors will not adversely affect our operations”.

“It is imperative to emphasise the current challenges facing the company, particularly the dwindling fleet of operational buses. Presently, out of a total of 145 buses, only 39 are deemed roadworthy.

“This predicament is attributed to the inferior quality of the Daewoo buses acquired in 2020,

resulting in frequent repairs and maintenance issues.

Until the appointment is canceled, the unionized staff said they

will keep blocking the Deputy Managing Director’s office.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



File Photo

Don't give teachers second chance after they fail the licensure exams - EduWatch boss

Executive Director of Africa Education Watch (EduWatch), Kofi Asare, has asserted that potential teachers in Ghana should not be permitted to retake the teacher licensure examinations.

He believes that applicants who do not pass the licence exams need to be disqualified from teaching because they are most likely not qualified.

He emphasised that literacy abilities are evaluated on the tests in addition to academic prowess and topic matter expertise.

According to him, a prospective teacher is most likely unqualified if they are unable to read and write in English well on their first try at the test.

“Once you demonstrate the incapacity to read and write or demonstrate low proficiency in the English Language, that should be it. You cannot learn English in tertiary education, so that should be the end.

“... it is non-negotiable. We shouldn't allow them to even write it for a second time,” he is quoted as having said during a media engagement.

However, Kofi Asare pointed out that people who have trouble

in school or with a particular topic had to be given another opportunity to take the test.

He appealed to Ghanaians

to take the teacher licensure tests,emphasising that doing so would improve the quality of teaching in both public and private

schools in the country.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



File Photo

General News

Chiefs will enjoy free land registration when I become president - Bawumia

In an effort to settle the nation's long-standing land issues, Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, the flagbearer of the New Patriotic Party (NPP), has announced intentions to digitize the land tenure system and provide free land registration for chiefs.

Speaking to the clergy in the Greater Accra Region, Dr. Bawumia emphasized that one major obstacle keeping chiefs from registering their estates is the high cost of registration fees, which frequently results in ownership disputes.

"Many people claim ownership

and one of the problems we have is that many of the stool lands are not registered. I found out that many of the chiefs find it difficult to pay the registration fee because it's a bit expensive. So what am I going to do? We are going to provide free registration for all the chiefs," Dr. Bawumia stated.

He emphasized the necessity of updating the land tenure system and drew comparisons with developed nations where property ownership data is easily obtainable on the internet.

"Land in many countries, in the advanced world, if you want to

know who owns the land, you can find it on your mobile phone, you don't have to visit the land registry. So, we are going to move to marking and digitalising our land. So many land disputes come up because nobody really knows who owns the land," the NPP flagbearer explained.

Speaking on yet another important topic, Dr. Bawumia addressed the contentious National Cathedral project and urged the church to work with the government to find a workable solution that might involve finance from the private sector.

"The question on the National Cathedral is a very important one. The National Cathedral, I have contributed to it personally and I believe it is a very important thing for Ghana but I think as it stands now, the church has to come together with the government and let us sit down and talk about the way forward for the National Cathedral. The church should come together and let's know the best way forward, how we can even get private resources to help us complete the Cathedral," Dr. Bawumia added.

Source: Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



Dr Mahamudu Bawumia, NPP Flagbearer



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Business

500,000 businesses to be delisted for non-compliance - Registrar of Companies

The Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC) plans to delist over 500,000 public and private businesses by the end of June 2024 due to non-compliance with filing requirements.

This delisting will affect more than 8,000 companies limited by shares and over 500,000 business names that have failed to file their annual returns, necessary to maintain good standing.

Despite receiving numerous notices and reminders through various awareness programs and publications over the past two years, these businesses have not complied.

Initially, the ORC set a deadline for the end of 2023, but it was extended to provide additional time for public education and compliance.

According to a press release by the Registrar of Companies, Jemima

Mamaa Oware, in Accra on June 3, 2024, companies struck off the register will be prohibited from conducting business under their company name for twelve years, as stipulated by Section 289 (5) of the Companies Act 2019 (Act 992).

Business names will lose their exclusive rights and become part of the public domain upon deregistration, in line with Section 59(A) of the Registration of Business Names 1962 (Act 151).

The release also noted that a company's name can only be restored to the register following a court order, provided there is sufficient cause for such action, as outlined in Section 289 (7) of the Companies Act 992.

The ORC has stressed the importance of filing annual returns to ensure compliance and

transparency within the business community.

Failure to comply jeopardises the legal standing of entities and undermines public trust.

Defaulting companies and businesses are urged to file their Annual Returns and Renewals as directed by the Registrar of Companies before the validation process concludes on June 30, 2024.

The ORC encourages all stakeholders to comply in order

to maintain the integrity of the business environment and foster trust among investors, consumers, and the public.

Defaulting companies should visit the ORC's website to check the list of entities slated for removal from the register.

Until the appointment is cancelled, the unionised staff said they will keep blocking the Deputy Managing Director's office.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Jemima Mamaa Oware, Registrar-General

Currency printing: BoG spent GHS 675.4m - Report

Bank of Ghana (BoG) provided its 2023 Annual Report and Financial Statement, which shows that the bank's currency printing expenses in 2023 totaled GH¢675.4 million.

According to the study, the sum is a 107.4% rise over the GH¢325.64 million that was reported in 2022.

The report additionally indicated that, in contrast to GH¢6.54 million in 2022, the Central Bank spent GH¢7.32 million in 2023 on other currency management operations.

In 2023, agency fees hitzGH¢6.136 million, a GH¢4.75 million increase from the year before.

According to the study, this resulted in a total currency issue expense of GH¢688.87 million in 2023.

Additionally, the research stated that in 2023 there was GH¢44.55 billion in circulation.

In 2023, there was an overall

GH¢44.55 billion in circulation, as opposed to roughly GH¢36.07 billion in 2022.

There were GH¢29.7 billion in cedis, GH¢16.9 billion in dollars, GH¢988 million in pounds, and GH¢4.68 billion in euros among the various currency deposits. The total in other currencies was GH¢25.45 million.

In 2023, there was GH¢12.32 billion of the GH¢200 note in circulation as opposed to GH¢9.87 billion the year before.

In 2023, there was GH¢14.57 billion of the GH¢100 note in circulation, compared to GH¢8.69 billion in 2022.

In 2023, there were GH¢8.06 billion, GH¢5.06 billion, and

GH¢2.46 billion worth of GH¢50, GH¢20, and GH¢10 notes in circulation.

Furthermore, in 2023, there were GH¢1.09 billion, GH¢31.6 million, and GH¢11.27 million of the GH¢5, GH¢2, and GH¢1 notes in circulation.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Ghana Cedi Notes

International

Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected as Mexico's first female president, in a historic landslide win

Mexico's official electoral authority said preliminary results showed the 61-year-old former mayor of Mexico City winning between 58% and 60% of the vote in Sunday's election.

That gives her a lead of about 30 percentage points over her main rival, businesswoman Xóchitl Gálvez.

Ms Sheinbaum will replace her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on 1 October.

The election of a woman to the highest office was an emotional moment for some.

Ms Sheinbaum, a former energy scientist, has promised continuity, saying that she will continue to build on the "advances" made by Mr López Obrador, further building on the welfare programmes which have made the outgoing president very popular.

But in her victory speech she also highlighted what has set this Mexican election apart from previous ones. She told cheering voters: "For the first time in the 200 years of the [Mexican] Republic, I will become the first woman president of Mexico."

She said it was an achievement not just for her but for all women.

"I've said it from the start, this is not just about me getting [to the top office], it's about all of us getting here."

She added: "I won't fail you."

Ms Sheinbaum also thanked her rival, Xóchitl Gálvez, who has conceded victory.

Prior to running for president, Ms Sheinbaum was mayor of Mexico City, one of the most influential political positions in the country and one that is seen as paving the way for the presidency.

Ms Sheinbaum, whose Jewish maternal grandparents immigrated to Mexico from Bulgaria fleeing the Nazis, had an illustrious career as a scientist before delving into politics. Her paternal grandparents hailed from Lithuania.

Both of her parents were scientists and Ms Sheinbaum studied physics before going on to receive a doctorate in energy engineering.

She spent years at a renowned research lab in California studying Mexican energy consumption patterns and became an expert on climate change.

That experience and her student activism eventually earned her the position of secretary of the environment for Mexico City at the time when Andrés Manuel López Obrador was mayor of the capital.

In 2018 she became the first female mayor of Mexico City, a post she held until 2023, when she stepped down to run for president.

The election, which pitted Ms Sheinbaum against Ms Gálvez, has been described as a sea change for women in Mexico.

Edelmira Montiel, 87, said that she was grateful to be alive to see a woman elected to the top office.

"Before, we couldn't even vote, and when you could, it was to vote for the person your husband told you to vote for. Thank God that has changed and I get to live it," she told Reuters news agency, referring to the fact that women were only allowed to vote in national elections in 1953.

While the fact that the two front-runners were women was widely celebrated, the campaign was marred by violent attacks.

As well as a new president, voters were also electing all members of Mexico's Congress and governors in eight states, the head of Mexico City's government, and thousands of local officials.

And it was local candidates in particular who were targeted in the run-up to the vote.

The government says more than 20 were killed across Mexico, although other surveys put the total at 37.

Ms Gálvez harshly criticised the government and her rival in the presidential race for the violence which blights large parts of Mexico.

She promised to be "the bravest president, a president who does confront crime" if elected, but failed to provide many details about how she would tackle the powerful criminal cartels which are behind much of the violence.

After Ms Sheinbaum's lead became unassailable, Ms Gálvez called her.

"I told her I saw a Mexico with a lot of pain and violence. I wished that she could solve the severe problems our people have," Ms Gálvez said of the call.

How to tackle Mexico's violent cartels is going to be one of the many challenges facing Ms Sheinbaum when she takes up office.

She has said that it is important to tackle what she says are the roots

of the violence and has promised to invest in welfare programmes to prevent poor young Mexicans from being recruited by criminal groups.

On relations with Mexico's northern neighbour, the United States, which at times have been testy under her predecessor in office, she said she would ensure there would be "a relationship of friendship, mutual respect and equality".

But in a reference to the many Mexicans living and working in the US, she promised to "always defend the Mexicans who are on the other side of the border".

Relations between the US and Mexico suffered under Mr López Obrador, who has been in power since 2018.

The outspoken leader was barred from running for a second term under Mexico's constitution, which limits presidents to a single six-year-term.

He threw his weight behind Ms Sheinbaum instead.

Having the backing of the popular president, who has an approval rate of close to 60%, gave Ms Sheinbaum's campaign a huge boost.

Many of those voting for her said they backed her and Mr López Obrador's party programme to alleviate poverty and wanted to see it continued.

Source: BBC



Claudia Sheinbaum, newly elected President, Mexico

International

Mine pit collapse in central Nigeria kills one, traps 30

A mining pit collapse in Galkogo village of Niger State in central Nigeria killed one person and left 30 others trapped, the state's emergency agency said on Tuesday.

Six miners were rescued with serious injuries, Hussaini Ibrahim,

a spokesperson for the Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) said in a statement.

The incident, at the underground gold mine, occurred on Monday after heavy rains softened the soil around the pit, triggering the collapse.

Rescue efforts are underway with excavators brought in, but difficult conditions and insecurity in the area are hampering operations, Ibrahim said.

Nigeria's Niger state is rich in minerals but plagued by insecurity.

Large-scale mining operations face violence from armed groups, while safety standards are poorly enforced at the large number of unregulated small-scale mines.

Source: Reuters



File Photo

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