

The ghosts of Brexit are returning to haunt Britain

Brexit

This fear is fuelling rising support for rejoining the European Union:



Has the euphoria of 2020 Brexit victory turned into a damp squib?: WAS BRITAIN’S DIVORCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION A BLESSING OR A RECKLESS POLITICAL EGO TRIP?

By: Shamlal Puri
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The ghosts of Brexit are returning to haunt Britain over its decisive referendum as Britons are debating if the Government of the day made the right decision to quit its membership of the European Union (EU) three years ago or if it was a costly and a reckless ego trip to win a political point?
Three years down the line, some of those who voted to leave the EU are regretting their decision after realising their vote to quit the EU has



Big propaganda push... Boris Johnson was in the forefront of pushing the UK to quit the European Union. Here he distributes Leave leaflets to a crowd of supporters

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To Be Faithful To Others Start With Yourself

Crisis Backpage
Ethiopia rejects ‘ethnic cleansing’ accusation in western Tigray



Zimbabwean Gospel Musician Launches An Album

Zimbabwean uprising gospel musician Minister Leon Nyamvura is set to launch his debut album on the 17th June 2023 in Zimbabwe and his launch will serve his journey in gospel music and it will also add value on his career as a musician and the venue will be at Anglican Church

Hall in Kadoma, Zimbabwe. The title of the album is “Trust in the Lord Always” (TITLA), and the album is meant to bring the listeners closer to God and to trust in the Lord all the time. Speaking to the musician, he said the album is all about giving trust to the Maker of

this world no matter what circumstances one maybe facing. “This album is all about trusting in God and the album encourages people of God to always trust in God and I hope the album is going to touch every soul who is going to listen to the album.” said Minister Nyamvura.

Backed by the group The Essence of Worship, this is Minister Nyamvura’s 1st album though he once released a single ‘Wakarurama’ (2022) which

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Have you filed your tax returns?



Like US, UN suspends Ethiopia food aid over diversion of supplies

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- But earlier this year, USAID administrator Samantha Power told the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that aid theft in the northern Tigray region appeared to “involve collusion between parties on both sides” of the conflict, which ended in November.
- In a joint statement with USAID on Thursday, the Ethiopian foreign ministry spoke of “deeply concerning revelations” and said it was investigating with the US “so that the perpetrators of such diversion are held to account”.
- The nationwide food aid suspensions follow USAID and the WFP saying last month they had suspended food deliveries to Tigray while they investigated reports of food aid theft there. The region is recovering from a two-year conflict.



Women wait during a food distribution organised by the Amhara government near the village of Baker, 50 km southeast of Humera, in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, on July 11, 2021. [Eduardo Soteras/AFP]

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JOINT STATEMENT



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Joint Statement by USAID and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, June 08, 2023 – Today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the United States Agency for International Development announced their commitment to addressing deeply concerning revelations of food aid diversion in Ethiopia.

The two governments are conducting investigations so that the perpetrators of such diversion are held to account. The two governments commit to collaborate toward an efficient aid distribution system in Ethiopia, which would safeguard assistance from diversion.

The United States and Ethiopia continue to partner for the benefit of the people of our two countries. We remain committed to working together to expand opportunities and develop our relationship in ways that advance our shared

The UN agency’s suspension of food aid to Ethiopia comes a day after USAID took similar action. The United Nations World Food Programme has said it is temporarily suspending food aid to Ethiopia because its supplies are being diverted, a day after the United States Agency for International Development said it was doing the same. “Food diversion is absolutely unacceptable, and we welcome the government of Ethiopia’s commitment to investigate and hold accountable those responsible,” WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain said on Friday. Some 20 million Ethiopians rely on food aid because of drought and conflict, out of the country’s population of roughly 120 million. Much of the aid comes from USAID and the WFP. The suspensions brought fears that malnutrition could rise in Africa’s second most populous country. USAID, WFP and the Ethiopian government have not

said who is responsible for the food diversion, which the US has described as “widespread and coordinated”. But earlier this year, USAID administrator Samantha Power told the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that aid theft in the northern Tigray region appeared to “involve collusion between parties on both sides” of the conflict, which ended in November. In a joint statement with USAID on Thursday, the Ethiopian foreign ministry spoke of “deeply concerning revelations” and said it was investigating with the US “so that the perpetrators of such diversion are held to account”. The nationwide food aid suspensions follow USAID and the WFP saying last month they had suspended food deliveries to Tigray while they investigated reports of food aid theft there. The region is recovering from a two-year conflict. Some 5.4 million of the region’s six million people rely on humanitarian help. In its statement on Friday, the WFP said it was continuing other programmes in Ethiopia for children, mothers and drought-hit pastoralists. “WFP is working closely with its UN and humanitarian partners and local stakeholders to reform the way assistance is delivered across Ethiopia and in all high-risk operational contexts where we work,” it said. Source: News Agencies

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Language

Competence Approach In Teaching Foreign Language

By: Madina Fayzullaeva
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Sociolinguistic competence encompasses the social and cultural context in which language is taught to students by comparing the customs and values, rituals of the country in which they live.
- Pragmatic competence refers to the ability to repeat and ask when there are misunderstandings in a communicative situation in a foreign language being studied, and to get out of complex situations through hoaxes. The fact that we use many pedagogical technologies in the process of continuing education in our modern life, depending on the content of education, also requires competencies from the teacher. We need to provide more methodological support to today's young professionals, namely, mainly students.



Students in class in Uzbekistan

In today's developing society, we can see that people's aspirations for the education system are growing, not only in our country, but also in many countries around the world, attitudes to all types of systems are changing. In the context of increasing globalization and fierce competition in the world economy, it is important for a person to receive lifelong learning, not just education, for today's life. After all, the future development of the country is closely linked with the achievements in this area. Nowadays, a number of reforms are being carried out in the education system of the Republic. A number of measures are being taken in the system of continuing education in our country on the basis of the decision of December 10, 2012 on measures to further improve the system of learning foreign languages PQ-1875. In this

direction, by Resolution No. 124 of May 8, 2013, the SES (State Education Standards) on foreign languages in the system of continuing education was adopted and the A-1 starting level of learning foreign language for primary grades was established.

Nowadays, these guides have found their own place. Our government is taking such measures to teach our students foreign languages, so are the foreign language teachers ready for the process? To be ready for this process, the teacher oneself must have perfect knowledge, skills and abilities in all aspects.

Today's modern teacher is required to achieve three main goals in education: pedagogical, educational and developmental.

Today's teacher will need to use a variety of methods and interactive methods throughout the lesson, depending on the purpose of

the lesson. According to the decision of PQ -1875 dated December 10, 2012. Foreign languages are taught to students in general education schools of the Republic, for example, from the 1st grade. In the 1st grade, thinking and arguing are carried out mainly on the basis of oral speech. Writing, listening and reading skills are practiced in 2nd grade.

Can foreign language teachers achieve the goals set above? For this, first of all, they need pedagogical, psychological knowledge, skills and abilities. Alternatively, a foreign language teacher can teach students by comparing a foreign language only if he or she is fluent in his or her native language. Nowadays, it is important for a teacher to have the necessary competencies.

What is competence?

Competence is a competency formed in each

teacher on the basis of acquired knowledge, skills and competencies. First of all, it should be noted that the main purpose of teaching a foreign language at all stages of education in the Republic of Uzbekistan is to form a communicative connection of a foreign language for learners to work in a multidisciplinary society in everyday scientific professions.

Today's foreign language teacher needs to have the following language-related communications in order to communicate with students.

1. Linguistic competence (phonetics, vocabulary, grammar of the teacher's language) is considered to be perfect knowledge, listening, reading and writing skills.

Sociolinguistic competence allows the speaker to choose the method of expression of the desired linguistic form based on a particular speech situation, communicative purpose, and desire.

2. Sociolinguistic competence encompasses the social and cultural context in which language is taught to students by comparing the customs and values, rituals of the country in which they live.

3. Pragmatic competence refers to the ability to repeat and ask when there are misunderstandings in a communicative situation in a foreign language being studied, and to get out of complex situations through hoaxes. The fact that we use many pedagogical technologies in the process of continuing education in our modern life, depending on the content of education,

also requires competencies from the teacher. We need to provide more methodological support to today's young professionals, namely, mainly students.

Establishing a teacher-student relationship is a requirement of this period. We recommend teachers to young professionals to learn more pedagogical and psychological sciences perfectly to work with primary school students. Because working with younger students requires perseverance and dedication.

In order to achieve effective teaching, a foreign language teacher is required to set the following requirements.

- A foreign language teacher must know one's specialty perfectly on the basis of SES (State Education Standards).

- Treat your student as a spiritually mature, noble, mentally gifted person.

- A foreign language teacher should know perfectly about the pedagogical and psychological characteristics of primary school students.

One of the main qualities of a modern teacher is one's devotion to their profession, his/her faith in love of the profession distinguishes from other professionals. To sum up, a teacher who loves children, dedicated the pedagogical mastery of all his/her strength, knowledge to educating the next generation is a true teacher.

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Letter to my mother

Mother...!

The ups and downs of life are so tangled and complicated that a person does not always have the strength and courage to go through them. You can't take a step. There are so many obstacles and trials to achieve your goal that even the people you consider close to you will become inferior.

But Allah's mercy is so wide that you will receive the answer according to your actions.

You have taught me to walk such difficult and complicated paths, you have taught me not to be defeated in difficult days, you have given me hope so that my dreams will not come true, you have filled my thirsting heart with love with your tender heart, the path of destiny is up and down. For being a pillar in my journey, for being by my side even when my friends betrayed me, for being like a guiding star in lighting the paths of my life, for being by my side in difficult situations like the sun when I retreated as I retreated. Thanks for coming...everything! I love you very much
Mother, longing hurts the heart,
Today, that love is known.
I feel like a yellowed leaf
Your girl misses you again!

Dilnurabonu Vayisova

Dilnurabonu Vayisova is a student of Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan



China

Shenzhou-15 manned spaceship successfully lands in N. China

CGTN

China's Shenzhou-15 astronauts, or taikonauts, returned to Earth safely on Sunday after an over 180-day mission in the country's orbiting space station.

The re-entry capsule with the three taikonauts aboard – Fei Junlong, Deng Qingming and Zhang Lu – touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 6:33 a.m. Beijing Time, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

The CMSA declared the Shenzhou-15 mission a complete success after the medical team waiting on site confirmed that the trio was in good health.

Fei Junlong, the commander of the mission, was the first to come out of the capsule.

"I'd like to report to my country and people that the Shenzhou-15 crew has successfully completed all the assigned work and tasks in orbit. We have returned to Earth safely. We are feeling good," he said.
Following Fei, Deng Qingming, op-

erator of the mission, expressed his gratitude to those who made a contribution to the mission.

"My experience of the past 25 years led me to believe in the power of dreams and perseverance, no matter what is my age, I'm always happy because I'm needed by my country," he said.

Deng, 57, was selected as a member of China's first-generation astronauts in January 1998, and he was a backup crew member for both the Shenzhou-10 and Shenzhou-11 missions. Shenzhou-15 was his first space mission.

Shenzhou-15 was also the first space mission for Operator Zhang Lu. "Going forward, we'll first get back in shape as soon as possible and resume training to prepare ourselves for the next mission," he said after exiting the capsule.

The Shenzhou-15 spaceship was launched in November 2022.

On December 3, 2022, the Shenzhou-15 crew conducted China's first-ever in-orbit rotation with the Shenzhou-14 astronaut trio.

During their stay at the China Space Station, the three astronauts accom-



plished four extravehicular activities (EVAs), setting a new record for Chinese astronaut crews in spacewalks.

They also conducted a series of scientific experiments and tests, which included the installation of the ex-

travehicular extension pump set and the cross-cabin cable installation and connection.

The Shenzhou-15 crew, with the highest average age among Chinese astronaut crews, not only achieved a milestone in EVAs, but also wit-

nessed the historic moment when the China Space Station was fully completed by the end of 2022, according to the CMSA.

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Motivation

To Be Faithful To Others Start With Yourself

By:N. George
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Worth Noting:

- Birds of a feather flock together. If you are a liar most probably those in your circles for long will tend to be liars. Each and every one of you will be comfortable with each other after lying to each other and your colleague establishing what happened you too will remember at time that you too lied to him.
- If the person you are dealing with is not a liar like you he will tend to avoid you or be extra cautious while transacting with you.
- Whatever culture you develop at personal level you are likely to extend it to those you interact with so if you are virtuous person you will likely extend this character to your colleagues.



If I must be faithful to someone or something, I have first of all I have to be faithful to myself.....Paulo Coelho.

Behavioral psychologists will bear witness that how one behaves reflects his way of thinking. You can study someone's behaviour to tell some of things that could be exciting or challenging him. Acting differently from what you preach is easily noticed by those who follow you keenly and it becomes hard for them to trust you in any other issue as they assume that you are likely to follow the old habit of serving self-interests and openly lying without feeling ashamed. Kids are well known for im-

itating what the senior people around them are doing more than listening to what you are saying so if you are a compromising person even to your kids they will emulate you and would feel okay to lie then do the other actions different from what they verbally state.

You will find it unpleasant when they will nicely talk to you then like you go ahead and do what is contrary to what they have been advocating.

If you get used to lying to others it will not be abnormal to lie to yourself as lies will become part of your life. This will happen by your imagination that you have

something that you really do not have that is why some people lie to themselves that they can use debt to finance their living and fail to pay the debt. They can claim that those they owe will forget or fail to find something commensurate with what they owe them that they can use as compensation.

Birds of a feather flock together. If you are a liar most probably those in your circles for long will tend to be liars. Each and every one of you will be comfortable with each other after lying to each other and your colleague establishing what happened you too will remember at time that you too lied to

him.

If the person you are dealing with is not a liar like you he will tend to avoid you or be extra cautious while transacting with you.

Whatever culture you develop at personal level you are likely to extend it to those you interact with so if you are virtuous person you will likely extend this character to your colleagues. If you are disciplined in a certain aspect you are likely to influence those around you to be so.

Loving yourself makes you to wish to remain as pure and positive as possible hence try to maintain this at all costs hence you will not

contaminate yourself staying true to your course minimizing the chances of committing error. You can only share what you have try to endow yourself with what is good so that when you want to share with others you give what will not be regrettable to both you and the person who you are sharing with.

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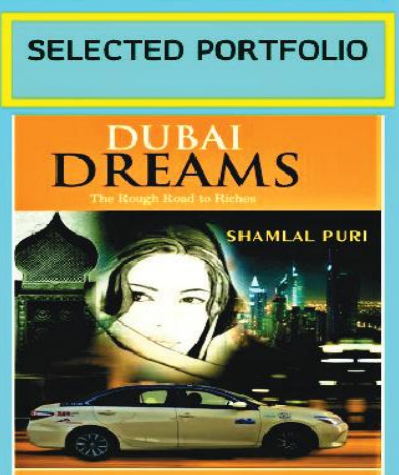
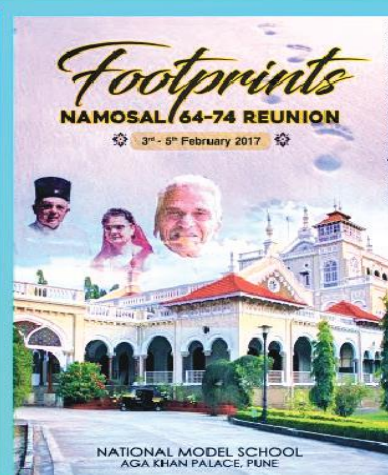
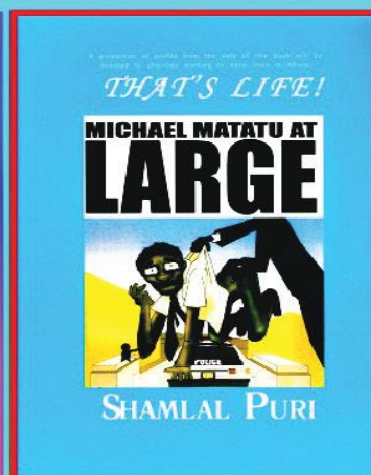
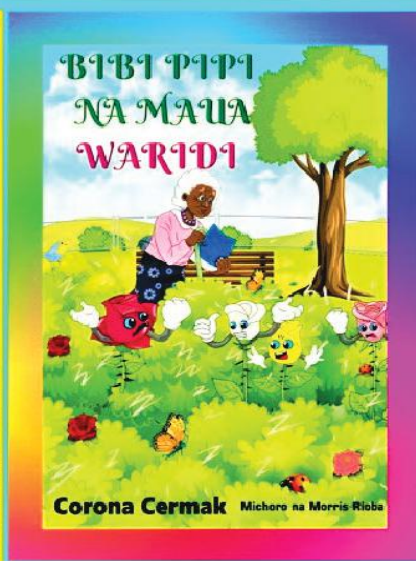
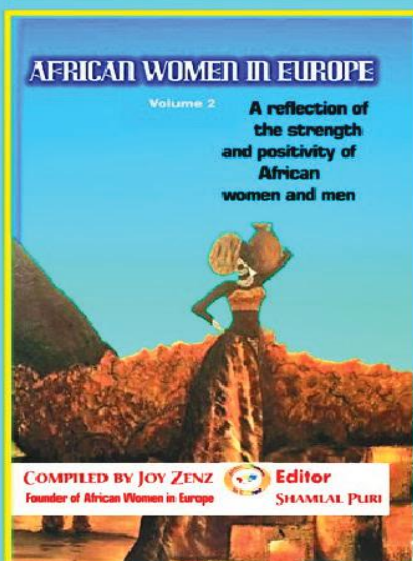
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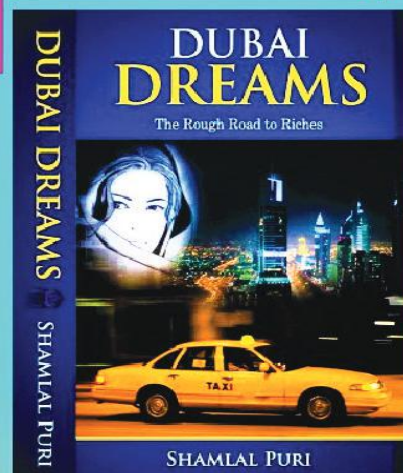
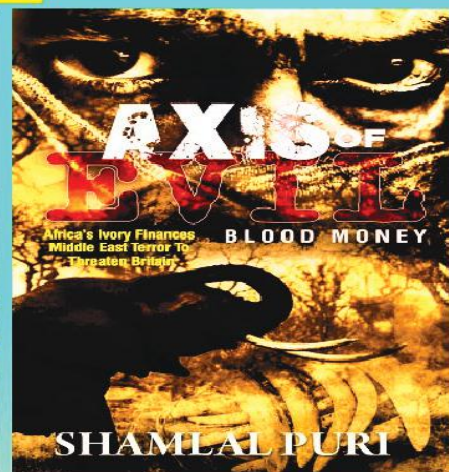
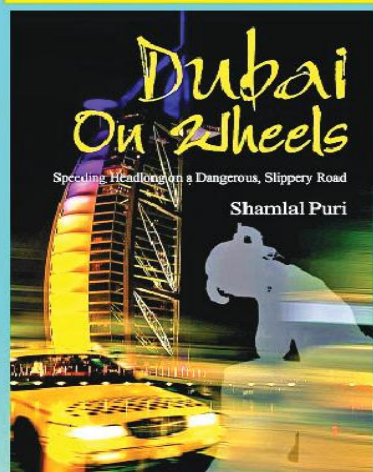
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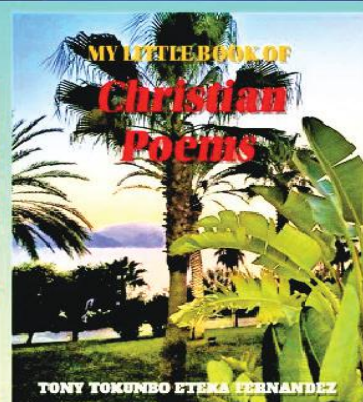
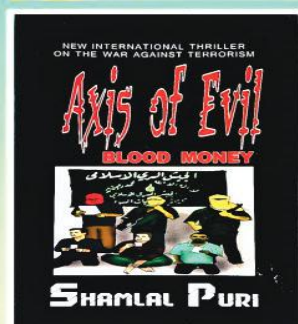
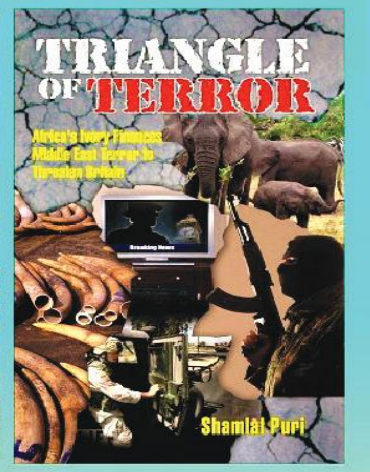
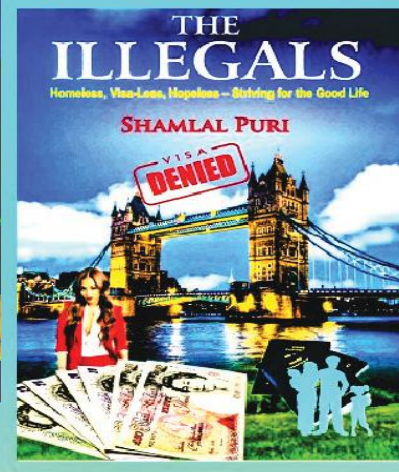
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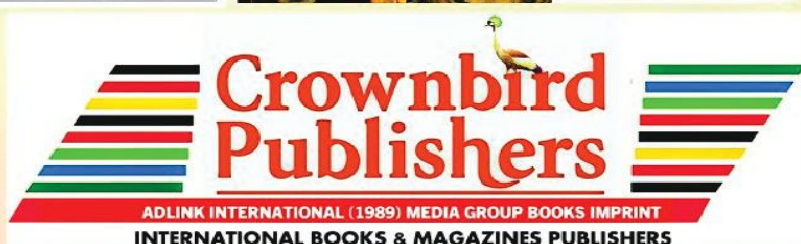


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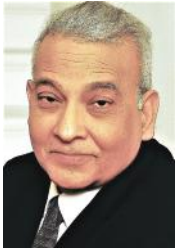
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Brexit

Has the euphoria of 2020 Brexit victory turned into a damp squib?: WAS BRITAIN'S DIVORCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION A BLESSING OR A RECKLESS POLITICAL EGO TRIP?



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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Many more voters said Brexit had a negative rather than positive impact on the economy (net score -42 per cent), the NHS and public services (-34 per cent), the political situation in Northern Ireland (-33 per cent), the UK's ability to influence other countries (-28 per cent), the UK's standing in the world (-27 per cent) and the laws and regulations people and businesses had to follow (-21 per cent).
- Despite global free trade deals being a significant "Brexit benefit" touted by the Leave campaign, many more voters believe leaving the block has harmed commerce with non-EU countries (-21 per cent). Voters also recognise the impact of lost trade with EU countries (-45 per cent).
- The only issue polled that did not receive a negative rating was Brexit's impact on the UK's ability to respond to Covid-19 or future pandemics, with a net score of zero.

left a seriously negative impact on the UK economy; the National Health Service (NHS) hit public services and spread poverty, isolation, gloom, joblessness, crime, increased racism and xenophobia in many parts of the country.

This fear is fuelling rising support for rejoining the European Union. According to a recent opinion poll by the British company BMG Research, many who voted to leave now want to reverse Brexit, a term coined to mean Britain's Exit from the EU.

A post-mortem is taking place to investigate if Britain has gained more or lost irreparably from severing its ties with the European Union.

Voters believe Brexit has severely harmed vast swathes of policy, politics, cost of living and public services and further isolated the UK from the global community. More than one in ten people (10% of those who polled) previously in the Leave the EU camp now want to rejoin the European grouping. An increasing number of those (14%) who backed Brexit as the best thing since sliced bread now say that had they known their decision's severe impact, they would have voted to remain in the EU.

Many more voters said Brexit had a negative rather than positive impact on the economy (net score -42 per cent), the NHS and public services (-34 per cent), the political situation in Northern Ireland (-33 per cent), the UK's ability to influence other countries (-28 per cent), the UK's standing in the world (-27 per cent) and the laws and regulations people and businesses had to follow (-21 per cent).

Despite global free trade deals being a significant "Brexit benefit" touted by the Leave campaign, many more voters believe leaving the block has harmed commerce with non-EU countries (-21 per cent). Voters also recognise the impact of lost trade with EU countries (-45 per cent).

The only issue polled that did not receive a negative rating was Brexit's impact on the UK's ability to respond to Covid-19 or future pandemics, with a net score of zero. Even then, that would have been the sole responsibility of Britain to tackle Corona with possibly some

financial help and added medical expertise from the EU.

The survey concluded that issues such as the negative impact of migration and the cost of living have dented people's confidence.

Has Brexit had a positive or negative impact on the cost of living? The poll asked.

A whopping 63% of down-cast Britons said it severely impacted them, followed by 22%, probably affluent, saying it had no effect, 10% positive impact, and 5% didn't know, probably confused or too lazy to take a stand.

Ironically, the researchers say their previous polls on Brexit have shifted from positivity about the benefits of leaving the EU to the largest lead for rejoining the European Union.

The negative views about the effects of Brexit have caused ripple effects in the country. The BMG Survey, albeit of a small section of the public - 1,529 adults in Britain, is a representative sample of the current pulse of the people on the impact of Brexit on the UK.

So, what has gone wrong?

It is imperative to go into the background of this referendum which cost the UK taxpayer £129.128 million in 2016, and the subsequent events, which set the ball rolling for Brexit.

The seeds of the demolition of the unity wall of the Union of European Nations that took 28 countries of Europe into a trade and economic union under its umbrella and ruled from the Belgian capital, Brussels, were sown in 2013 when Tory Prime Minister David Cameron was the occupant of 10 Downing Street.

He responded to the demands of the Brits on their country's future in the EU, allowing the people of the UK to express their democratic rights through a referendum on whether to stay in the EU or withdraw from the Union.

Three years later, in 2016 United Kingdom European Union membership referendum, commonly referred to as the EU referendum or the Brexit referendum, took place on 23 June in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar to ask the electorate whether



Thumbs up the big political propaganda push that won the vote to quit the European Union



European Union headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, hot-seat of the EU



The big fight to remain in the EU... Jo Churchill MP Bury St Edmunds at a gathering in her constituency. Photo Courtesy

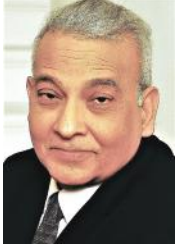


On the campaign trail.. the Brexit Bus that spread the word in favour of the Leave campaign

Contd Page 11.

Brexit

Has the euphoria of 2020 Brexit victory turned into a damp squib?: WAS BRITAIN'S DIVORCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION A BLESSING OR A RECKLESS POLITICAL EGO TRIP?



By: Shamlal Puri
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Worth Noting:

- **Brexiteers were mainly swayed by a heavy political propaganda drive by several leading politicians who unwisely pumped the patriotism card into the brains of the electorate and instilled misplaced fears that their sovereignty was in severe danger and that the Goliath of Europe would swallow the tiny UK.**
- **The UK mass media also joined in to put in the boot using their platforms to sell and thrust the Brexit message instilling fears that heavyweight Europe will trample the UK. Was it an abuse of their right to inform their readers? One wonders.**
- **Probably, the UK media failed to look beyond their noses on this (as one of my previous Fleet Street editors, flashing a warning light, used to tell me in the newsroom).**
- **Critics say gullible Brits bought the propaganda lock, stock and barrel.**

the country should remain a member of, or leave, the European Union.

Mr Cameron probably felt confident, at the back of his mind, that the UK would overwhelmingly agree to stay on in the EU.

According to official figures, 46.5 million people were registered to vote, of which 33,577,342 electors cast a vote – 72.2% turnout.

The final nail-biting result was 17,410,742 people voted to Leave the EU – 51.9% of all valid votes, and 16,141,241 people voted to remain in the EU – 48.1% response.

A small section of 25,359 ballot papers was rejected.

Cameron's somewhat misplaced confidence in the success of remaining in the EU was fuelled by his victory in another referendum on whether Scotland should remain part of the United Kingdom or break away from the Union of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which form the United Kingdom. In the event, the Scots rejected the idea of Scotland quitting the UK.

A referendum on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom was held in Scotland on 18 September 2014. The referendum question was, "Should Scotland be an independent country?" which voters in Scotland were asked to answer with "Yes" or "No".

The "No" side won, with 2,001,926 (55.3%) voting against independence and 1,617,989 (44.7%) voting in favour. The turnout of 84.6% was the highest recorded for an election or referendum in the United Kingdom since the January 1910 general election, which was held before the introduction of universal suffrage.

Buoyed by this success, the Cameron Government believed that the call for the EU referendum would be a walkover result like the Scotland referendum. The Government slowed its public relations push on this expecting a miracle for the UK to stay in the EU.

The country was split into two factions – angry Brexiteers, who wanted the divorce from the EU and Remainers, who believed the UK would shoot itself in the foot if it broke off from the European Union. To them, it was like severing an umbilical cord.

Families were torn apart. There were disagreements,

depression, headaches and mood swings among family members living under the same roof resulting in quarrels.

Brexiteers were mainly swayed by a heavy political propaganda drive by several leading politicians who unwisely pumped the patriotism card into the brains of the electorate and instilled misplaced fears that their sovereignty was in severe danger and that the Goliath of Europe would swallow the tiny UK.

The UK mass media also joined in to put in the boot using their platforms to sell and thrust the Brexit message instilling fears that heavyweight Europe will trample the UK. Was it an abuse of their right to inform their readers? One wonders.

Probably, the UK media failed to look beyond their noses on this (as one of my previous Fleet Street editors, flashing a warning light, used to tell me in the newsroom).

Critics say gullible Brits bought the propaganda lock, stock and barrel.

They said the UK's sovereignty was in jeopardy with continued membership of the EU as the other member states were imposing their will on the UK. They argued that with the introduction of the common European currency, the Euro, the British Sterling was under threat. In so doing, they claimed that the Queen's portrait would disappear from the currency as the Euro would take over. Even though the ruling Conservative Party largely backed the remaining idea, the referendum was hijacked by a few politicians whose influence rose with a crescendo. They included Boris Johnson and Michael Gove, whose influence in the Tory Party and political star shot up after that for many years.

Right-wing politicians, including fellow Tories Jacob Rees-Mogg, and Nigel Lawson, former Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Margaret Thatcher Government, John Redwood, were at the forefront.

They were joined by the yes-teryears Labour MP, Lord Owen, former Foreign Secretary in 1977, in the Labour Prime Minister James Callaghan's cabinet, who was seen as a strange bedfellow.

What moved the campaign into the right wing was the



No return... EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker warned there will be no kind of renegotiation after Britain's EU referendum. Juncker meets then-British PM, David Cameron

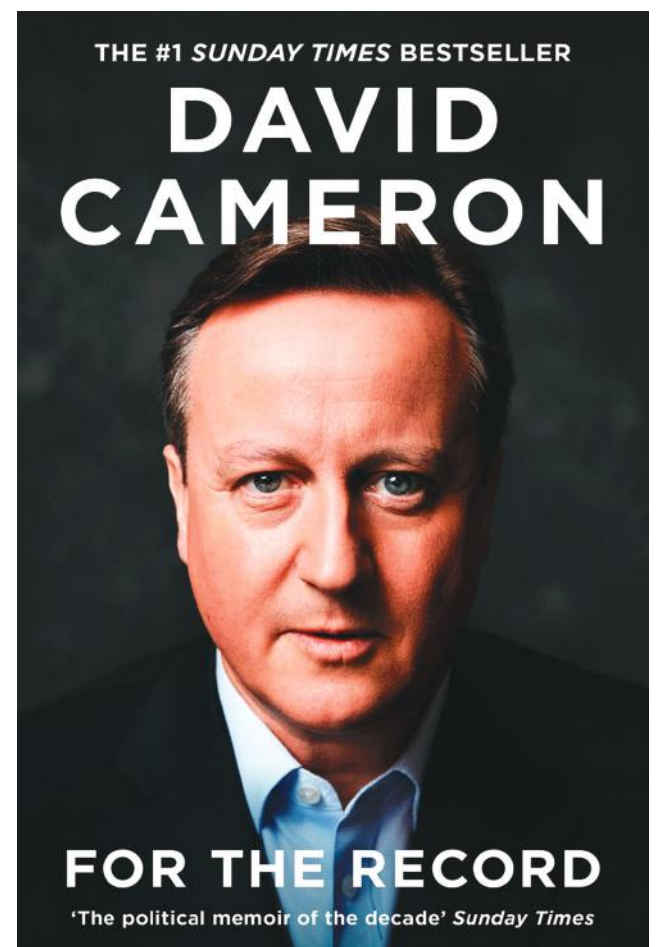


Fight to the bitter end, the Remain campaign was weaker than the opposition's scare tactics.

tacit support of the UK Independent Party (UKIP), the British National Party (BNP), the English Defence League, Democratic Unionist Ulster and Respect parties, seen more as the rigid right wing of the UK politics.

They received support from hardliners former US President Donald Trump, Russian leader Vladimir Putin, and the right-wing French National Front's Le Pen. Few will know what their interest in the UK and agenda was. Some sporting and entertainment celebrities such as Ian Botham, Joey Essex, Kerry Hopkins, Elizabeth Hurley, Joan Collins and Michael Caine lent their support, pulling many of their fans into the Leave camp.

Even the nurses, who are today fighting for their rights



My regrets.. firmer Premier David Cameron puts on record his feelings in his memoirs For the Record.

Contd Page 13.

Climate Challenges

African Expert Voices Critical to Addressing Continent's Climate Challenges

Worth Noting:

- The continent is highly susceptible to the effects of climate change. In recent years Africa has been battered by ongoing droughts, extensive flooding, and tropical cyclones, which compounded by political conflicts, economic downturns, and the COVID-19 pandemic, are seriously threatening food security, displacing people, and impairing socioeconomic development.
- Despite this reality, African voices, especially those marginalized by gender, ethnicity or geography, are often overlooked.
- In sub-Saharan African countries, belief in the climate crisis is at its lowest according to the latest UNDP report, the People's Climate Vote. The 2021 survey shows that only 61% of sub-Saharan African respondents considered climate change a global emergency. This is despite the fact that local climate change events are now more dominant in African media.

A shortage of subject knowledge and African resource expertise is hindering in-depth climate change story coverage and telling in African newsrooms.

These deficits, coupled with the majority of climate change discussions in African countries being driven by Western experts and organizations over the last two decades, have led to local news media outlets finding it convenient to rely on an international agency-produced copy that gives prominence to "foreign voices".

Festus Eriye, an editor and columnist with Nigeria's widest circulating newspaper The Nation, notes that despite this precedence, journalists need to know that there are experts doing work on environmental and climate change issues across the continent.

"It is for journalists to understand that local experts are just as knowledgeable about local conditions as their US or European colleagues," he said.

Climate change is making African countries poorer every year with data showing that the combined phenomena are shaving off 5 to 15% of African countries' GDP annually. This calls for smart climate adaptation strategies that can reverse this trend, including African voices being actively involved in climate conversations.

By building a platform for African voices, African countries may have a better chance of finding home-grown solutions that can help alleviate some of the climate change effects challenging African countries. While African countries did not contribute significantly to the current climate crisis,



An elderly man struggles to squeeze some juice from a wild fruit in Turkana County, Kenya in this March 2023 photo. Effects of climate change receive little coverage in African newsrooms leading to limited knowledge which affects mitigation activities. [Photo/Njenga Hakeenah]

the anticipated future effects of climate change for Africa are dire.

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more dominant in African media.

While this may suggest increased recognition of the current effects of climate change in African countries, a quantitative analysis undertaken by Africa No Filter (ANF) in 2021 found that African voices on climate change are still underrepresented. Thus, climate change reporting in Africa still needs more insightful, nuanced, and wider-spread commentary.

For journalists covering climate change stories, there is limited long-term historical climate data. Additionally, most current data can be of poor quality due to sparse and unevenly distributed weather stations.

In an interview with Africa Renewal, a United Nations publication, Cameroonian journalist Killian Chimton Ngala notes that climate reporting in African countries often lacks context. He said that journalists reporting on flooding, for example, don't necessarily link it to climate

change since their focus is usually on the event and its impact rather than the event being part of a much bigger issue.

While attending COP27 in Egypt last year, Ngala said that climate change doesn't often make headlines on newspaper front pages or in television and radio news. He added that without a local perspective, climate change reporting becomes a complex concept for many, particularly the grassroots population.

Climate change news also needs more prominence for information to move from flash reports to actionable calls to action.

Eriye noted that to improve climate change reporting in African news organizations, news media companies should allocate more space in their publications and greater time on their radio and television stations to talk about climate change.

He added that more funding will impact climate change reporting since it is critical

in newsrooms. Currently, many newspapers are facing challenges in providing more resources for investigative reports. This is hampering how stories are packaged and told.

Beyond the newsroom and the mass media, climate science faces its own challenges in African countries, and across the board, more African voices need to be heard. Managing Director & Partner at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in Lagos, Tolu Oyekan, says that it's time for African leaders to have a greater voice in the climate change discussion. He added that today's global discourse does not "adequately address the specific—and urgent—needs of countries in Africa."

African scientists are also underrepresented in the climate change debate with an analysis of the most influential climate scientists in 2021 revealing a lack of diversity in climate research. Only five Africans, and 122 women, among the 1000 scientists were identified.

Experts in African organizations may be hard to contact. For African journalists pressed for time and with deadlines to beat, the ease of locating foreign experts means that foreign experts end up ranking higher than African experts in terms of visibility. Unfortunately, this has elevated voices that may not fully understand the local situation.

This skewed representation can result in the marginalization of local and indigenous knowledge, experiences and practices when seeking solutions for African countries struggling under the weight of ever-growing climate change effects.



A mother and her daughter after harvesting some vegetables from their irrigated land in Turkana, Kenya. Limited media coverage of climate change phenomena denies such farmers the opportunity to learn more mitigation practices. [Photo/Njenga Hakeenah]

Brexit

Has the euphoria of 2020 Brexit victory turned into a damp squib?: WAS BRITAIN'S DIVORCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION A BLESSING OR A RECKLESS POLITICAL EGO TRIP?



By: Shamlal Puri
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Worth Noting:

- The Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrat Party, the Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party were officially supporting the Remain vote – the ballot to remain members of the EU.
- Then Prime Minister Cameron, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, George Osborne and Jo Cox supported the Remain in the EU campaign.
- The two camps – Brexit said they needed to reclaim their border by shutting foreigners, including Europeans, from entering the UK. They demanded the right to determine their immigration policies for people from the EU just as they did for foreigners from outside the EU, instead of Brussels telling them what to do.
- Their plans for Brexit Britain killed off the idea of the free movement of EU citizens and the popular Schengen visa. Britons were allowed to settle in any EU nation without any hindrances.

and pay increases, supported Brexit. Their decision returned to haunt them as their unions decided to go along with the Leave Campaigners.

The Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrat Party, the Scottish National Party, Plaid Cymru and the Green Party were officially supporting the Remain vote – the ballot to remain members of the EU.

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Their plans for Brexit Britain killed off the idea of the free movement of EU citizens and the popular Schengen visa. Britons were allowed to settle in any EU nation without any hindrances.

They planned to impose their immigration entry rules based on the points system. Their arguments appear to have flopped. Many who supported Brexit now concede that immigration has not been reduced to the numbers they wished to have cut. On the contrary, it appears to have increased the entry of non-EU people. Today, the UK is fighting an almost losing battle against the flood of migrants.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose position on Brexit is sitting on the fence, has visited EU capitals to seek cooperation to help control migrant flows to the UK through their territories.

In the past, the French were so angry at Britain's split from the EU that they hardly made a solid effort to stop illegal migrants using their territory as a springboard to enter the UK through their ports and dinghy boats in the English Channel operated by traffickers demanding a high fee.

The UK is powerless to stop these and is imposing stringent new rules under the Immigration Act 2023 currently on the drawing board, but it is doubtful if that eliminate the problem.

The Brexit camp was adamant that the economy would improve by leaving the EU. They claimed that bureaucratic red tape from Brussels hampered British business.

The biggest problem, they said, was that Britain contributed between £1.5 billion to £2.5 billion to the EU budget as part of the membership requirement - money they could save and inject into the British economy.

The Leave Group claimed that the National Health Service could benefit from the £350 million a week they paid to the EU - money they could help boost the NHS. This is yet to happen as the NHS continues to be starved of cash.

Remainers said that by leaving the EU, the country would lose the goodwill of Europeans and damage the economy. Britain will also be accused of sabotaging the EU.

They firmly believed that by quitting the EU, the UK's uncontrolled immigration numbers would not stop. They thought Britain would be isolated and shunned, pushing it back into the old times of isolation.

With the Schengen visa withdrawn from the UK, Britons who once enjoyed free movement throughout



The tabloid media's propaganda machine played a big part in the Brexit victory as these screaming headlines show after the results were out

the region are now stopped from entering the rest of EU countries and, like other foreigners, are subject to immigration controls and visas now.

Unlike in the past, when they whizz out of immigration controls, now they have to wait in long queues at airports for their visas which can be denied if the authorities choose to do so.

European migrants, barring criminal elements from Eastern Europe, were a boon to Britain. Since the breakup, most professionals have returned to their home countries, causing skills shortages in the UK.

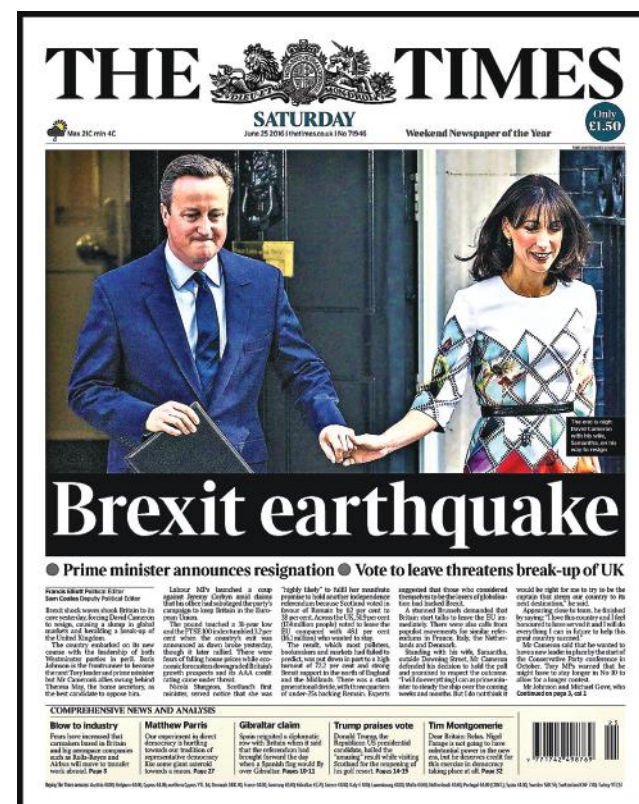
The public expected then Prime Minister David Cameron, who set the ball rolling for the referendum, to share his feelings on the overall Brexit result.

At first, Cameron was quoted as saying in his memoirs, For the Record, that he was deeply depressed by what was happening in the UK in the aftermath of Brexit.

"The greatest regret is that we lost the referendum, that I didn't prevail, that we could've fought perhaps a better campaign, we could have conducted perhaps a better negotiation — perhaps the timing wasn't right — and that I didn't take the country with me on what I thought was a really important issue."

This was quickly corrected to read that his greatest regret is that those who advocated staying in the EU lost the vote.

As for Boris Johnson and those who touted aggressively to leave, they still believe Brexit was the best



Shattered the night after. Prime Minister David Cameron saw his downfall after the Brexit results as seen in the headlines in the Times newspaper in 2016

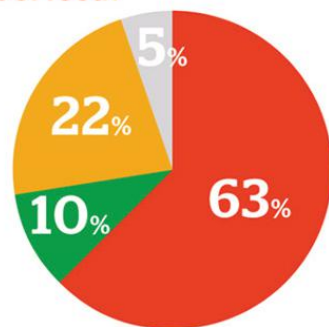


Remain campaigners with Liz Truss, who later become British Prime Minister in 2022 campaigning in 2016 for the Remain Group before the crucial vote

thing to have happened to the UK. Only time will tell who is right on the turmoil that has left many Britons angry and shattered with the shaky state of affairs in the UK today,

Will the UK finally vote to return to the fold of the European Union? This question is a cliffhanger.

Has Brexit had a positive or negative impact on the cost of food?



Positive Negative No effect Don't know

Poll of 1,529 adults, May 2023
The bitter truth... Has Brexit failed? Disappointed Britons said last week they have failed to see the benefits of quitting the EU

SOURCE: BMG RESEARCH

Zimbabwean Gospel Musician

Zimbabwean Gospel Musician Launches An Album



By: Chimeno Azriel
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Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- Some of Kadoma based gospel musicians include Minister Pride Nhokwara, Mrs Mutinhimira, Puddington Ndutsa, and Minister Makavani among other artists. According to the event manager, the renowned musicians will help Minister Nyamvura unveil his new baby to gospel music fans.
- Produced by Luther and Comfort Mukarati and recorded at Zing Studio, the album is set to uplift the gospel listeners as the album is packed with spiritual filled songs and the singer took his time to come up with this product. The Apostolic Faith Mission in Zimbabwe (AFM) member said he feels the urge to give people the good news that they must remain focused to the King Himself whom we must always trust.



MINISTER LEON NYAMVURA

did well on the Gospel Shows on radio and television. Some of the songs to watch out for on the album include 'Chenesa', 'Goridhe', 'Munogona', 'I will never leave you' and 'Anovhum-bamira'.

During an interview, the event manager, Mr Tatenda 'Trice' Chisamba said that the album launch is going to be one of the best ever to happen in Kadoma as they have a star lined artists who are going to grace the occasion." The preparations are going on well and it is going to be one of the best launch ever to happen in Kadoma and the Minister Nyamvura's performance at the launch is expected to be complemented by some of the cream of Zimbabwean Gospel musicians like Baba naAmai Charamba, Ellard and Sharon Cherayi." said Chisamba. Some of Kadoma based gospel musicians include Minister Pride Nhokwara, Mrs Mutinhimira, Puddington Ndutsa, and Minister Makavani among other artists. According to the event manager, the renowned musicians will help Minister Nyamvura unveil his new baby to gospel music fans.

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they must remain focused to the King Himself whom we must always trust.

Speaking to one of the guest musician Minister Ellard Cherayi, he said he was raring to go and he promised fireworks on the day and also that the fans will see the wonderful works of God as the sick will be healed and others will receive God as their personal saviour. "I am delighted to come and support the gifted and talented Minister and I am promising fireworks on the day and I encourage fans to come and witness the power of God through music and they must come and support your local gospel mission who is spiritually filled." said Minister Ellard who will be performing together with his wife Sharon Cherayi.

Minister Nyamvura who is happily married, is managed by Pastors Badzo and Denford Makombero, felt that he had done his homework and that his product is going to take him far. "I believe that I took my time to come up with this product and I feel like I did my homework and the album is going to make a new mark on my gospel career." Said the Minister.

The launch is being supported by Harare Phacha and Lintrix Investments. Tickets are available at Harare Phacha in Kadoma and entrance fee is \$5 adults and \$1 kids and it is a show not to miss. According to the show organisers, Prophets, Bishops, Pastors, Apostles are going to attend the show for free.



The Cherayi couple: Minister Ellard and Sharon will be performing on the day



Zimbabwe's finest gospel couple The Charambas will grace the occasion

Minister Leon Nyamvura and his wife



Culture Shock

By: Sotvoldiyeva Madinabonu
Rahimjon

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Worth
Noting:

- **The Honeymoon Stage** During this stage, everything is new and interesting. You may experience a feeling of euphoria and be in awe of all the differences you see and experience. You feel excited and stimulated, and you still feel close to everything familiar back home. During this stage, you generally focus on the similarities between you home country and your host country, but you appreciate the differences as well.
- **The Distress Stage** Once the honeymoon stage wears off, you may suddenly start getting frustrated Or annoyed by your new country, specifically the customs and values. The things You're experiencing no longer feel new; in fact, it's starting to feel like the Strangeness of a new culture is preventing you from experiencing things. You May feel hostility toward the way things are done here, and you may think that They should be done in a different way.



Culture Shock: International Students Studying in the USA

Abstract: in this article, various social problems are highlighted, the term Culture Shock refers to the feelings of distress and unease when being exposed to a foreign culture. Besides this narrow definition of the actual shock the expression is also used in order to describe the whole process a sojourner goes through during an international encounter.

Key words: culture, culture shock, experience, social role, language, climate

It is not an indisputable fact that culture shock is a social trouble in the world. This is why human supposed to learn language with their culture shock. Rudimentary, "Culture shock" is a normal process of adapting to a new culture. It is a time when a person becomes aware of the differences and/or conflicts in values and customs between their home culture and the new culture they are in. Common feelings may be anxiety, confusion, homesickness, or anger. International students and culture shock. Leaving home and traveling to study in a new country can be a stressful experience, even though it may be something you have planned and prepared for. Many people are surprised when they experience the impact of culture shock, and it can be helpful to realize your experience is actually quite normal. Culture shock is feeling uncomfortable or sometimes even lonely when you are abroad in a new place (for example, during family holidays like Christmas. Culture shock is a widespread phenomenon. The

social disintegration which it entails may cause alcoholism, drug dependence, suicide, promiscuity, crime and violence. Discussion Some of the important socio-cultural issues that need to be addressed today are casteism, dowry, communalism, drinking, drug addiction . International Student Insurance . What Is Culture Shock? Culture shock refers to the impact of moving from a familiar culture to one that is unfamiliar. This impact includes the anxiety and feelings (such as surprise, disorientation, uncertainty, and confusion) felt when a person must adapt to a different and unknown cultural or social environment. It might include the shock of a new environment, meeting new people, eating new food, or adapting to a foreign language, as well as the shock of being separated from the important people in your life: such as family, friends, colleagues, and teachers. Culture shock generally comes in four stages. These stages are:

Step 1: The Honeymoon Stage During this stage, everything is new and interesting. You may experience a feeling of euphoria and be in awe of all the differences you see and experience. You feel excited and stimulated, and you still feel close to everything familiar back home. During this stage, you generally focus on the similarities between you home country and your host country, but you appreciate the differences as well.

Step 2: The Distress Stage Once the honeymoon stage wears off, you may suddenly start getting frus-

trated Or annoyed by your new country, specifically the customs and values. The things You're experiencing no longer feel new; in fact, it's starting to feel like the Strangeness of a new culture is preventing you from experiencing things. You May feel hostility toward the way things are done here, and you may think that They should be done in a different way. You start to idealize life "back home," And may feel that your current culture, language, and food are inferior to what You're used to. You feel confused and alone, and may realize that the familiar Support systems of home are no longer easily accessible to you. Don't worry; this Is perfectly normal.

Step 3 – The Orientation Stage The Orientation Stage is the first stage in acceptance. During this stage, you begin To understand why things are done in a certain way. You start to respect the culture And traditions, whether you consider them to be good or bad. You begin to feel More comfortable in your new environment, and you begin to have a more Positive outlook. You feel more confident and better prepared to cope with any Problems that might arise. Remember that culture shock is not a perfectly linear Experience; you may return to the Distress Stage multiple times until you hit...

Step 4 – The Adaptation Stage During this stage, your attitude changes and you are able to function in both Cultures. You have embraced the new culture and are able to see it in a new, yet Realistic, light. In this stage you are typically well-oriented

to your new life, and Have developed your own habits and routines. You feel comfortable, confident, And capable of making decisions. You no longer feel alone and isolated; instead.

Factors that can contribute to culture shock

Climate
Many students find the northwest climate can affect them a lot. You may find the grayness and dampness, especially during the winter months, difficult to get used to.

Language
Listening and speaking in a new language is tiring. In class, some international students have trouble understanding the lecture and reading materials. People speak quickly and you may feel embarrassed to ask them to repeat what they said. If English is not your first language, you may find you miss your home language.

Social roles
Social behaviors may confuse, surprise or offend you. For example you may find people appear cold, distant or always in a hurry. Or you may be surprised to see couples holding hands and kissing in public. You may find the relationships between men and women more formal or less formal than you are used to, as well as differences in same sex social contact and relationships.

Relationship Stress
If your spouse or partner has accompanied you to the U.S., remember that the stress of the transition may cause struggles in your relationship. The transition to

a new culture may be very difficult for your partner. Your partner may feel very isolated; he/she has been transplanted from your culture and separated from family and friends. Simple tasks can be stressful due to the language barrier. Often times they do not have opportunities to engage in productive, meaningful activity such as pursuing a degree, and it may be more difficult for Conclusion From one culture to another, the differences among them cause feelings of unfamiliarity. This results in a large amount of psychological stress such as depression, anxiety and feelings of helplessness. However, there are various solutions for different people to deal with these symptoms to make new friends.

Values
Although you may first become aware of cultural differences in your physical environment, (e.g. food, dress, behavior) you may also come to notice that people from other cultures may have very different views of the world from yours. Cultures are built on deeply-embedded sets of values, norms, assumptions and beliefs. It can be surprising and sometimes distressing to find that people do not share some of your most deeply held ideas, as most of us take our core values and beliefs for granted and assume they are universally held. As much as possible, try to suspend judgment until you understand how parts of a culture fit together into a coherent whole. Try to see what people say or do in the context of their own culture's norms. This will help you to understand how other people see your behavior, as well as how to understand theirs. When you understand both cultures, you will probably find some aspects of each that you like and others that you don't.

Conclusion
From one culture to another, the differences among them cause feelings of Unfamiliarity. This results in a large amount of psychological stress such as Depression, anxiety and feelings of helplessness. However, there are various Solutions for different people to deal with these symptoms.

Health

New trials show increased survival rates for a range of cancers

Worth Noting:

- There was no greater risk of the cancer returning for patients who get a simple hysterectomy, in which the uterus and cervix are removed, than a radical hysterectomy, in which the uppermost part of the vagina is also removed, according to phase three trials.
- The League Against Cancer's Pauporte said this was "good news", adding that "it shows that it's not just progress involving drugs that was important".
- A trial also presented at ASCO showed that taking the antibody treatment mirvetuximab soravtansine significantly improved the survival rate of patients with ovarian cancer, a particularly deadly form of cancer.
- ASCO expert Merry Jennifer Markham said the treatment "demonstrates progress and offers hope for these patients".
- Study results released in Chicago indicated that patients with locally advanced rectal cancer could receive chemotherapy without getting radiation therapy before undergoing surgery.



Vorasidenib was found to significantly prolong the progression-free survival of patients with brain tumour glioma [Getty Images]

A roundup of some of the most promising announcements at a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

Scientists have convened in the United States city of Chicago for a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the world's biggest gathering of experts on cancer.

At the annual event, which wraps up on Tuesday, doctors and researchers revealed several studies that showed increased survival rates for people living with serious stages of the disease, including for lung and brain cancer.

Experts pointed to a number of scientific developments that have helped accelerate the development of new treatments by targeting the molecules produced by cancer cells.

"Essentially understanding

the biology of the diseases that we're studying has permitted us to go after drug-gable targets – inhibitors or blockers that can be created to go after these very specific vulnerability points," oncologist Maryam Lustberg told Al Jazeera.

While there are many "exciting developments", she said more in-depth research was required to "find the right treatment for the right patient at the right time". Lustberg also pointed out that the "global disparities" in these drugs are "very alarming", referring to the increasing inequities and barriers in accessing such treatments. Here are some of the announcements at the ASCO meeting that have most excited experts.

Lung cancer

One of the trial results that caused a stir in Chicago

has raised hopes for a new weapon against lung cancer, the deadliest of all cancers. The treatment osimertinib was shown to halve the risk of death from a certain type of lung cancer when taken daily after surgery to remove the tumour.

Developed by the pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca, the daily pill targets patients with non-small cell cancer – by far the most common type – as well as a mutation of their epidermal growth factor receptor, or EGFR.

Iris Pauporte, head of research at France's League Against Cancer, told AFP news agency the advance was a "big ray of hope" for treating non-small cell lung cancer, for which progress has been slow.

Muriel Dahan, head of research at Unicancer, said that if the results are confirmed, it "should change" common practice in treating this kind of cancer.

Systematic testing for the EGFR mutation would also become necessary for lung cancer patients, she added.

Brain cancer

Another treatment, called vorasidenib, was found to significantly prolong the progression-free survival of patients with brain tumour glioma, according to clinical trial results.

The daily pill, developed by French pharma firm Servier, aims to block an enzyme responsible for the progression of some brain cancers

that have been particularly difficult to treat.

Patrick Therasse, Servier's vice-president of oncology research, told AFP that there "have been few therapeutic advances for brain tumours over the last 20 years".

"Thanks to our targeted treatment, patients avoided cancer progression for 27.7 months, compared to 11.1 months" for those taking a placebo, he added.

Fabrice Andre, head of research at France's Gustave Roussy cancer centre, said "precision medicine opens a door for a disease for which there was nothing until now".

"It means that science can unblock situations that were catastrophic," he told AFP. Unicancer's Dahan said it was important to "remain cautious" but added that "this could become the new therapeutic standard – depending on further trials".

Breast cancer

Preliminary trial results also released in Chicago indicated the drug ribociclib reduced the risk of breast cancer recurring by 25 percent for a large group of early-stage survivors.

The drug, developed by Swiss pharmaceutical maker Novartis, is already widely approved around the world. It was tested in combination with hormonal therapy.

ASCO expert Rita Nanda said it was a "very important and practice-changing clinical trial".

Cervical cancer

There was also good news for patients with early-stage cervical cancer with a low risk of progression.

There was no greater risk of the cancer returning for patients who get a simple hysterectomy, in which the uterus and cervix are removed, than a radical hysterectomy, in which the uppermost part of the vagina is also removed, according to phase three trials.

The League Against Cancer's Pauporte said this was "good news", adding that "it shows that it's not just progress involving drugs that was important".

Ovarian cancer

A trial also presented at ASCO showed that taking the antibody treatment mirvetuximab soravtansine significantly improved the survival rate of patients with ovarian cancer, a particularly deadly form of cancer.

ASCO expert Merry Jennifer Markham said the treatment "demonstrates progress and offers hope for these patients".

Rectal cancer

Study results released in Chicago indicated that patients with locally advanced rectal cancer could receive chemotherapy without getting radiation therapy before undergoing surgery.

This would spare patients from the side effects of radiation, which can include fatigue, blurry vision, headaches, and nausea.

Vaccines

Vaccines that treat existing cancer have long been a goal of the medical community.

Preliminary studies announced at the ASCO meeting involved vaccines targeting lung cancer, head and neck cancers, brain tumour glioblastoma and the cancer-causing HPV virus.

Christophe Le Tourneau, an oncologist at France's Curie Institute, which presented a study about a vaccine for a certain form of HPV, said there has been "significant technological progress" in the area recently.

"Therapeutic vaccines, we talk about them more and more, and there are more and more trials in progress," he said.

Source: AFP, Al Jazeera



A doctor holds a vial of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine Gardasil [File: Charles Rex Arbogast/AP Photo]



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Opinion

South Africa is failing, and it's failing Zimbabwe, too

By: Tafi Mhaka

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South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (R) meets with his Zimbabwean counterpart Emmerson Mnangagwa (L) during his visit in Harare, Zimbabwe on March 17, 2018 [Reuters]

Worth Noting:

- Strange as it might seem now, there was a time when South Africa was the pride of Southern Africa and a distinguished symbol of postcolonial development.
- For a long time, it carried the hopes of millions of Southern Africans, who had come to expect nothing but failure from countries ruled by former liberation parties.
- Throughout the tenure of former president Thabo Mbeki, between 1999 and 2008, South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 4.1 percent, the highest the country had seen since 1980. Public confidence in his government's policies and economic performance was also fairly high.
- Sure, Mbeki's presidency wasn't perfect by any means – his HIV/AIDS denialism, for one, caused much suffering for many of his compatriots and damaged South Africa's progressive image on the international stage.

The government in Pretoria is struggling not only to provide for South Africans but also to fulfil the country's longstanding commitments to its neighbours.

South Africa is at a crossroads. In Hammanskraal, a small town situated close to the capital, Pretoria, at least 23 people have died following a cholera outbreak in May. Health authorities have not identified the source of the outbreak, but the town's residents have lacked access to safe and clean water for years, a situation that is extremely common across the country amid catastrophic service delivery failures in countless badly managed and dysfunctional municipalities.

On May 30, the Auditor General, Tsakani Maluleke, described the deaths as a "harsh reminder" of leadership failures and "continued neglect" in Africa's second wealthiest nation. These days, South Africa is also reeling from long and daily power cuts, extensive corruption in public entities, and a 32.9 percent unemployment rate.

Speaking to the BBC in May, the secretary general of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, Fikile Mbalula, acknowledged the enormous magnitude of his country's problems. "If certain things are not resolved, we will become a failed state, but we are not journeying towards that direction," he said.

Strange as it might seem now, there was a time when South Africa was the pride of Southern Africa and a distinguished symbol of postcolonial development. For a long time, it carried the hopes of millions of Southern Africans, who had come to expect nothing but

failure from countries ruled by former liberation parties. Throughout the tenure of former president Thabo Mbeki, between 1999 and 2008, South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) growth averaged 4.1 percent, the highest the country had seen since 1980. Public confidence in his government's policies and economic performance was also fairly high.

Sure, Mbeki's presidency wasn't perfect by any means – his HIV/AIDS denialism, for one, caused much suffering for many of his compatriots and damaged South Africa's progressive image on the international stage. But, for the most part, the country was functioning, and its socioeconomic agenda was bearing fruit.

Back then, no one thought South Africa could become a failing or failed state in merely 15 years' time. There was also an expectation – at home and abroad – that, under the progressive leadership of the ANC, South Africa would support the development of democracy in Southern Africa. Mbeki had been underlining this commitment since before the beginning of his presidency.

South Africa's current president, the ANC leader Cyril Ramaphosa, reaffirmed the "importance of consolidating democracy and consolidating good governance across Africa" at Africa Day celebrations in Gauteng on May 25.

Yet, the Ramaphosa administration hasn't done much to promote democracy and human rights in South Africa's immediate neighbourhood, either through its own diplomatic initiatives, or via the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the regional inter-governmental organisation.

The state of Zimbabwe, its northern neighbour, is a case in point.

Like South Africa, it, too, is at a crossroads.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who won a hotly disputed presidential election in August 2018, has failed to turn around Zimbabwe's economy, fix an ailing health sector and tackle corruption.

In April, a four-part investigation by Al Jazeera implicated Mnangagwa and his wife, Auxillia, and Uebert Angel, Zimbabwe's ambassador at large to Europe, in a sophisticated money laundering and gold smuggling scheme.

An equally disturbing hallmark of Mnangagwa's presidency is its propensity to crack down on dissent and commit severe human rights abuses.

The repressive and trigger-happy government in Harare ordered violent clampdowns on demonstrations in 2018 and 2019 that killed scores of unarmed civilians.

Be that as it may, Harare faced no condemnation from the supposed regional heavyweight, South Africa, or formal sanction from the SADC.

South Africa, it seems, is willing to turn a blind eye to systemic repression and democratic regression in its back yard, despite claiming that it still seeks to "consolidate democracy in Africa".

In April, the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC), led by Justice Ticheme Dlamini from Eswatini, undertook a pre-election assessment visit to Zimbabwe, as it prepares to observe the country's upcoming August 23 general elections.

After a meeting with the leader of the main opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) party, Nel-

son Chamisa, on April 14, Dlamini was remarkably candid about the violent and illiberal tactics employed by the ruling ZANU-PF party. Speaking with reporters, he said Zimbabwe has repeatedly violated SADC's "electoral principles and guidelines" and the regional body wouldn't "sit down and watch this continuing".

At the same time, nonetheless, he stated that SEAC's pre-election report wouldn't address these electoral irregularities, and only the "senior structures" of SADC could deal with such matters.

Five days later, however, following discussions with SADC ambassadors accredited to Harare, Dlamini claimed Zimbabwe was "geared and ready for the elections".

Contrary to this misleading and politically expedient assertion, Zimbabwe does not appear prepared to hold a credible election.

Mnangagwa's regime has shoved all democratic pretensions aside ahead of the August 23 polls and effectively banned the opposition from organising party meetings and freely canvassing support.

On January 14, for instance, police allegedly assaulted and subsequently arrested 25 members of the CCC for attending an "unauthorised" meeting in Budiriro, Harare. Later, in February, the CCC was denied permission to hold rallies in Chiwanzamarara, Chikomba, Chendambuya, and rural Mutare. The police have, in fact, banned at least 63 CCC campaign meetings this year on unclear and spurious grounds.

Meanwhile, on April 28, Jacob Ngarivhume, the leader of opposition party Transform Zimbabwe was sentenced to four years in prison for inciting public violence over a 2020 protest. His only "crime", if any, was to call for a countrywide protest against endemic state corruption and extreme economic mismanagement in July 2020.

By impeding people's rights to freedom of speech, association and assembly, Mnangagwa has clearly upped the ante in the fight to win the presidential election.

On May 30, the ZANU-PF-dominated parliament passed the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Amendment Bill, commonly known as the "Patriotic Bill", which has a clause that criminalises dissent.

Under the law, citizens found to be unpatriotic, by "wilfully damaging the sovereignty and national interest of Zimbabwe", face up to 20 years in prison.

Judging by Zimbabwe's atrocious human rights record, there's every indication, sadly, that the government will use the controversial clause to target its critics, journalists, human rights advocates and opposition leaders.

To compound matters, the voter's roll is reportedly in "shambles".

It's no surprise, then, that opposition leaders have begun to question the very authenticity of the upcoming polls.

Of course, it's impossible to carry out a free, fair and transparent election in a largely oppressive and opaque environment.

Yet, still, as an impending electoral disaster and political instability loom in Zimbabwe, South Africa remains conspicuously – and most regrettably – silent.

It would help if South Africa endeavoured to encourage a significantly democratic environment and electoral process in Zimbabwe.

The large and endless flow of people attempting to migrate from Zimbabwe to a "failing" South Africa underscores the overwhelming need for peaceful and credible elections there.

It's most disappointing to see both South Africa and Zimbabwe become microcosms of extreme corruption, financial mismanagement and postcolonial failure.

To this end, the ANC must reassess and rectify its wide-ranging shortcomings. Similarly, it must also meet its foreign policy obligations to the people of Southern Africa.

It shouldn't, under any circumstances, help enable a tyrannical government in Zimbabwe.

Words alone cannot influence or achieve positive democratic outcomes in Zimbabwe or elsewhere in Southern Africa.

South Africa must monitor the 2023 general elections in Zimbabwe closely and act firmly on any undemocratic practices and outcomes.

The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect our editorial stance.

Mhaka, a social and political commentator, has a BA Honours degree from the University of Cape Town

My Daughter

By:**Sirojiddinova Ugiloy**
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We will give your daughter in marriage to Samad's son from the neighboring village. Start the wedding preparations. This speech made Rustam brother sleepless. He looked at his sister who came home early in the morning:
He is still a child!
Yes, live! It's childish. But we used to do whatever. When we asked him to study, you didn't agree with what kind of money you would pay him. Now stop talking too much. When brother Rustam drinks, he can go against everyone. Even once, while playing a bet while drunk, Ahmad knocked down a wrestler like a giant. At that time, the chairman of the neighborhood, Naim Haji, said, "Rustamjon, if you give up this bad habit, he will take the wrestlers." Rustam, who knocked down the wrestler, had no words for his only born sister. Rather, he did not want to hurt his sister, whom he raised as a mother instead of his mother. Sister, who has been hurt by Nilu? If it goes on for another year or two... Rustam's brother kept his words. After a year or two, she will grow old and become old. She now has two children. Her sister looked at her brother as if to say, "What are you talking about?" Rustam's daughter Nilufar came to his mind. Rustam's brother and Manzura's sister did not

have children for many years. "Give your wife an answer, I'll take the one that her mother didn't kiss," he didn't give up. He started drinking it to ease my pain. See, even after the birth of his daughter Nilufar, he didn't give up this habit. Now that he thinks about it, since the birth of his daughter, he hasn't said "Daughter" even once. He didn't want to bring a car. Was he worried about his brother's long silence?
Why are you silent?! Are you afraid of your wife? Brother Rustam is not afraid of his wife. He didn't even think about what my wife would say if I did this. He was only disappointed in his daughter. It was as if the father's love for so many years had awakened.
Don't talk like you don't know my verb The soul of the sister, who had never heard such a thing from her brother before, came out.
I raised you as your mother instead of my mother. My grateful mother is also watching this situation from the heavens. She must be crying and regretting having a son like you. Rustam could not bear these words.
Do what you know, sister. Give it to the ground if you want, I won't interfere. He closed the door and left. The sister, who knew in advance that she would do what she said, was satisfied.
People love weddings. That's probably why young and old participate in the wedding preparations without any pain. It was the same at Nilufar's wedding. His friends, relatives, and

even neighbors helped him. Brother Rustam felt that they helped Nilufar even though they felt sorry for him. He felt it, but he couldn't do anything. On the wedding day, they brought Nilufar to his brother Rustam to give him a "nod". Nilufar is very beautiful. She was a bride. Her eyes were full of tears, she was crying "Daddy" like when she was a young child. The little girl who was running around in a satin dress yesterday became a bride today. Brother Rustam was overjoyed. He patted his daughter's head. "My daughter, my daughter," she cried. She wanted to turn back the time. At that moment, she also felt that it was late. The aunts and uncles left Nilufar at another house.
Sirojiddinova Ugiloy, 3rd year student of Shahrizabz State Pedagogical Institute

Sirojiddinova Ugiloy



Scientific Work

Scientific Work” Project Helps Young Researchers To Learn How To Organize And Structure Their Scientific Work

By:**Madina Fayzullaeva**
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Scientific research work is scientific development related to research, research, experiments for the purpose of obtaining new knowledge, testing hypotheses, establishing laws, scientific justification of projects. As a rule, basic and exploratory work is not included as scientific work, but based on them, ideas are generated that can be turned into practical research projects.
This website helps young researchers learn how to organize and structure their research papers.
The main goals and tasks aimed at solving the project:

- the role and importance of quality journals and conferences in scientific activity in the courses organized for research students in the field of scientific activity;
- learning the principles of choosing a topic for a scientific article;

- further increase your knowledge and skills in quality scientific article, which is rising to the level of necessity in today's modern education system;
- forming an article based on IMRAD requirements;
- assisting scientific researchers, doctoral students, masters, bachelors and all scientists in writing and publishing quality articles in OAC and foreign impact factor and SCOPUS journals;
- elucidation of the role of scientific and research activity in the life of students, the importance of scientific works in scientific activity;
- providing information to students about forms of organizing research activities, general research stages;
- to provide information about state scholarships established to support students engaged in research activities, "Student of the Year" contest, "Hokim Scholarship" and other various contests and awards;
- Support for the creation of new scientific projects in the future.

The current state of project development - research, experiments; preliminary tests, etc. have been conducted on the project. Through this site, young people who are researching are learning to form the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their fields and directions in accordance with the requirements of IMRAD for free. According to the results of the experiment, the project is being gradually improved.
In order to further improve this project, it is necessary to inform all pedagogues and young scientific researchers, exchange experience, improve it further, and present it to a wider audience. By exchanging experience with various qualified pedagogues and expanding the project, it is now possible to prevent young researchers from being deceived by some fake fake journals and inflated prices due to various partners.
A special website created for our project: LINK (<https://scientific-work.netlify.app/>)

Founder of projects such as "Scientific work" and "Online learning", as well as, master's student in the field of "Management of educational institutions" in the faculty of Pedagogy of Chirchik State Pedagogical University in Uzbekistan - Madina Fayzullaeva. Her scientific work on "Organization and development of the educational process based on digital technologies" has been published in more than 50 scientific works in SCOPUS, OAK magazines, international and republican magazines, conference collections. She created this project based on these experiences.

Author: **Madina Fayzullaeva**
A master's student in the field of "Management of educational institutions" in the faculty of Pedagogy of Chirchik State of Pedagogical University in Uzbekistan



Human-induced warming

Planet warming at ‘unprecedented rate’, study finds



From 2013 to 2022, average annual emissions hit an all-time high of 54 billion tonnes of CO2 or its equivalent in other gases, according to a new study [File: Joe Sohm/Visions of America/Universal Images Group via Getty Images]

Worth Noting:

- “Even though we are not yet at 1.5C warming, the carbon budget” – the amount of greenhouse gases humanity can emit without exceeding that limit – “will likely be exhausted in only a few years,” said lead author Piers Forster, a physics professor at the University of Leeds.
- That budget has shrunk by half since the UN’s climate science advisory body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), gathered data for its most recent benchmark report in 2021, according to Forster and colleagues, many of whom were core IPCC contributors.
- To have even a coin-toss chance of staying under the 1.5C threshold, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other drivers of warming generated mostly by burning fossil fuels must not exceed 250 billion tonnes (gigatonnes), they reported.

Human-induced warming has been increasing at a rate of 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade, scientists say in a new study.

Global greenhouse gas emissions have reached a record high amid an unparalleled acceleration in global warming, according to a new study.

From 2013 to 2022, “human-induced warming has been increasing at an unprecedented rate of more than 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade,” 50 top scientists warned on Thursday in a sweeping climate science update.

Average annual emissions over the same period hit an all-time high of 54 billion tonnes of CO2 or its equivalent in other gases – about 1,700 tonnes every second – they reported in a peer-reviewed study aimed at policymakers.

World leaders will be confronted with the new data at the critical COP28 climate summit later this year in Dubai, where a “Global Stocktake” at the United Nations talks will assess prog-

ress towards the 2015 Paris Agreement’s temperature goals.

The findings would appear to close the door on capping global warming under the Paris treaty’s more ambitious 1.5C target, long identified as a guard rail for a relatively climate-safe world, albeit one still roiled by severe impacts.

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To have even a coin-toss chance of staying under the 1.5C threshold, emissions

of carbon dioxide, methane and other drivers of warming generated mostly by burning fossil fuels must not exceed 250 billion tonnes (gigatonnes), they reported. Bettering the odds to two-thirds or four-fifths would reduce that carbon allowance to only 150Gt and 100Gt, respectively, a two or three-year lifeline at the current rate of emissions.

Keeping the Paris temperature targets in play would require slashing CO2 pollution by at least 40 percent by 2030, and eliminating it entirely by mid-century, the IPCC has calculated.

Ironically, one of the big climate success stories of the last decade has inadvertently hastened the pace of global warming, the new data reveal.

A gradual drop in the use of coal – significantly more carbon intensive than oil or gas – to produce power has slowed the increase in carbon emissions. But it has also reduced the air pollution that shields Earth from the full force of the Sun’s rays.

Particle pollution from all sources dampens warming by about half-a-degree Celsius, which means – at least in the short term – more of that heat will reach the planet’s surface as the air becomes cleaner.

Published in the peer-reviewed journal *Earth System Science Data*, the new study is the first in a series of periodic assessments that will help fill the gaps between IPCC reports, released on average every six years since 1988.

“An annual update of key indicators of global change is critical in helping the international community and countries to keep the urgency of addressing the climate change crisis at the top of the agenda,” said co-author and scientist Maisa Rojas Corradi, who is also the environment minister of Chile. Co-author Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a co-chair of the 2021 IPCC report, said the new data should be a “wake-up call” ahead of the COP28 summit, even if there is evidence that the increase in greenhouse gases

has slowed.

“The pace and scale of climate action is not sufficient to limit the escalation of climate-related risks,” she said. Researchers also reported a startling rise in temperature increases over land areas – excluding oceans – since 2000.

“Land average annual maximum temperatures have warmed by more than half a degree Celsius in the last ten years (1.72C above pre-industrial conditions) compared to the first decade of the millennium (1.22C),” the study reported.

Longer and more intense heat waves will pose a life-and-death threat in the coming decades across large swaths of South and Southeast Asia, along with areas straddling the equator in Africa and Latin America, recent research has shown.

Source: News Agencies



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Malta considers Morocco autonomous declaration as definite resolution to Sahara issue



Maltese Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg, with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.

By: **Dismas Otuke**

The two ministers agreed on the exclusivity of the UN in the political process and reaffirmed their support for UN Security Council Resolutions 2602 and 2654

Malta has considered the autonomy plan presented by Morocco in 2007 as a serious and credible contribution to the UN-led political process aimed at advancing towards a definitive resolution of the Sahara question. This stance was expressed by Mal-

tese Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade, Ian Borg, on a working visit to the Kingdom, in a Joint Declaration adopted at the end of his talks in Rabat with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.



In the Joint Declaration, Malta encouraged all parties to demonstrate greater political will in favor of a definitive solution, and to re-engage in the UN's efforts in a spirit of realism and compromise. The Maltese minister also reiterated his country's long-standing support for the UN-led process for a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution for the parties, the declaration said. The two ministers agreed on the

exclusivity of the UN in the political process and reaffirmed their support for UN Security Council Resolutions 2602 and 2654, which noted the role and responsibility of the parties in the search for a realistic, practical, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

Chinese, U.S

Chinese, U.S. diplomats hold ‘candid, productive’ talks in Beijing

CGTN

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu met Daniel Kritenbrink, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and Sarah Beran, White House National Security Council's senior director for China affairs, on Monday in Beijing. Yang Tao, director-general of the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, held talks with the visiting U.S. diplomats on Monday morning. The two sides had “candid, constructive and productive” communication on efforts to improve China-U.S. relations and properly manage differences, as agreed by the heads of state during their meeting in Bali in November 2022, according to a statement of the Chinese Foreign Ministry. During the talks, the Chinese side stated its stern position on the Taiwan question and other major issues of principle, and both sides agreed to maintain communication.



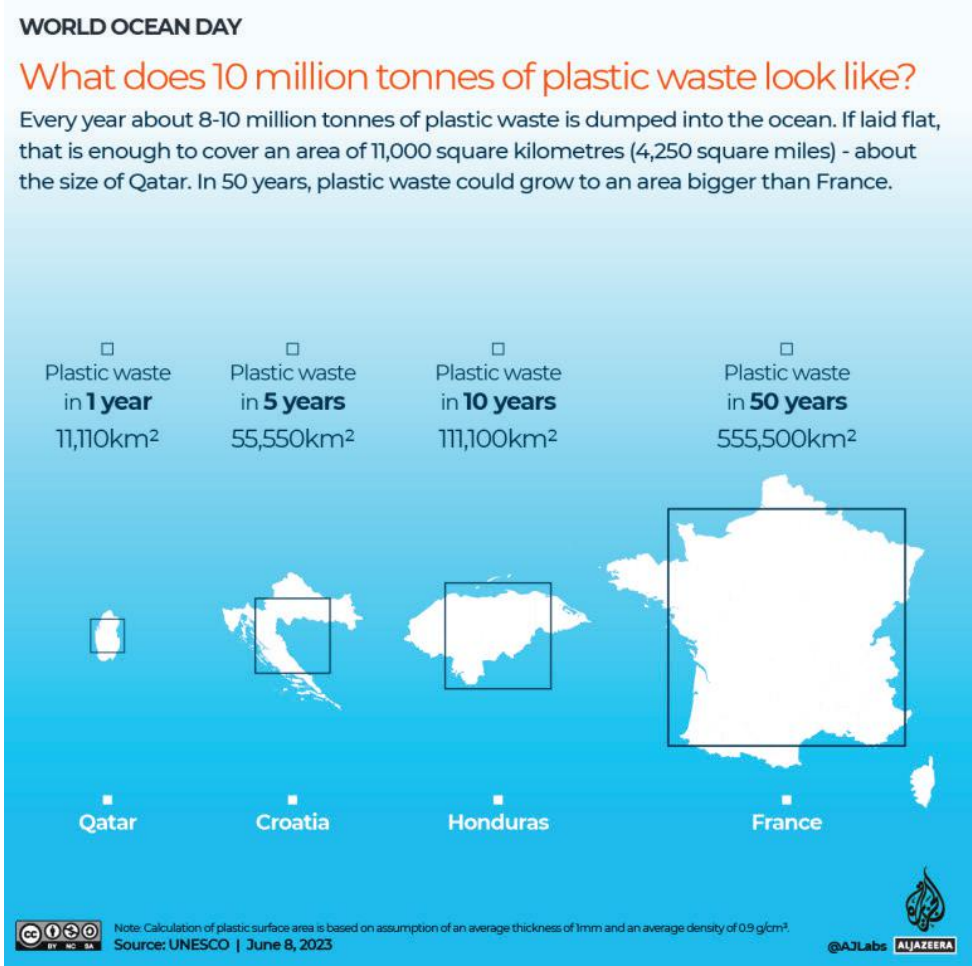
Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu (2nd R) with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink (R), Sarah Beran (L), White House National Security Council's senior director for China affairs, and Nicholas Burns, U.S. ambassador to China, in Beijing, China, June 5, 2023. /Chinese Foreign Ministry

World Ocean Day: How much plastic is in our oceans?

By: Mohammed Hussein and Marium Ali
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Worth Noting:

- While research on the health effects of human consumption of microplastics is limited, some studies have indicated that microplastics can accumulate in organs such as the liver, kidneys and intestines. There are concerns that microplastic particles could potentially lead to inflammation, oxidative stress and cellular damage.
- “These little particles in the ocean were breaking into little pieces and being consumed by the wildlife living there at an almost unimaginable scale. The main problem is that pieces of plastic contain toxic chemicals and these chemicals are already known to interfere with human hormones and animal hormones. They may cause the accumulation of toxins in the body that may lead to ill effects over time,” science writer and author Erica Cirino told Al Jazeera’s The Stream programme.



(Al Jazeera)

According to UNESCO, 8-10 million tonnes of plastic are released into the sea every year. On World Ocean Day, Al Jazeera visualises what that looks like

Every year, about 400 million tonnes of plastic products are produced around the world. About half are used to make single-use items such as shopping bags, cups and packaging material.

Of these plastics, an estimated 8 million to 10 million tonnes end up in the ocean each year. If flattened to the thickness of a plastic bag, that is enough to cover an area of 11,000sq km (4,250sq miles). That is about the size of small countries like Qatar, Jamaica or the Bahamas.

At this rate, over the course of 50 years, plastic waste could grow to an area bigger than 550,000sq km

(212,000sq miles) – about the size of France, Thailand or Ukraine.

To raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and promote its sustainable use and protection, the United Nations designated every June 8 as World Ocean Day.

How does plastic end up in the ocean?

Plastics are the most com-

mon form of ocean litter, comprising 80 percent of all marine pollution. Most plastics that end up in the ocean come from improper waste disposal systems that dump rubbish in rivers and streams.

Plastics in the form of fishing nets and other marine equipment are also dumped into the ocean by ships and fishing boats.

Besides plastic bags and containers, tiny particles known as microplastics also make their way into the ocean. Microplastics, which are less than 5mm (one-fifth of an inch) in length, are a major environmental concern because they can be ingested by marine life and cause harm to both animals and humans.

An estimated 50 trillion to 75 trillion pieces of microplastics are in the ocean today.

While research on the health effects of human consumption of microplastics is limited, some studies have indicated that microplastics can accumulate in organs such as the liver, kidneys and intestines. There are concerns that microplastic particles could potentially lead to inflammation, oxidative stress and cellular damage.

“These little particles in the ocean were breaking into little pieces and being consumed by the wildlife living there at an almost unimaginable scale. The main problem is that pieces of plastic contain toxic chemicals and these chemicals are already known to interfere with human hormones and animal hormones. They may cause the accumulation of toxins in the body that may lead to ill effects over time,” science writer and author Erica Cirino told Al Jazeera’s The Stream programme.

Which countries are the source of the most plastic in the ocean?

According to a 2021 study published by Science Advances research, 80 percent of all plastics found in the ocean comes from Asia.

The Philippines is believed to be the source of more than a third (36.4 percent) of all plastic waste in the ocean followed by India (12.9 percent), Malaysia (7.5 percent), China (7.2 percent) and Indonesia (5.8 percent). These amounts do not include waste that is exported overseas that may be at higher risk of entering the ocean.

What makes plastics so dangerous for the environment? Plastics are synthetic materials made from polymers, which are long chains of molecules. These polymers are typically derived from petroleum or natural gas.

The main problem with plastics is that they do not easily biodegrade, which means they can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing serious pollution problems.

Plastics that find their way into the ocean end up floating on the surface for a long time. Eventually, they sink to the bottom and get buried in the seafloor.

Plastics on the surface of the ocean represent 1 percent of the total plastics in the ocean. The other 99 percent are microplastic fragments far below the surface.

Source: Al Jazeera



Plastic bottles, wooden planks, rusty barrels and other rubbish clog the Drina river near the eastern Bosnian town of Visegrad on May 25, 2023 [Eldar Emric/AP]

Ethiopia rejects 'ethnic cleansing' accusation in western Tigray

Worth Noting:

- The war, which broke out in November 2020, has pitted regional forces from Tigray against Ethiopia's federal army and its allies, including forces from other regions and neighbouring Eritrea. It stems from grievances rooted in periods of Ethiopia's turbulent past when particular regional power blocs held sway over the country as a whole.
- Fighting has raged on and off since then, killing thousands of civilians, uprooting millions and leaving hundreds of thousands on the brink of famine.
- The HRW issued a report last week saying the November peace agreement to end the two-year conflict in Tigray had not stopped "ethnic cleansing" in the disputed western part of the region, known as the Western Tigray Zone.



Ethiopia: Amhara protests against regional forces dissolution

Human Rights Watch accuses government-backed militias and officials of committing 'war crimes and crimes against humanity' in the region. The Ethiopian government has rejected a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) that alleges an "ethnic cleansing" campaign is under way in western Tigray despite a truce signed in November. The allegations are "not substantiated by evidence", Ethiopia's Government Communication Service said in a statement last week. "This distorted and misleading portrayal of the situation attempts to undermine peaceful coexistence and fuel inter-ethnic conflict and obstruct the national efforts for peace and reconciliation," it said. The war, which broke out in November 2020, has pitted regional forces from Tigray against Ethiopia's federal army and its allies, including forces from other regions and neighbouring Eritrea. It stems from grievances rooted in periods of Ethiopia's turbulent past when particular regional power blocs held sway over the country as a whole. Fighting has raged on and off since then, killing thousands of civilians, uprooting millions and leaving hun-

dreds of thousands on the brink of famine. The HRW issued a report last week saying the November peace agreement to end the two-year conflict in Tigray had not stopped "ethnic cleansing" in the disputed western part of the region, known as the Western Tigray Zone. "The Ethiopian government should suspend, investigate, and appropriately prosecute commanders and officials implicated in serious rights

abuses in Western Tigray," the report said. "Since the outbreak of armed conflict in Tigray in November 2020, Amhara security forces and interim authorities have carried out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against the Tigrayan population in Western Tigray, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity." "Forced expulsions" It was not the first time forces aligned with Ethiopia's

federal government have been accused of forced expulsions and other rights abuses in western Tigray. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called for troops from the Amhara region to leave Tigray in 2021, accusing them of committing "acts of ethnic cleansing". An Amhara spokesman at the time dismissed the allegations as "propaganda". Western Tigray – fertile land under Tigray's authority but also claimed by ethnic Am-

haras as ancestrally theirs – was swiftly captured by federal and Amhara forces during the war. According to the HRW, a concerted campaign of "forced expulsions" began in earnest and has not let up despite the November peace deal. The Ethiopian government, however, said the US-based rights group made the allegations "without conducting a thorough and credible investigation in all areas affected by the conflict". The government said it has embarked on nationwide consultations in a process for transitional justice that will allow a "comprehensive investigation". "The truth will be told and perpetrators of crimes will be held accountable," the statement said. The UN-backed Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia issued a report in September saying there was evidence of widespread human rights violations by all sides during the fighting.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies



What's behind violence opposing changes to Ethiopia's army?