

King Charles'officially recorded birthday is November 14, 1948

Monarch's Best Birthday Gift

The crème de la crème of British society and people:



King Charles III decorates many in the UK diaspora: MONARCH'S BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT, RARE HONOUR FOR THE BEST OF BRITISH IN HIS HONOURS LIST

By: Shamlal Puri
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The crème de la crème of British society and people from all walks of life were honoured by King Charles III this week in a colourful celebration steeped in tradition and pageantry to mark his first official birthday as the monarch.

The event was among the highlights of the Royals' annual summer fixtures.

King Charles'officially recorded birthday is November 14, 1948, but as the tradition



The King and Queen with family members on the Buckingham Palace balcony to watch the aerial fly-past on his first official birthday

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Women, girls hit hard by attacks on health in Sudan, UN agencies warn
Health in Sudan

Africa



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Somalia in danger of losing hard-won gains, Security Council hears

Clashes there between "Somaliland" forces and local Dhulbahante clan militia
Africa



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Shakhrizoda Kuziyeva

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Kenya scoops 3 awards during Africa Public Service Day celebrations in Zimbabwe

Africa



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You Do Not Need To Publicize
Whatever You Undoubtedly Possess

Crisis Backpage

Sudan crisis threatens to hobble South Sudan's transition



Disco Dance With Mitkhun Chakraborty

Bollywood star - Mitkhun Chakraborty (real name - Gouranga Chakraborty; born on June 16, 1950, in Kolkata, India). A famous Indian actor who has appeared in more than 350 films.

Our conversation with Mitkhun took place in the room he stayed at the

"Chilton" hotel in our capital. Due to the restriction on taking photos and recording videos according to the hotel's policy, the conversation was recorded and transcribed by a dictaphone, and our interview was conducted in English. We express our gratitude to the director of the Na-

tional Center for the Development of the Uzbek Film Industry, Barno Ungboeva, for creating the conditions and opportunities to interview the Bollywood star, and we thank the editor of "Theater" magazine, Shakhribon Imomov, for publishing this interview in "Theater" journal.

- Assalamu alaykum, Mr. Mitkhun, we are delighted to have you here in Uzbekistan. Apart from your acting career, you are also famous

Contd Page 14

Have you filed your tax returns?

DEADLINE
30TH
JUNE

Let's embrace Pan Africanism, Pastor Dorcas tells African leaders

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- She expressed confidence that Africa has a huge potential that has been hindered by restrictions among African countries. Pastor Dorcas said Africa has everything it needs adding that Africa has a potential to trade within itself and make use of the available resources.
- "Let our children enjoy the African heritage, and dream of criss-crossing and living the dream of Cape to Cairo without boundaries or demand for a visa to restrict them. This I believe is our way of resolving internal conflicts," she said.
- "Letting the light shine in Africa as one people, speaking one language of love, letting our children dance and celebrate being African and let them trade with each other," she added.
- Her sentiments were echoed by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni who accused African countries of failing to unite and consolidate their win against the whites.



Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi

The Spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi has called on African leaders to reach an agreement to make a free Africa. Speaking in State House Entebbe Friday evening Pastor Dorcas said the only way to achieve the Pan African dream is by removing imaginary barriers of 1884 within African countries. "From where I sit, I think it is time for Pan African spirit. Let African leaders OAU and regional bodies reach an agreement to make Africa free. We are born free spirits, happy, joyful. Let the fathers of Africa rise and make the right decision to

remove the 1884 imaginary barriers," she said. She was making a keynote address during the launch of the book 'Jesus' Africa' written by Patience Museveni Rwabwogo. She expressed confidence that Africa has a huge potential that has been hindered by restrictions among African countries. Pastor Dorcas said Africa has everything it needs adding that Africa has a potential to trade within itself and make use of the available resources. "Let our children enjoy the African heritage, and dream of crisscrossing and living the dream of Cape to Cairo

without boundaries or demand for a visa to restrict them. This I believe is our way of resolving internal conflicts," she said. "Letting the light shine in Africa as one people, speaking one language of love, letting our children dance and celebrate being African and let them trade with each other," she added. Her sentiments were echoed by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni who accused African countries of failing to unite and consolidate their win against the whites. President Museveni said Africans were divided by the whites for being greedy. He added that Africans

sold their birthright to the whites. "There was no way the Europeans could have penetrated Africa at that time. They (Europeans) did not have technology strong enough to defeat us. They had some guns but those guns were not very efficient. so the main problem was us, especially the chiefs," he said. President Museveni said even after Africans won against the whites, they did not consolidate the victory through economic-political integration and self-sufficiency. He said Africans did not concretize their win. He has called on the East Afri-

can countries to implement the words of the East African anthem. "Here we sang two Anthems, one for Uganda, one for East Africa. That is good, to sing the anthem, but let us implement the East Africanisms," he said. In her book 'Jesus Africa' Patience Museveni Rwabwogo narrates how she received a vision from God in 2005 about the African continent. She says she heard a voice saying 'out of what was called darkness, will come a great light. This light will come from within you.

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Poetry

Cloud And Sun

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxxWorth
Noting:

Seven kinds of rainbow
Samo smiles across the
sky.
I love you
Unfortunately, Ming does
not know.

Rainbow from my youth,
I love the shine.
A drop of water in the
sun,
I know you will be pun-
ished.

Amirova Niginabonu
was born in the village
of Ibrahimota ,Nurabad
district ,
Samarkand Region .The 8
th - grade student of the
Samarkand Specialized
Art Boarding School has
published a book of poet-
ry entitled "Kaldirgoch"



Amirova Niginabonu

In the vast bosom of the sky,
Tinctures "blessed youth".
I'm tired of watching
Light is a generous sun.

To share my love
It was the sun's turn.
Unceasing cloud,
Share the tears.

So the sun changed,
Thanks to the cloud.

My service is over
I also give my light.

The sun is tied around his
waist,
ready for service
Cloud's tears,
Dice turn into light.

A house by the river
A lonely house on the bank
of the river,

Who was watching and
waiting for?
Tevarak is surrounded by
green trees,
How many days were crowd-
ed or lonely?

Not one guest, one thousand
and one people.
Thankful refuge for all.

The passenger does not sep-
arate, does not choose at all.

It is a sin not to open the
door.

The fury of winter, the day of
the Koran,
A boat companion tied to a
tree.
He is destined to be reward-
ed,
The sad, sad look of the
loved ones.

Mind
The skin of the mind, the
universe decorates,
Don't worry about your be-
havior.
The tariff you are told is a
description,
A flower will please your
heart.

We are higher than the
mountain that will raise
your glory,
Your services are an example
to many.
Enthusiasm is always a
friend of the mind.
Be familiar with the truth.

Law of life
The ice that conquered the
peaks of the mountains,
It slowly melts from the sun.
Rushing through the grass
They are sick when they
look up.

Life gives by walking the
path,
There will be those who are
offended.

This is the law of life from
time immemorial,
Everything would be great
then

Ship
white ship with white sails,
Suzar in the sea wave.
The sails flutter,
The horn is at the height of
the wind.

Heading towards the hori-
zon,
The goal is goodness.
Accompanying people
Let's reach the goal.

A tiny white ship,
There is a lot of power in
him.
Believe in his power,
Your intentions are an-
swered.

Rainbow
In the middle of the day,
It rained suddenly.
Nature's wonderful,
He performed a miracle.

The garden faded away,
From the rustling sound.
Insects are amazed,
From this rustling sound.

The rain has stopped,
The sun is in its place.
The sky suddenly cleared,
He looked beautiful.

Seven kinds of rainbow
Samo smiles across the sky.
I love you
Unfortunately, Ming does
not know.

Rainbow from my youth,
I love the shine.
A drop of water in the sun,
I know you will be punished.

Amirova Niginabonu was
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titled "Kaldirgoch"
His creative works were pub-
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Switzerland affirms support for Morocco -Sahara autonomus plan

Switzerland has reiterated the importance of Morocco's serious and credible efforts aimed at a political solution to the Moroccan Sahara issue, based on compromise, commending "positively" the autonomy plan in the process of settling this issue.

This position was expressed in Rabat on Friday by Swiss Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, who is on a working visit to the Kingdom, at a press briefing following talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.

"Switzerland recognizes and reiterates the importance of Morocco's serious and credible efforts to find a peaceful political solution based on compromise," he said.

Referring to the autonomy plan presented by Morocco to the United Nations General Secretariat on April 11, 2007, Cassis said that "this initiative is a positive point in the process, and we will do everything in our power to facilitate a favorable solution."

"It's time for this issue to be settled and to find a solution, because this crisis has been going on for too long," said Switzerland's top diplomat.

He also indicated that Switzerland backs the efforts of the United Nations and the central role it plays in the process concerning the Sahara issue, and that it supports a political solution in line with international law and Security Council resolutions.

"I believe we need to find an agreement with the UN representative that can bring the process to a successful conclusion, with flexibility on everyone's part," he said.

Switzerland has emphasized the significance of Morocco's sincere and trustworthy efforts to find a political settlement to the Moroccan Sahara issue that is based on compromise, while also praising "positively" the autonomy plan in the process of resolving this issue.

In a press conference held after talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates Nasser Bourita, Swiss Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis, who is also the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, stated this position on Friday in Rabat. He stated, "Switzerland recognizes and reiterates the importance of Morocco's serious and credible efforts to find a peaceful political solution based on compromise."



Swiss Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis and Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita.

EU-Morocco

EU-Morocco Agricultural Agreement: French Justice System Dismisses Farmers' Union Pro-polisario

The Confédération Paysanne (Peasant Confederation), a French trade union group involved in the judicial harassment of the agricultural agreement between Morocco and the EU, was condemned by the Court of Tarascon in a ruling.

This represents a new legal setback for the "polisario" and its French relays.

Just a few weeks ago, the High Court in London imposed a judicial disallowance on Polisario sympathizers in the UK.

This most recent disallowance from the French judiciary follows shortly after.

IDYL, a French company that specializes in the marketing of fruit and vegetables from Morocco, including the Southern Provinces, was the target of the Confédération Paysanne's action, which sought to have it declared legally guilty (with penalty payments and damages for alleged harm), and to stop IDYL from disseminating its products.





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Motivation

You Do Not Need To Publicize Whatever You Undoubtedly Possess

By: N. George
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- A preacher in front of a congregation teaching them who keeps threatening them of the dire consequences they will face if they fail to follow what he teaches them on every forum needs to be rethought about before following his instructions.
- There should be need to understand whether it is his interpretation of gospel or it is inspiration he has got from somewhere else. In case you are a close associate he could be doing this otherwise he just need to state his message and allow you to decide whether to follow or not as he has already done his part by relaying the message to you.



Power is like being a lady, if you have to tell people you are, you aren't Margaret Thatcher

In a dating scene a man who on almost daily basis messages a lady seeking assurance that once married she would never leave him then after getting affirmative yes he goes ahead to call him, speak for a few seconds or minutes then poses the same question of whether she can dare leave him, gets another assurance that there is no such a plan thereafter arranges for a meeting in the same day where during or after eating and drinking he seeks another assurance of lifetime longevity of their marriage relationship. It is a symbol of the fear within the man of possible collapse of their relationship mostly due to some red flags in their relationships or feeling that he has issues that are still undisclosed by him afraid

that if his partner knows of them she would probably quit the relationship. The same case happens if it is the lady who is raising a similar issue time and again.

Under normal circumstances love should be left to flow naturally the nonverbal assurances are more telling than verbal ones. One can easily visualize what will happen in their relationship even without asking the other party. Love can be felt. Never force yourself into such a relationship be open with it that is be ready to let it auto function whether it naturally remains or breaks accept the verdict. if she is yours and has thought of breaking away you will definitely meet later and reunite.

A preacher in front of a congregation teaching them who keeps threatening them of the dire consequences they will face if they fail to follow what he teaches them

on every forum needs to be rethought about before following his instructions. There should be need to understand whether it is his interpretation of gospel or it is inspiration he has got from somewhere else. In case you are a close associate he could be doing this otherwise he just need to state his message and allow you to decide whether to follow or not as he has already done his part by relaying the message to you.

People who keep putting on a lot makeups of different shapes and shades on daily basis yet they are not brand ambassadors of such items are usually doing it due to lack of contentment with their beauty or handsomeness that is why they feel the need to spice it up. Without such additions they are not self-confident. Never rely on their grooming to relate with their beauty as once you will

see them without them you may be shocked on what they could have masked with those makeups.

Leaders whose convoys have hundreds or thousands of armed military personnel, deploy secret services for weeks before making a visit to any region and rarely mingle with the masses they are addressing are not friends to the masses as they may want them to perceive rather they fear their subject that is why they take every safety precaution possible. The power in them is not genuinely from the masses. The disconnect between them and the masses is what is making them want to reach out but due to fear of the later discontentment with them they have to try and be secure as they do this.

A hen that crows after laying a single egg alerting the whole estate should not be

taken as the only domesticated animal that has made the greatest sacrifice remember there is a cow that gives tens of litres of milk in a day or a dog that can keep surveillance for twenty four hours yet remain silent after performing these tasks.

While speaking to someone who you share mother tongue and who you have been raised together speaking the same dialect yet he keeps introducing terms of another language in your conversation. Terms which are not technical and he provides no justification for his actions should not persuade you to think that he has mastered the other language is valid than yours. He is just trying to show that he has interacted with other people more than you which could not probably be the true case.

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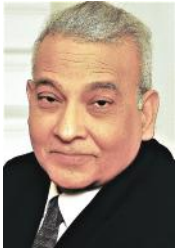
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UK News

King Charles III decorates many in the UK diaspora: MONARCH'S BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT, RARE HONOUR FOR THE BEST OF BRITISH IN HIS HONOURS LIST



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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- This year, he was the first monarch in over 30 years to ride a horse throughout Trooping the Colour. The Late Queen Elizabeth II used to travel by carriage due to her advancing age.
- The King inspected the lines of guardsmen on the parade ground – hundreds of servicemen and women from 1,500 taking part in the day – casting a critical eye over the soldiers, formed in two lines, as he rode past.
- William, Anne, and Edward rode behind Charles. At the same time, Camilla and Kate travelled in a carriage – a symbolic image of the royal family uniting to support the King as another milestone was reached in his reign.
- Upon their return, the King and Queen were joined by other members of the Royal Family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch a flypast of 70 aircraft from all three services flying over Buckingham Palace.

goes, the monarchs have two birthdays, one in the summer and the second in the winter. This applies especially if the royal family member was born in the winter months.

This is due to the vagaries of the British weather if a member of the royal family was born in the winter months.

The official birthday celebrations usually take place outdoors; they are held in the summer to escape the bitter winter blues. In the summer, when the days are longer and the nights short, the weather is more hospitable.

This month's lavish and colourful celebrations on June 17 included the traditional Trooping the Colour in London, also known as the Monarch's Birthday Parade.

This ceremony for the British sovereign's birthday dates back over 260 years. More than 1,400 troops, 200 horses and 400 musicians across the Household Division came together for a military display. The parade moved from Buckingham Palace down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade, alongside members of the royal family on horseback and in carriages.

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Upon their return, the King and Queen were joined by other members of the Royal Family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch a flypast of 70 aircraft from all three services flying over Buckingham Palace.

The King's official birthday. Bringing celebrations to a close,

Several million Britons watched the colourful Trooping of the Colour either standing with the crowds of Royal fans or on

the TV screens with the proceeding televised live.

Many excited Britons could not hide their emotions on the day.

Pensioner Jill Brown said, "It was so wonderful that I sat and watched the whole thing on my TV. It reminded me of my late mother, who worked as a dinner lady in our local school and never missed the Trooping of the Colour ceremony."

This is also the day when the King honours a select group of British and Commonwealth professionals in recognition of their exceptional services to the community.

The choice of those who were honoured reflected a rich cultural diversity of people in the UK and the Commonwealth, including many from the diaspora who have left their mark on the community.

Their names ring out like a who's who list.

This year's list (with surnames in capitals) included top professionals, media and literary celebrities, politicians, educationists, and community leaders, music and TV stars – mainly those who made top headlines during the year.

British business leaders, exporters and Department for Business and Trade staff are also awarded for their exceptional service to Business, trade, investment, and exports.

Those honoured have proudly flown the British flag and represent a diverse range of businesses and business leaders who have championed a range of the UK's world-leading sectors. Business leaders and volunteers recognised in the 2023 Birthday Honours list include:

Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) include Prof. Sir John Irving BELL, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford. For services to Medicine, Medical Research, the Life Science Industry and Public Health based in Oxfordshire; Novelist and Screenwriter Ian Russell MCEWAN CBE for services to Literature; Dame Anna WINTOUR DBE, Editor in Chief, Vogue, Global Editorial Director, Vogue and Global Content Officer, Condé Nast, for ser-



The King was saluted as Colonel in Chief of the seven regiments of the Household Division on the Horse Guards Parade in this spectacular ceremony



The colourful air fly-past over London to celebrate the King's first official birthday. Photo Buckingham Palace in London



Chelsea pensioners, retired British soldiers, take part in a march past to celebrate the King's first official birthday

Contd Page 11.

UK News

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Worth Noting:

- Business leaders and volunteers recognised in the 2023 Birthday Honours list include:
- Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) include Prof. Sir John Irving BELL, Regius Professor of Medicine, University of Oxford. For services to Medicine, Medical Research, the Life Science Industry and Public Health based in Oxfordshire; Novelist and Screenwriter Ian Russell MCEWAN CBE for services to Literature; Dame Anna WINTOUR DBE, Editor in Chief, Vogue, Global Editorial Director, Vogue and Global Content Officer, Condé Nast, for services to Fashion and Alex CHISHOLM, Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office and Chief Operating Officer, Civil Service, for Public Service
- The Dames, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, were decorated for their services in various fields.
- They include Jacqueline Marie BAILLIE, Deputy Leader of the Scottish Labour Party for Political and Public Service; Prof. Averil Olive BRADLEY (Averil Mansfield), Surgery and Equality in Medicine; Prof Diane COYLE CBE Bennett, Professor of Public Policy, University of Cambridge, for services to Economics.

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Others include advertising industry leader Annette KING Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Groupe UK, for services to Advertising and to the Creative Industries; Susan Carol LANGLEY, Non-Executive Chair, Gallagher UK and lately, Lead Non-Executive Director, Home Office. For Public Service and to the Financial Services Industry; Kathryn Alexandra MCDOWELL, Managing Director, London Symphony Orchestra. For services to the Music industry.

Prof Eleanor Jane MILNER-GULLAND Tasso Leventis, Chair in Biodiversity, Department of Biology, Oxford University. For services to International Conservation, Elizabeth Mary NICHOLL, President, World Netball, for services to Sport; Dr Neslyn Eugenie WATSON-DRUÉE, Voluntary Chair, Birmingham and Midlands Women Economic Forum, for services to Women and Ethnic Minorities

Late Martin Louis AMI, the famous Author, who passed away on May 18 2023, aged 73, for services to Literature, was honoured with the Knights Bachelor Knighthood along with the famous London-based Nigerian diaspora author Ben Golden Emuobowho OKRI for services to Literature.

Others include Prof. Peter John BARNES, Professor of Thoracic Medicine, Imperial College London, for services to Respiratory Science, Benjamin Peter James BRADSHAW, MP for Exeter, was honoured for Political and Public Service; Robin Francis BUDENBERG, Chair, The Crown Estate. for services to the Economy.

David Jeremy DARROCH Executive Chair, Sky. for services to Business, Charity and Sustainability, Stephen Arthur FREARS, Director and Producer. For services to Film and Television. Rupert Alexander GAVIN, for services to Drama, the Arts, Heritage and the Economy; Prof. Iain Gilmour GRAY, Director of Aerospace, Cranfield University, for services to the Aerospace Industry.

An impressive list of diaspora members has always been decorated. They include those who have made headlines and people who aren't in the public eye but are recognised for service and contribution to their respective fields.

They include Emran MIAN, Director General, Regeneration, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Order of the Bath for services to Regeneration; Zahra Shiva BAHROLOLOUMI, Chief Executive Officer, Salesforce UK, for services to the Information Technology Sector; Professor Paliarkarakadu Assen Muhammed BASHEER, Chair in Structural Engineering, University of Leeds, for services to Civil Engineering.

The list continues with the Order of the British Excellence (OBE) and MBE.

The OBE is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions at a local level or whose work has gained a national profile. This Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, an MBE, is the third highest ranking Order of the British Empire award and OBE. The MBE is awarded for an outstanding achievement or service to the community which has had a long-term, significant impact.

Khurshid ALAM, Chair, Academy for Advanced Studies and Training UK International. for services to Black and Ethnic Minority Ethnic (BAME) Healthcare and the Professional Development of BAME Doctors; Prof. Aravintan COOMARASAMY, Professor of Gynaecology and Reproductive Medicine, University of Birmingham, for services to Maternal Health; Dr Parvinder Kaur ALEY, Director of Global

Operations, Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford, for services to Vaccination during Covid-19.

Prof. Prokar DASGUPTA, Foundation Professor of Surgery, King's Health Partners and Chair in Robotic Surgery and Urological Innovation, King's College London. for services to Surgery and Science; Anju KUMAR, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. for services to Women's Health and Welfare in Wales; Amar LATIF, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Traveleyes. For services to the Visually Impaired and Entrepreneurship, Dr Navaratnam PARTHEEBAN, Co-Founder British Veterinary Ethnicity and Diversity Society for services to Inclusion.

Oluwafemi ELUFOWOJU JR, Director and Actor, for services to Drama; Anuj Jayantilal CHANDE, Partner, Grant Thornton, for services to International Trade and Investment; Varinder HAYRE, District Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service, London for services to Law and Order; Ishtiaq HUSSAIN, Assistant Director, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, for Public Service.

Dr Kavitha KISHEN, Deputy Director, Security, Resilience and Strategy, Government Office for Science. For services to National Resilience and Diversity in Government Science and Engineering; Sunand PRASAD, Chair, UK Green Building Council, for services to Regeneration; Dr Amarjit RAJU, Chief Executive, Disability Direct, for services to People with Disabilities, to Carers and Mental Health.

Prof. Rama Shankaran THIRUNAMACHANDRAN, Vice-Chancellor, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury, Kent, for services to Higher Education; Mohammad Amjid WAZIR, Member and Deputy Leader, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, for Political Service and to the community in Stoke-on-Trent.

Mohammed YOUNIS, Owner of Star Day Nurseries, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, for services to Early Years Education and the community in Peterborough.

Those who were awarded Order of the British Empire (OBE) include Eniola ALU-



Trooping the Colour King's guards march to honour their monarch at Horse Guards Parade on his first official birthday



Men and their horses taking part in the Trooping of Colour at the Horse Guards Parade in London, in an annual event dating back to 1760



A bird's eye view of the colourful fly-past over London to honour King Charles III on his first official birthday.



A 62-round gun salute at the Tower of London celebrated The King's Official Birthday. The Tower Bridge in the background



Diaspora Literary giant Ben Okri was honoured by the King. Photo Uni of Essex

Contd Page 13.

Sudan

Women, girls hit hard by attacks on health in Sudan, UN agencies warn

By: Christine Muchira
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Sudan woman with a child

The World Health Organization and UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, Wednesday warned that the continuing attacks on healthcare facilities, equipment and workers in Sudan are depriving women and girls of life-saving healthcare, with pregnant women hardest hit.

Some 67pc of hospitals in areas affected by fighting are closed, and several maternity hospitals are out of action, including Omdurman Hospital, the largest referral hospital in Sudan.

Among the 11 million people in Sudan who need urgent health assistance are 2.64 million women and girls of reproductive age. Some 262 880 of them are pregnant and over 90 000 will give birth in the next three months. All of them need access to critical reproductive health services.

Since April, when the fighting began, WHO has verified 46 attacks on health workers and facilities which have killed eight people and injured 18 others.

Facilities and health assets have also been looted, and health workers have been subjected to violence. A number of health facilities are being used by armed forces.

There are reports of a military occupation of the National Medical Supply Funds (NMSF) warehouses in the capital, Khartoum, where medicines for the entire country, including malaria medicines, are kept, and where the national pharmacy for chronic diseases

is located. WHO's stock of emergency medical supplies and development products is kept at its warehouse on the premises.

UNFPA's stocks of medicines and equipment for obstetric care, post-rape treatment, as well as a wide range of contraceptives, which are stored at warehouses in Khartoum, South Darfur, West Darfur and elsewhere are also inaccessible.

Health facilities in several states, including the Darfurs, have warned that they are facing critical shortages of medical supplies. In a worrying development, hospitals are running out of fuel to power generators that provide electricity.

Six newborns died at a hospital in the city of Eld'aeen in East Darfur in the space of a week due to issues including a lack of oxygen amid electricity blackouts and local doctors estimated that more than 30 newborns have died at the hospital since the start of the fighting.

In May, UNFPA and local partner, the CAFA Development Organization, provided fuel for seven maternity hospitals in Khartoum to ensure health services were available for women and newborns.

In just one week, more than 1000 deliveries and caesarean sections were safely carried out. But more support is desperately needed to secure fuel and supplies for key hospitals to sustain essential services.

Some 15pc of pregnant women experience pregnancy- and birth-related complications and need access

to emergency obstetric and newborn care.

UNFPA provides sexual and reproductive healthcare through health facilities and hospitals throughout Sudan. UNFPA-trained midwives continue to support women to give birth safely at home and at functioning health facilities. There are approximately 27 000 midwives working across Sudan; around 2330 in the capital.

Most of them attend 3-4 births a day, according to the head of a UNFPA-supported midwife network. UNFPA is also setting up safe spaces for women to provide gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services, including post-rape treatment, counselling and case management; as well as providing remote services.

UNFPA also trains service providers and community-based protection networks in GBV prevention and response.

WHO is working closely with the Ministry of Health and other partners to ensure provision of essential sexual, reproductive, maternal and paediatric care as well as emergency obstetric and neo-natal care in Khartoum and Gezira, and in states sheltering internally displaced people.

The health agency is providing life-saving medicines and supplies, and covering the running cost of health facilities that provide these services.

WHO is also training health workers on first-line support, provision of post-rape treatment and mental health

care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), and is backing national NGOs that provide GBV services.

"Health workers are putting their lives at risk to provide emergency, maternity, paediatric and chronic disease treatment services and we stand with them," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "We call on the warring parties to honour the commitments they made in Jeddah in May, including the restoration of essential services and the withdrawal of forces from hospitals and essential public facilities."

"The conflict must stop, health facilities, health workers and patients must be protected, humanitarian and medical aid must be allowed through," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem.

"People who need urgent healthcare should not be afraid to step out of their homes for fear of their safety, and women's right to reproductive healthcare must be upheld, conflict or no conflict," she added.

IGAD Quartet Ministerial meeting resolve

On Tuesday the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Quartet Ministerial meeting resolved that convening a face-to-face meeting with warring Sudan leaders would be vital in achieving sustainable peace and advancing the peaceful transition to democracy and civilian rule in the country.

The meeting which was chaired by Kenya's Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Dr. Alfred Mutua on Monday noted that a face-to-face meeting would be vital in unlocking key issues, among them being the cessation of hostilities and the delivery of critical humanitarian aid to affected citizenry.

Similarly, the meeting noted the significance of a potential face-to-face meeting between the two leaders to the conflict in Sudan, pointing out that this would be a welcome development in fostering a comprehensive all-inclusive political process in Sudan.

At the same time, CS Mutua reiterating Kenya's commitment to collective leadership, trust and transparency during the mediation process, consistent with President William Ruto's desire for inclusive dialogue between the Sudanese parties

and a peaceful resolution that benefitted the peoples of Sudan and of the region.

The convening of the IGAD Quartet Ministerial Meeting was in accordance with the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government that assembled in Djibouti on June 12th, 2023.

The Ministerial Meeting was held virtually, with the participation of the Foreign Ministers of Djibouti, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

In addition, the IGAD Executive Secretary, as well as the African Union's Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) participated in the virtual Ministerial Meeting, whose stated objective was to discuss the ongoing crisis in Sudan and to establish a coordinated response, consistent with the directives of the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

From the deliberations, the IGAD Quartet Foreign Ministers observed the importance of comprehensively implementing the decisions and directives of the 14th Ordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government and in accordance with the IGAD Roadmap for Peace in the Republic of Sudan.

Additionally, the meeting resolved to welcome the Jeddah process and the recent 72-hour ceasefire Agreement facilitated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United States of America and the opportunity it has created to allow humanitarian access for the delivery of aid to affected civilian populations.

As well as launch an all-inclusive political process aimed at achieving sustainable peace and peaceful transition to democracy and civilian rule to be hosted by the Republic of Kenya in mid-July or the first week of August 2023.

The quartet ministers resolved to designate Senior Officials to coordinate the IGAD Quartet group of countries work and provide technical and advisory support as well as appoint an IGAD Special Envoy for the Republic of Sudan as presented by the IGAD Executive Secretary and approved by the IGAD Council of Ministers to coordinate and lead mediation efforts.

Worth Noting:

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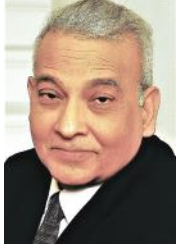
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- Health facilities in several states, including the Darfurs, have warned that they are facing critical shortages of medical supplies.

- In a worrying development, hospitals are running out of fuel to power generators that provide electricity.

UK News

King Charles III decorates many in the UK diaspora: MONARCH'S BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT, RARE HONOUR FOR THE BEST OF BRITISH IN HIS HONOURS LIST



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

Contd from Page 11

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- An impressive list of diaspora members has always been decorated. They include those who have made headlines and people who aren't in the public eye but are recognised for service and contribution to their respective fields.
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KO for services to Association Football and Charity, Darnish AMRAZ, Youth Worker, Birmingham City Youth Service, for services to Young People in Birmingham; Muhammad Arif ANIS, Co-Founder, One Million Meals, for services to Frontline Workers during Covid-19; Roma BHOPAL, Physiotherapist and Specialist Hand Therapist for services to Physiotherapy; Vanita BROOKES, Fellow, Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England for services to the Oral Health of People with Disabilities; Yui Chit Daniel CHAN, Honorary Treasurer and Trustee, UK Youth. For services to Charity and to Young People.

Nizamuddin Noordin DAMANI, Consultant Microbiologist, Southern Health and Social Care Trust for services to Infection Prevention and Control in Northern Ireland and to the World Health Organisation; Bawa Singh DHALLU, Councillor and currently Mayor, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands for Political and Voluntary Service; Sandeep DWESAR, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, Barbican Centre for Public Service; Inua Muhammed ELLAMS, Poet, Playwright and Performer, for services to the Arts.

Mohammed FAHIM, for services to the community in Walsall, West Midlands, particularly during Covid-19; Aqil FAROOQ, Police Sergeant and Chair, Staff Association, Avon and Somerset Police, for services to Policing and to Diversity and Inclusion; Dr Desmond JADDOO, Bishop, The Village Fellowship Church and Chairman, Windrush National Organisation for services to the Caribbean Windrush Generation; Kapaljit Singh JHUTI, Head of Services, Transport and Passenger Logistics, Heathrow Airport, London for services to the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II; Navleen KAUR, Founder, Sahara Sisterhood for services to Women and to Interfaith Relations.

Dr Michael Olatunde KEHINDE, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion, Environment Agency, for Public Service; Ritu KHURANA, DJ and Broadcaster, for services to Music and Broadcasting; Dr Nihara Sonali KRAUSE, Found-

er and Chief Executive, Stem4, for services to the Mental Health of Young People; Rizwana MAHMOOD-AHMED, Headteacher, Carlton Junior and Infants School, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire for services to Education; Rizwan Wali MOHAMMED, for services to the community in Glasgow.

Professor Raja Anindya Sekhar MUKHERJEE, Consultant Psychiatrist, Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust for services to People with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders; Pandit Shiva Chandra NIRAULA, Hindu Priest, Brigade of Gurkhas, Ministry of Defence for pastoral services to Military Personnel; Asitha PAN-DITHARATNA, Director of Employment Services, The Forward Trust, for services to Further Education and Skills.

Professor Kanwal John PASI, Centre Director, Royal London Haemophilia Centre, Barts Health NHS Trust for services to the NHS; Jay Prakash PATEL,

Qualified Person Assessor, AstraZeneca, for services to Public Health during Covid-19; Jeeta PATEL, Senior Policy Adviser, Cabinet Office, for Public Service; Dr Shubha PLATT (nee Sathyendranath), Merit Scientist, Remote Sensing, Plymouth Marine Laboratory for services to Oceanography; Dr Sandrasekeram PREMACHANDRAN, Advisor, Care Quality Commission and Emergency Medicine Consultant, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust for services to Health and Care, Aftabur RAHMAN, Chief Executive Officer, Legacy West Midlands, for services to Heritage and to the community in Birmingham; Nimisha RAJA, founder, Nim's Fruit Crisps, for services to Small and Medium Enterprises; Adil RASHID, for services to Cricket; Narinder Singh SAGOO, for services to Charity; Bilal Bin SAQIB, Co-Founder, One Million Meals, for services to the NHS; Prodaman Kumar SARWAL, Trustee, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and Chair, Master Ropemakers Ltd. For services to Heritage and to the Charitable Sector.

Dr Farrukh Tasnim SHAH, Consultant Haematologist, Whittington Health NHS Trust, for services to Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell

Patients; Mercy Lusungu SHIBEMBA, Speaker and Campaigner, for services to People with HIV; Dr Inderjit SINGH, for voluntary and charitable services to the community in Scotland; Harvinder SINGH RAI, Sergeant, West Midlands Police, for services to Policing and to the Sikh Community. Hina SOLANKI, Founder, Sol Cosmetics, for services to Business and Charity; Jyotsna SRIKANTH, Violinist for services to Music; Dr Shivani Anika WALIA, Founder, Anika Food Charity, for services to the Alleviation of Food Poverty; Idris ALI provision Contracts Manager, Department for Work and Pensions for voluntary service to the community in Oldham, Greater Manchester; Ezekiel Abiodun AWOYOMI, Inspector, British Transport Police. For services to Policing and to Young People.

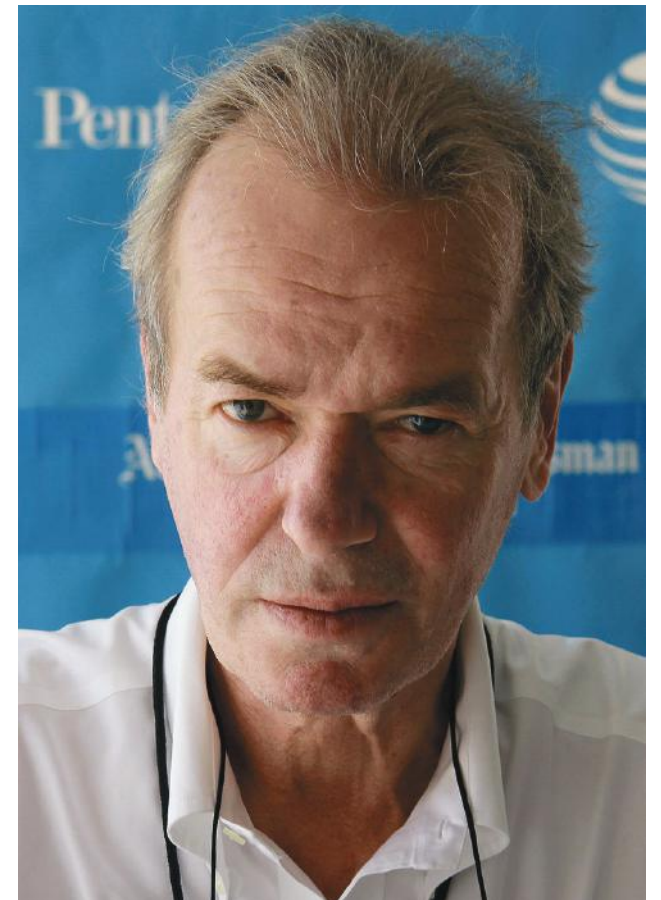
Rahima Do Nascimento AZIZ, Trustee, Aziz Foundation for services to Young People; Perminderjeet Kaur BANWAIT, Founder and Managing Director, Banwait Group Holdings for services to Social Care; Balvir Mohan BHALLA,

Founder, Super Cool Friends Charity, for services to the community during Covid-19; Nighat BHOLA, Director, Humdum UK, for voluntary meal services during Covid-19; Rekesh CHAUHAN, Pianist and Composer for music services to Charity and Mental Health; Salma Bano ZULFIQAR, for services to Art and Education; Yasmin SIDHWA, Founder and Director, Mandala Theatre Company for services to Drama; Sunethie SALIG, for services to Law Enforcement and Diversity.

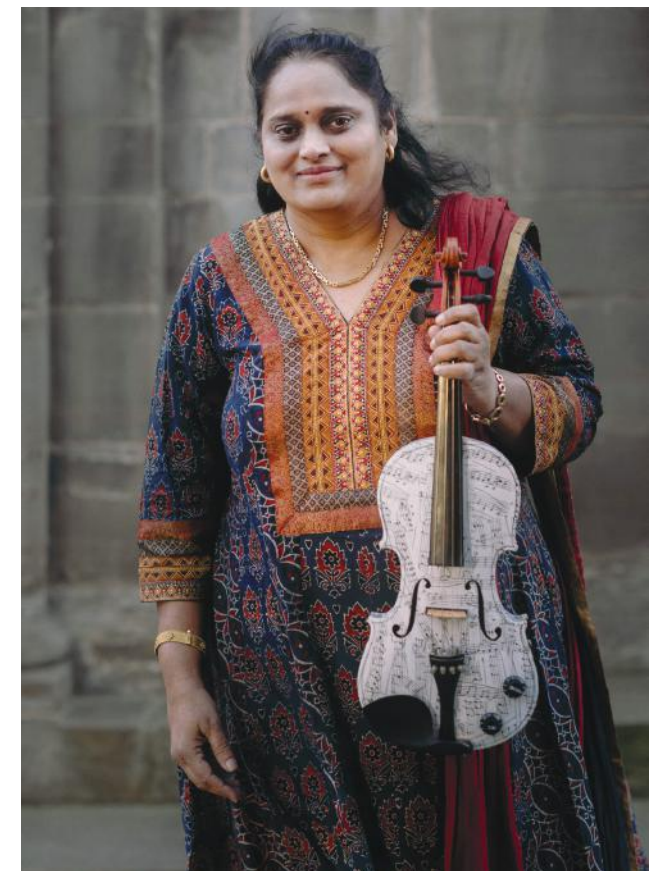
Hetalban Mayank PATEL, Compliance and Investigation Officer, HM Revenue and Customs for services to Homeless People; Virendra Mahendrakumar PATEL, Technical Support Partner, John Lewis and Partners, for community services; Kailash MALHOTRA, Peer Educator Volunteer, Kidney Research UK, for services to Kidney Organ Donation for Minority Ethnic Groups; Dr Priya KUMAR, Kumar Medical Centre, for services to Health Improvement in South East England; Oyovwe Sagbodje KIGHO, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Widows Empowerment Trust for ser-



This spectacular army band march on the mall in London brought out the best on that day. Photo MOD.



Late Martin Amis, the British literary legend was honoured by the King. Photo Larry D. Moore



South Indian Composer and Contemporary Violinist Jyotsna Srikanth received an MBE in King's Birthday Honours

services to Bereaved families. Krishna GHOSH, for services to Education and the community in London;

Balbir and Kuldeep Singh DHILLON, Postmasters, for community services in Birchwood, Cheshire.

Dance

Disco Dance With Mitxun Chakraborty

By: Muzaffar
MUKHAMMADNAZAR
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

o You mentioned that you entered the world of cinema by chance. Do you believe in destiny?

o Without a doubt. Otherwise, how could a young man from Kolkata, who came from a humble artistic background, reach the stardom of the Bollywood industry? Although I dreamt of becoming an actor in my childhood, I couldn't even imagine playing leading roles in films. Fate played a significant role, and I have faith in destiny.

o Did you face any difficulties during your youth? Usually, Bollywood dominates famous actors and actresses, and it is challenging for outsiders, especially those who do not have a financial background. How did you achieve success?



Mitxun Chakraborty and Muzaffar Muhammadnazar

for your unique dances. In particular, we can see your dances in popular films like "Disco Dancer" and "Dance Dance," which have introduced you to the world. Before these films, we mostly saw Western dances in Indian movies, but you brought a different style of dancing, characterized by energetic and lively movements influenced by traditional Indian dance. Tell us, did you receive any formal training in dancing or did you learn and develop your own style out of curiosity and interest?

- First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your interest in my work and for organizing this conversation. I am still amazed by the passionate fans I have in Uzbekistan. It feels like a second home to me. Uzbek and Indian cultures have many similarities in terms of external appearance. Yes, our religions may differ, but we also have similarities in portraying love, affection, and expressing emotions through dance in our films. Let's delve into this in more detail. Now, regarding your question, I was a huge fan of Elvis Presley since my childhood. I learned the art of dance by watching his films. I adapted his movements in dance and fused them with our traditional Indian

dance, creating a dance art that is unique to me and not merely imitative. Before entering the world of cinema, my desire was to showcase these dances to our people. In fact, I can say that I entered the world of cinema by chance, with a twist of fate.

- What about Michael Jackson, who is internationally renowned? Some of his dance moves are also slightly reminiscent of yours.

- Yes, undoubtedly. I admit that I have incorporated some of Michael Jackson's movements into my dances. However, Elvis Presley remains my primary inspiration as a dancer.

- You mentioned that you entered the world of cinema by chance. Do you believe in destiny?

- Without a doubt. Otherwise, how could a young man from Kolkata, who came from a humble artistic background, reach the stardom of the Bollywood industry? Although I dreamt of becoming an actor in my childhood, I couldn't even imagine playing leading roles in films. Fate played a significant role, and I have faith in destiny.

- Did you face any difficulties during your youth? Usually, Bollywood dominates famous actors and actresses, and it is challenging for

outsiders, especially those who do not have a financial background. How did you achieve success?

- Similarly, like I emphasized before, it is a twist of fate. Actually, my arrival in Mumbai (present-day Bombay) was neither a coincidence nor a mere desire for destiny. It was a result of the political situation at that time, which prompted me to escape from Kolkata to Bombay and start anew there. In Kolkata, I had also participated in the struggles of the working-class and peasant classes against corruption and the injustices of local oppressors. Naturally, the government of that period used its power to suppress these activities, branding the protesters as extremists, subjecting some to violence, and imprisoning others. It was during that time that my late father, in order to save me from a predetermined punishment, sent me to live with my uncle who resided in Bombay. It was in the late 60s. In those days, I was a young spirited man, believing in the search for truth and fighting for just causes.

My days in Bombay were spent in parks and streets, and I had experienced times of living on rent. Although my uncle supported me financially, it was risky for me

to live in his house. Moreover, the police knew exactly where my uncle lived. Instead of returning to Kolkata, I decided firmly to overcome the difficulties and achieve the goal I had set for myself. Defeat teaches a person many things. I did not want to accept defeat, and with my belief in destiny, I was determined to succeed, even if it meant appearing in films one day and becoming famous. Thankfully, over time, the hour of fulfillment of my dreams arrived.

- "Sharks" in the world of cinema should take you forward with joy, not against you, my dear friend.

- What are you saying! The film industry is such a field where everyone competes against each other to stand out, to succeed in the films they have played in. Indeed, competition exists in every field, but in our field, unfortunately, we have to witness the happiness of our competitors' failures more often. If someone faces failure, the media employees, even the public relations officers, try to take advantage of it by belittling them, discrediting them in the eyes of their fans, and showing them in a negative light. The film industry provides such opportunities that it opens the doors widely for you, and

within it, in just one day, you can achieve fame, popularity, and wealth in the world.

- Many of your colleagues have read about using plastic surgery or cosmetic services to enhance their external appearance in films. However, you have neither changed your nose nor reduced your ears. First of all, we apologize for our question and ask for your forgiveness. We never intended to insult you by asking this. Therefore, we believe that you are brave, and without considering your height and the size of your ears, we appreciate that you have achieved success in films and have reached your potential without altering your external appearance. Is your heart always full of confidence?

- To be honest, in my youth, I was conscious of my skin color and the size of my ears. Especially when I met girls, I wanted to hide my ears. That's why I used to grow my hair and try to cover my ears, and it was necessary for my hair to be long enough to cover them. Since my skin color was mostly like that of Indians, it was not of much importance. Most fair-skinned Indians you see in Bollywood have either whitened themselves through plastic surgery or have mixed with English

Dance

Disco Dance With Mitxun Chakraborty

By: Muzaffar
MUKHAMMADNAZAR
xxxxxxxxxxxx

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Contd from Page 14

Worth Noting:

o My debut film is "Ikki notanish" (Two Strangers), although it had a short screen time, and I had only two or three lines of dialogue. My first significant role was in the film "Qirollik ovi" (The Dragon's Hunt), and that film brought me fame during those times in our country. At that time, no matter how I looked, I learned to accept myself. I never felt the need for cosmetic or surgical procedures. Instead, I embraced my imperfections and focused on my dancing skills, mastering the art of combat scenes and paying attention to my body movements in dance and fight scenes, realizing that my external appearance doesn't matter much.

o You have several hotels. Besides acting, we know you as a businessperson and a politician. You are one of the highest-paid actors of the time. Are your earnings from the hotels substantial? We've heard that you don't charge beggars and travelers who stay at your hotels.

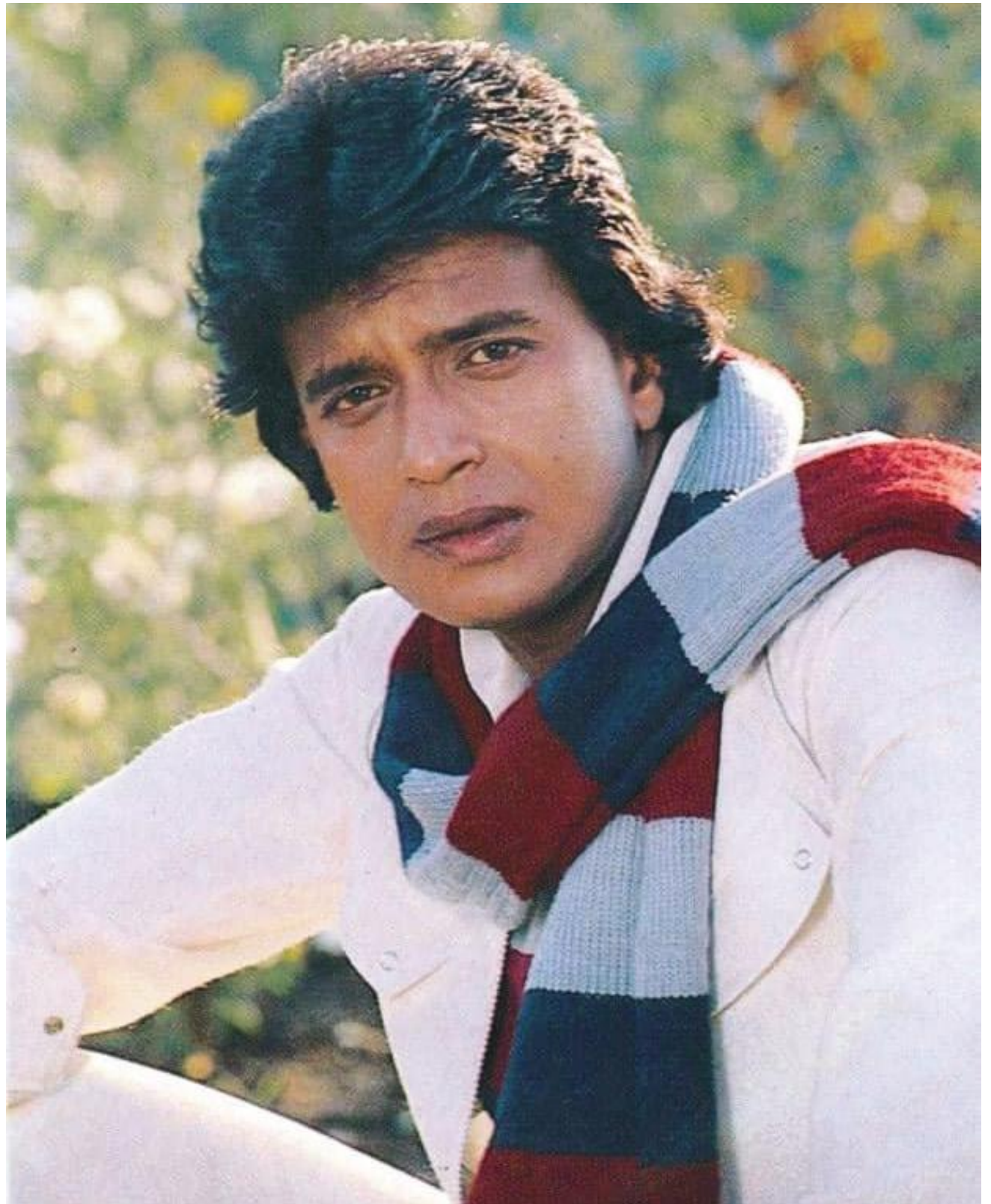
or other European descendants. Many actors and actresses have married English or settled in Europe. As a result, their children are fair-skinned and have come into the world.

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- That's incorrect. You have enough information about me, so let it be. Are you journalists or tax office agents? (laughs sarcastically) You need to open your eyes; my earnings from hotels are not significant. Because we don't prioritize profits alone, our customers are primarily foreign tourists. Among them, if there are my fans or representatives of foreign cinema, I waive their payments. Taking earnings and becoming a money-oriented person who values material possessions more, leaving aside the emotions and warmth, goes against my nature. I am an artist. For me, emotions and sensitivity outweigh bookkeeping. I still remember the days when I slept on the streets, penniless. The character in the film "O'yna, o'yna" (Dance, Dance), like my father, reminds me of my childhood years, struggling from poverty to reaching a level of fame and success through hard work and dedication.

- Usually, we don't ask personal questions about your private life. However, if you don't mind, can you share something about not marrying Shri Devi, despite having



Mitxun Chakraborty

loved her?

- Please don't scratch that wound. I prefer not to disclose personal information and avoid discussing topics related to my personal life. But maybe, without revealing too much, I can briefly mention it. First and foremost, my family is sacred to me. I have three sons and a daughter. I have a responsibility and obligation towards my family that I should never forget, even for a moment. I have chosen Shri Devi myself, and I truly loved her. But at the time, we went against fate, never being able to unite, and I always considered her part of my family. Regardless, her untimely death deeply affected me. I haven't forgotten her even to this day. She remains in my memories as a great actress, a loyal friend, and an

extraordinary woman.

- In terms of acting, which institution did you study at?

- Actually, my father wanted me to become an engineer. When I was a child, I also dreamed of becoming a sailor, but it turned out that I failed the exam. I didn't know how to transmit radio signals at that time. Later, I applied to a polytechnic institute and submitted the required documents. I was not successful there either. After that, I wanted to enter a psychology college. I wanted to dedicate myself to the field of spirituality and knowledge. However, fate had something else in store for me, and I ended up in the field of acting. But in my youth, I actually dreamed of becoming a football player or a politician. I attended the Bengal Football Acade-

my in Kolkata. We provide financial assistance to our national team's football players and support the children of needy families who are interested in football. We assign them to coaches, cover their expenses, provide them with a place to live, and ensure their education. Additionally, I am the president of the Association of Film and Television Artists. Our association has been active for nearly 20 years. Although our association faces financial challenges, it creates opportunities for talented youth to showcase their abilities. I faced difficulties myself, but the children of well-known actors and actresses used to study and play roles in films while ordinary people had no such opportunities, which caused some resentment within me.

Fortunately, my dreams have come true, and we now provide roles to many talented young individuals in films.

- Did you also receive assistance yourself?

- Of course. Sanjay Datt, Vinod Khanna, and many famous film stars recommended me to directors and supported me in getting roles.

- Thank you very much, Mitkhun Ji, for your sincere and open answers. We wish you great success and creative achievements in your future endeavors!

Interviewee: Muzaffar MUKHAMMADNAZAR.
Source: "Teatr" magazine. 2021.

Photo: Mitxun Chakraborty and Muzaffar Muhammadnazar
Mitxun Chakraborty

Somalia

Somalia in danger of losing hard-won gains, Security Council hears



© WFP/Petroc Wilton Meals are served in Garowe, Somalia, as part of a project for schools, supported by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Worth Noting:

- Reporting several positive political developments, she highlighted the Government's "significant progress" in advancing key national priorities, including the electoral process, and its leadership in the fight against terrorism.
- Efforts have dislodged the terrorist group from parts of the country "but, Al Shabaab remains a significant threat," Ms. Laing cautioned, pointing to a resurgence of attacks, including the deadly incident at the Pearl Beach Hotel in early June.
- "The first three months of 2023 also saw the highest number of improvised explosive device attacks since 2017," she said.
- Ongoing stabilization activities related to Al Shabaab will require support, she said, adding that UNSOM has stepped up its response in this regard. "The challenge remains the sustainability of these gains," she added.

Despite gains made in tackling terrorism and advancing the electoral process in Somalia, top UN officials warned the Security Council on Thursday that extra effort and funding are needed to address multiple threats, from climate shocks to spates of violence amid a looming food crisis.

"Whilst many challenges and risks lie ahead, there are also many opportunities, and I urge all international partners to lean in and provide additional support to the people," said the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia Catriona Laing.

Regarding current security conditions, Ms. Laing, who also heads the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), raised concerns about terrorist attacks as well as violence, including in Laascaanood, the capital of the Sool region, long disputed between "Somaliland" and Puntland.

Clashes there between "Somaliland" forces and local Dhulbahante clan militia continued at varying levels of intensity, causing significant casualties, destruction of infrastructure and displacement of civilians, according to the UN Secretary-General's latest report on the situation.

To date, there have been 308 civilian casualties, with 36 people killed and 272 injured, she said.

Commending efforts by all parties and the Security Council to bring about a ceasefire, she pledged UNSOM's support towards a

peaceful way forward.

Gains made

Reporting several positive political developments, she highlighted the Government's "significant progress" in advancing key national priorities, including the electoral process, and its leadership in the fight against terrorism.

Efforts have dislodged the terrorist group from parts of the country "but, Al Shabaab remains a significant threat," Ms. Laing cautioned, pointing to a resurgence of attacks, including the deadly incident at the Pearl Beach Hotel in early June.

"The first three months of 2023 also saw the highest number of improvised explosive device attacks since 2017," she said.

More support needed

Ongoing stabilization activities related to Al Shabaab will require support, she said, adding that UNSOM has stepped up its response in this regard.

"The challenge remains the sustainability of these gains," she added.

Efforts to stabilize areas recovered from the terrorist group will require ongoing security, basic services, reconciliation, and long-term political and State-building processes, she said.

Outlining a three-phase transition plan, she said an overriding driver is in the security sector, which must be considered alongside plans for the possible draw-down of the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS)

and the eventual handover of UNSOM to the UN Country Team.

Going forward, she outlined priorities for the rest of 2023, which include a lead role for UNSOM in galvanizing the international community's efforts on stabilizing the country, supporting the State-building process, and resolving the conflict in Laascaanood.

Precarious living conditions

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation remains "precarious," she said. While the current operation against Al Shabaab has contributed to improving security, she said that from January to March, 430,000 people have been displaced by violence and 580,000 people live in areas controlled by non-State armed actors.

In addition, climate shocks are becoming more severe, and women still need appropriate representation in the political, peace, and security fields, she warned.

"Their representation needs to be codified," she said, pointing to Somalia's failure to fulfill its commitment to ensure a 30 per cent quota of women represented in federal elections.

Food insecurity

Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) Cindy McCain, said the violence and instability scarring the country has destroyed much of the infrastructure needed to support food production and distribution.

"Somalia was hauled back from the abyss of famine in 2022 because the international community saw the warning signs flashing red and raced to respond," she said. "But, now we are in danger of losing the precious gains we have made since those dark days last year."

Recalling a recent country visit, she said violence, fear, and starvation "are a daily reality there", with mothers she spoke to recounting entire livestock herds wiped out by drought and terrorist groups recruiting children as young as 11.

Growing emergency

Since the start of 2022, conflict has triggered over one million internal displacements, and climate disasters have fuelled a further 2.1 million displacements over the past three years, she said. The latest food security data show that food insecurity is spiralling across Somalia, with more than 6.6 million people – one third of the population – expected to face crisis or worse levels of hunger, including 40,000 people fighting for survival in famine-like conditions. Even worse, 1.8 million children are expected to suffer acute malnutrition in 2023, she said.

Highlighting an action plan to address the serious and growing emergency, she said collective efforts must ensure safe aid deliveries, with the Security Council leading to secure unimpeded humanitarian access to all vulnerable communities

in Somalia.

Breaking vicious cycles

In addition, food assistance must be matched with investments to rebuild livelihoods, strengthen resilience, and support climate adaptation programmes, she said. She called on Member States to immediately contribute to the country's humanitarian response plan, which is seriously underfunded.

"At WFP, we're being forced to cut back on our life-saving assistance programmes, just when they're needed the most," she said, adding that the agency had, in April, reduced assistance to 3 million from the 4.7 million people it was serving each month.

"Without an immediate cash injection, we will have to cut distribution lists again in July to just 1.8 million per month," she said, emphasizing that with the required funding, WFP will "reverse these life-threatening cuts" and continue supporting the millions who rely on the agency for survival.

She said these "proven solutions" are the only way to finally break the vicious cycle of hunger and poverty.

"We all have to work together to find political solutions to create stability and peace in Somalia," she said. "This is what the exhausted people of Somalia want and need, above all."



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Diaspora

The fruit of the tree planted by the teachers

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- My teachers support as a result and to them done big passion target reason, scientific research work take to go decision I did. This is the goal on the way to me philology sciences candidate, associate professor Nasiba Azatbayevna Jumaniyazova scientific leadership they did.
- Theirs disappointed with each one of the word meaning, literature the so-called from the ocean how stop dial secrets to teach separately to confession deserves. From this except second my mom saying Nasiba my teacher and philology sciences candidate, associate professor Bekposhsha Rahimova my teachers say I can.
- They are together each always both personal and social to me in life need to be advice sparingly they give. My teachers confidence, unlimited love because of one zum fatigue without knowing, I'm heading towards my goals step I'm throwing up.



The fruit of the tree planted by the teachers

Buildings inside the most the eldest school. If so professions inside the most difficult and the eldest is teaching. Master when you say the eye to us happy love the owner and science from its source whole the soul rinsed eloquence owners will come. Theirs trust, love and Thank you, patience with giving knowledge because of today high successes surrounded by flight I am doing 2020 Urgench state university Philology faculty Uzbek language education direction student said honorable to the name deserves has been without acceptance I was done.

This is the gallows to me infinite opportunities the door opened. Under the leadership of our teacher Dilshod Kadamboyevich Gayipov, dean of our faculty, students have been demonstrating their knowledge and potential. My teacher, D.Q. Gayipov always support young people.

Among such young people, the fact that they trusted me and praised Shakhzoda in front of my parents, saying "We believe in Shakhzoda! We have high hopes for her" will give me strength to seek more, set great goals and achieve great success.

My teachers support as a result and to them done big

passion target reason, scientific research work take to go decision I did. This is the goal on the way to me philology sciences candidate, associate professor Nasiba Azatbayevna Jumaniyazova scientific leadership they did.

Theirs disappointed with each one of the word meaning, literature the so-called from the ocean how stop dial secrets to teach separately to confession deserves. From this except second my mom

saying Nasiba my teacher and philology sciences candidate, associate professor Bekposhsha Rahimova my teachers say I can.

They are together each always both personal and social to me in life need to be advice sparingly they give. My teachers confidence, unlimited love because of one zum fatigue without knowing, I'm heading towards my goals step I'm throwing up. Most big of my goals one, myself philology in the di-

rection of by reading stand up, great alloma, word of property sultan Alisher Navoi in the name of state scholarship owner to be was. In this regard to my teachers appeal when I do Luck my teacher, "to me student if you are, sure until the end movement as a scholarship holder be "Can you take it, are you strong? ", no without hesitation, "yes, trust me I'm sorry," he said answer when I gave in my heart something, describe which can-

not be big trust feeling and responsibility I feel That 's it pride it was the same to my goal I got it - that's all me as if congratulating was times past, the state to the scholarship document submit time when it arrives, Bekposhsha my teacher from my hand tight holding, "to you I believe you of course state scholarship because you will you to this you deserve it blessing they gave From my eyes young out to go little the rest, but from my heart pride and pride of my teachers boiling taffeta the reason is youth leaking came out

To my teachers I bow! Finally, that's when I cried expected of the message result announcement done December 22, 2022. It's 10:28 a.m. Exciting moments ... and I Alisher Navoi in the name of state scholarship owner has been I was:

This is mine not my teachers achievement was:

We don't stop we were crying, of course from joy And slowly but happily mixed more true in the voice we whispered, "we made it ! " Yes, we did we were That's it with together in Uzbekistan wanted to the university to the master's degree state grant based on to the student recommendation done I was His work, patience, love, knowledge, and support for to my teachers infinite Thank you and gratitude I will tell you. You guys my teacher no motherless! my heart the most located at the bottom angels! For you still I bow!

Respect your student
Shakhzoda Kuziyeva



The fruit of the tree planted by the teachers

China, U.S. agree to maintain high-level interactions during Blinken's visit

CGTN

The Taiwan question is at the core of China's core interests, the most consequential issue and the most pronounced risk in the China-U.S. relationship, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang said on Sunday during a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing.

During the talks, Qin expounded on China's firm position and raised clear demands on the Taiwan question and other core interests and major concerns. He urged the U.S. side to abide by the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiqués, and truly deliver on its commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence."

Back on track

The Chinese foreign minister said the China-U.S. relationship is at the lowest point since its establishment, which does not serve the fundamental interests of the two peoples or meet the shared expectations of the international community.

China's policy toward the U.S. remains consistent and stable, guided by the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, Qin said. These principles should be jointly upheld, the red line jointly defended and the goal jointly pursued by both sides, he added.

China is committed to building a stable, predictable and constructive relationship with the U.S. and hopes that the U.S. will adopt an objective and rational perception of China, work with China in the same direction, uphold the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and handle unexpected and sporadic events in a calm, professional and rational manner, Qin said.

The two sides should work to stabilize and steer the relations back to the right track, he added.

Candid talks

According to a statement released by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the two sides held candid, in-depth and constructive talks at length on overall bilateral ties and other important issues. They agreed to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the two presidents in Bali, effectively manage differences, and advance dialogue, exchanges and cooperation.

Both countries also agreed to maintain high-level interactions, the statement said. Blinken invited Qin to visit the U.S., and Qin expressed his readiness to make the visit at a mutually convenient time.

Both sides agreed to keep moving forward on consultations regarding the guiding principles of China-U.S. relations and continue advancing consultations through the joint



President Xi Jinping meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing

working group to address specific issues, the statement read.

Both sides agreed to encourage more people-to-people and educational exchanges, and had positive discussions on increasing passenger

flights between the two countries. Both sides welcomed more mutual visits by students, scholars and business people, and agreed to provide support and facilitation to this end. The two sides also exchanged views

on major international and regional issues of mutual interest.

Russia Africa

Russia Africa forum to explore partnerships in development

By Margaret Kalekye

The Russia-Africa forum to share experiences and explore areas of cooperation in urban and regional sustainable development will be held on June 27.

Kenya will be taking part in the two-day event being organized by the UN Association of Russia (UNA-Russia) and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University).

The forum themed, "Sustainable urban future: exchange of experience and Partnerships for common goals" is slated for June 27-28, 2023.

It will be held with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the UN Information Center in Moscow and the International Forum Russia — Africa.

The first day, June 27, will take place in the UN ECA (Conference room 3), in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and online from 11.00 to 14.30 UTC+3 (with light lunch break from 12.30 to 13.00).

The second day, June 28, is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya (online) from 11.00 to 13.00 UTC+3. The possibility of remote participation in the Forum is provided for both days.



The Second Summit and the Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum will be held in St. Petersburg from 26 to 29 July 2023

The Forum is aimed at summarizing the experience and discussing the practical component of cooperation in urban and regional sustainable development.

On the first day of the Forum, presentations and discussions will be dedicated to the development of urban communities and cooperation between regions and cities of Russia and Africa.

High-level representatives of the administrations of Moscow, Syert, Kazan, Samara and Ministries of the Russian Federation, as well as their African colleagues from the African

Union Commission, the Pan-African Youth Union and the UN representatives, are expected to take part as honored speakers and guests.

The second day of the Forum is devoted to trade, economic and humanitarian cooperation, prospects for partnership strengthening between Russia and Africa in the environmental, social, scientific, technical and cultural spheres.

Russia-Africa Summit

Distinguished guests are expected and welcomed from among ministers of the Russian regional gov-

ernments and heads of their international departments, the Russian Export Center, representatives of Russian economic operators in Africa, the management of the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States, as well as specialized UN institutions.

The Forum is held on the eve of the II Russia-Africa Summit and Economic and Humanitarian Forum, scheduled for July 26-29 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The goal of this event is to promote efforts to strengthen comprehensive and equal cooperation between Rus-

sia and African nations across all areas.

Public discussions taking place as part of the event's business programme will deal with the most pressing issues on the Russian-African agenda.

The event will host a large-scale exhibition that will serve as a key communication platform for demonstrating the achievements and the capabilities of the participating countries in the fields of economy, science, ecology and culture.

Kenya scoops 3 awards during Africa Public Service Day celebrations in Zimbabwe

Kenya scooped 3 awards at the 9th edition of the Continental Africa Public Service Day (APSD) celebrations held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The awards were presented during a colourful gala dinner event held on Friday to mark the end of the 2023 biennial APSD themed 'African Continental Free Trade Area requires a fit for purpose Public Administration to succeed'.

The winners include Coast Development Authority which won in the best managed organization category for its innovation in Manrove restoration in sandflat deserts.

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) Mark Maara won the best centred service delivery award for his innovation in

Huduma Kenya, emerged 1st runners up in the best managed organization category.

This year's celebrations saw over 15 countries exhibit various Public Service Delivery Innovations along side participating in symposium on topical issues tied to the theme.



Winners with trophies

AU

AU, WFP collaborate to address root causes of conflicts



The African Union Commission, through the Peace Fund Secretariat, has signed an Agreement with the World Food Programme to scale existing technical and financial support to various peace and security activities in thematic areas of operation under the AU Peace Fund. Under the Agreement, the Peace

Fund Secretariat and WFP jointly identified the areas of strategic engagement to scale activities in early warning, conflict prevention and mediation.

In the latest arrangement, Peace Fund Secretariat and WFP will scale efforts in advocacy on the nexus between conflict and food security as

a call to action to address the root causes of conflict; strengthen institutional support of the Peace Fund Secretariat; enhance collaboration on preventive diplomacy and mediation; share periodic reports on thematic areas; enhance joint resource mobilization; collaborate on engagements on the ongoing review

of the Global Financial Architecture, enhance collaboration with think tanks and Regional Economic Communities on the Peace Fund thematic areas.

Reflecting on the linkage between conflict and development, AU Peace Fund Secretariat Director, Dagmawit Moges underscored the importance of mutual collaboration with development partners to ensure gaps on preventive interventions to avert crisis and instability are strengthened, as well as the deployment of prompt and sustainable responses whenever crisis emerge on the continent.

She stated, "our Agreement today reaffirms the intertwined nature of peace and development. Without peace and security, we cannot have sustainable development and we will not make much progress in poverty eradication. Similarly, without sustainable development we cannot adequately prevent conflicts. By signing this Agreement, it is our commitment to strengthen our efforts and synergy in timely crisis-alleviating measures such as early warning parameters and the deployment of durable conflict resolutions

and post-conflict reconstruction measures when need arises".

The Director placed greater emphasis on silencing the guns in Africa for durable peace and inclusive development to bolster Africa's development goals in order to achieve Agenda 2063.

The African Union Peace Fund is in the final stages of operationalisation. The funds are set to be utilized for the first time in 2023 on several programmes including interventions in the Sudan crisis, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and East African Community Regional Force.

The Supplementary Agreement strengthens the existing partnership between the African Union Commission and WFP in other areas of cooperation including humanitarian affairs, emergency preparedness and response, post-conflict recovery, rehabilitation of infrastructure and economic and social recovery, food security and agriculture as well as the fight against poverty and hunger



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Top UN official for Africa calls for added action to stop piracy's spread

By: Christine Muchira/Release
xxxxxxxxxxxx



IMO The International Maritime Organization (IMO) urges continued sustainable support to the important work of the regional navies and entities within the Yaoundé architecture to protect seafarers and to the operational piracy response, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2634 on piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

Worth Noting:

- “Rapidly addressing the challenges that hamper the full operationalization of the Yaoundé architecture is critical to maintaining current gains,” she cautioned.
- Recent figures already suggest that “incidents are steadily shifting from the waters of West Africa towards the maritime domain of the UN Economic Community of Central African States, she said.
- From 2016 to 2021, the pirate groups in the region altered their patterns, shifting their focus towards “kidnapping for ransom” piracy, according to the UN Secretary-General’s report on piracy in the region.
- A study by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme showed that “kidnapping for ransom” piracy peaked in 2020, with approximately 140 individuals reportedly abducted at sea, the report showed.

International cooperation is making waves in combating piracy in West Africa, but addressing its root causes and ensuring sustainable funding must fully eliminate threat, which is spreading to other regions, a top UN official told the Security Council on Wednesday.

Despite gains made in tackling sea-faring criminal groups, “piracy incidents continue to threaten the safety of maritime traffic in the region,” said Martha Pobe, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations.

Effective deterrents

Since her last briefing on maritime security in November, she said a steady decrease in piracy incidents in the Gulf of Guinea was in large part due to interventions by national authorities and regional and international partners.

Together, these effective deterrents against criminal groups have been buttressed by the ongoing operationalization of the so-called Yaoundé architecture, established in 2013 with the signing of the related Code of Conduct by actors in the

region, she said, noting that four out of five interregional coordination centres are now functioning. Such efforts, including forming joint naval task groups, have enhanced cooperation and information sharing while forging a centralized process for maritime security that bridges national and regional capacity gaps, she said.

Threats shifting waters

However, gaps remain, she cautioned, calling for increased support to fill them. These include such challenges as the lack of appropriate equipment and of sustainable financing to ensure the full operationalization of the Code of Conduct.

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The study revealed that the pirate groups operated indiscriminately, targeting vessels of all types, including fishing vessels, and increased their activities further afield. Several cases at the time were reported beyond 200 nautical miles from shore.

Concerted efforts

Against this backdrop, the number of cases of piracy and armed robbery at sea, including kidnapping for ransom, decreased to 45 in 2021 from 123 in 2020, due to national efforts, the Secretary-General’s report found.

The report noted that deterrence effect was further amplified by the deployment of non-Gulf of Guinea navies, including through the continuous presence of ships

under the European Union Coordinated Maritime Presences operation, from Denmark, France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain, as well as the regular patrols of navies from Brazil, Canada, India, Morocco, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States.

UN assistance

For its part, the UN stands ready to assist, Pobe said. Highlighting several ongoing efforts, she said UNODC is, among other things, providing technical and logistic support for joint patrols.

Together, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) have developed an inter-regional project to conduct a review of the Code of Conduct, which will be critical in galvanizing support for these activities at a time when piracy remains a threat to the Gulf of Guinea region.

Key action areas

Underlining several key areas essential for success in reviewing the Code, she said nations must first update legal frameworks. Meanwhile, enhanced coordination between the Interregional

Centre and partners “remains vital”.

In addition, actors must address the root causes of piracy to eliminate the threat, she said.

“To effectively eliminate the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery at sea, national stakeholders, regional and sub-regional organizations and international partners must also actively seek to address the underlying social, economic and environmental challenges that underpin the recruitment of individuals into maritime criminal networks,” she said. In this regard, it would be important for the review process, when launched, to include a focus on prevention, consider ways of enhancing more participatory community-based engagements in the architecture, and generate sex-disaggregated data on the impact of maritime crime on women, girls, men, and boys to better inform policy options and actions.

“Without traction on this front, overall progress in curbing this menace will be limited,” she warned.

Biden, Modi salute 'defining relationship' as US bets big on India



WASHINGTON, DC - JUNE 23: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (R) and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (L) during a luncheon at the Department of State on June 23, 2023 in Washington, DC. Prime Minister Modi is on a state visit in Washington, DC. Alex Wong/Getty Images/AFP (Photo by ALEX WONG / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / Getty Images via AFP)

Worth Noting:

- Indian-American supporters broke protocol to chant Modi's name during the speech but at least six lawmakers from Biden's Democratic Party boycotted the talk, pointing to Modi's human rights record.
- Biden addressed the concerns lightly, calling religious pluralism a "core principle" for both India and the United States and saying that democratic values "face challenges around the world and in each of our countries."
- "The whole world has a stake in our success," Biden said. "Maintaining our democracies makes us appealing partners."
- Modi, who a decade earlier was the state leader of Gujarat and banned from entering the United States over religious violence, defended his record in a rare open press exchange for the usually scripted prime minister.
- Criticizing those who would question India's democratic character, Modi said, "regardless of caste, creed, religion, gender, there's absolutely no space for discrimination."

US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that the two democracies' partnership would define the next century, as Washington eyes a counterweight to China and brushes off allegations of growing authoritarianism in New Delhi.

The two nations reached major deals on engines for fighter jets, semiconductor investment and space cooperation as Biden rolled out the red carpet to Modi for only the third state visit of his presidency.

With thousands of Indian-Americans chanting his name on the White House's South Lawn, Modi, sporting a flowing white kurta with a sky-blue jacket, walked a red carpet to a gun salute.

"I have long believed that the relationship between the US and India will be one of the most defining relationships of the 21st century," Biden said.

Modi, India's most powerful prime minister in decades, said that the visit brought a "new direction and new energy" to the partnership with the United States.

Later, addressing both chambers of Congress, Modi clearly alluded to US concerns on China as he backed a "free, open and

inclusive Indo-Pacific," a favorite phrase of the United States.

"The dark clouds of coercion and confrontation are casting their shadow in the Indo-Pacific," Modi said.

- Defending record on rights -

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question India's democratic character, Modi said, "regardless of caste, creed, religion, gender, there's absolutely no space for discrimination."

Since taking office in 2014, India has passed a controversial law on citizenship, abrogated the special status of Muslim-majority Kashmir and seen increasing violence against minorities, with a US State Department report pointing to inflammatory rhetoric from members of Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

Modi has also faced criticism for police raids on media outlets and the expulsion from parliament of the opposition leader.

Former president Barack Obama, in an interview with CNN, said that Biden should raise concerns privately with Modi, warning that without protection of minorities, "there is a strong possibility at some point that India starts pulling apart."

- Vegetarian state dinner -

Biden offered full honors to Modi including a gala dinner, with First Lady Jill Biden tapping a celebrated Californian plant-based chef to cook for the strictly vegetarian prime minister.

"Two great nations, two great friends, and two great powers," Biden said in a toast to Modi before both men, who don't drink alcohol, clinked glasses of ginger ale.

Among the nearly 400 guests invited to the evening's candlelit festivities were notable Indian-American business leaders, including Google chief Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Earlier in the day, in an agreement hailed by Modi as landmark, the United States signed off on a technology transfer for engines as India begins producing home-grown fighter jets.

General Electric will have the green light to produce its F414 engines jointly with state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics.

A US official said India would also buy MQ-9B SeaGuardian high-precision armed drones. In 2019, India broke precedent with an airstrike in Pakistani territory against an alleged extremist camp.

Washington hopes a tighter defense relationship will help wean India off Russia, New Delhi's primary military supplier.

In a joint statement, Modi joined Biden in backing the "territorial integrity" of

Ukraine following its invasion by Moscow.

The Biden administration has largely given a pass to India for refusing to join Western sanctions on Russia and instead buying its oil at a discount, seeing a broader alignment with India on the challenge of China and the threat of radical Islamism.

In another agreement, US chip giant Micron will invest \$800 million in a semiconductor assembly and testing plant in India, which is expected to reach \$2.75 billion after contributions from New Delhi.

The United States is looking to stop the flow of high-end chips to China, fearing that the communist state will dominate the next generation of technology, although Micron also recently announced a \$600 million investment in China.

The United States and India also agreed as well to end six disputes before the World Trade Organization and expand cooperation in space, with India joining a US-led initiative to put a human back on the Moon by 2025.

AFP

Sudan crisis threatens to hobble South Sudan's transition: UN mission chief

By: Christine Muchira
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Worth Noting:

- The Sudan crisis, which began when rival militaries clashed in mid-April, has caused a broad range of ripple effects, among them the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in South Sudan, he said.
- The conflict has also strained Government capacities to receive thousands fleeing violence across the northern border and could hobble the economy.
- "Crude oil exports are an economic lifeline," Haysom said. "If interrupted, as recently threatened, [it] could have devastating effects on the South Sudanese economy."
- South Sudanese returnees comprise more than 93 per cent of the 117,000 people entering the country while fleeing the continued fighting in Sudan, he said, adding that the absorption capacity of the Government and humanitarians is under strain, notably in the border town of Renk.



© UNMISS/Peter Bateman South Sudanese refugees are returning home following unrest in Sudan.

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for South Sudan Nicholas Haysom says the cross-border impact of the crisis in Sudan is unfurling along multiple fronts calling for urgent action to ease rising tensions that has already resulted in deadly clashes. "Now is not the time to take our eyes off the ball in South Sudan," Haysom who also heads the UN mission in the country (UNMISS) told the Security Council on Tuesday. "What we can learn from Sudan is how quickly hard-won peace gains can unravel." He added. He said that the Sudan crisis is reducing much-needed bandwidth to focus on South Sudan during its critical transition phase. While commending President Salva Kiir and regional body the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for advancing initiatives to end the Sudan conflict, he said the "timeline of the peace process in South Sudan should not be allowed to become the op-

portunity cost of these efforts".

Rippling effects

The Sudan crisis, which began when rival militaries clashed in mid-April, has caused a broad range of ripple effects, among them the implementation of the Revitalized Peace Agreement in South Sudan, he said. The conflict has also strained Government capacities to receive thousands fleeing violence across the northern border and could hobble the economy. "Crude oil exports are an economic lifeline," Haysom said. "If interrupted, as recently threatened, [it] could have devastating effects on the South Sudanese economy." South Sudanese returnees comprise more than 93 per cent of the 117,000 people entering the country while fleeing the continued fighting in Sudan, he said, adding that the absorption capacity of the Government and humanitarians is under strain, notably in the border town

of Renk.

Deadly clashes

At the same time, these factors are exacerbating existing triggers and drivers of conflict across South Sudan, including in Renk and Malakal, amid increased competition over scarce resources, economic hardship, pre-existing communal tensions, and the presence of firearms, he said, adding that two violent deaths had triggered deadly clashes with armed youth groups. At the authorities' request, humanitarians have temporarily suspended the movement to Malakal of new arrivals from Sudan, he said. For its part, the UN mission's prevention plan includes intensified patrols and reinvigorating its presence on the ground, he said.

'Patchwork of conflict'

"The flare up of tensions in Malakal only adds to the much wider patchwork of intercommunal and subnational conflict that the [UN] Mission is grappling with,"

he said, highlighting such human rights violations as extrajudicial killings.

After four years of incessant rainfall, an expected drought can threaten food security, he said, condemning attacks on humanitarians and the recent theft of seven tonnes of supplies from the World Food Programme (WFP) on the ground. With needs increasing and resources dwindling, humanitarian actors have had to redirect funding to address the influx of South Sudanese returnees who are fleeing the violence in Sudan, he said, noting that only one third of the current humanitarian response plan is funded.

Politics and progress

"As it stands today, South Sudan is not ready to roll out an electoral process," he said, adding that all stakeholders recognizing the urgent need to address the issue. "We also believe that with a united effort amongst all parties, it may be possible for South Sudan to make up

the gap.

The constitution-making process is 10 months behind schedule and the election is nine months behind, he said.

As such, he urged the relevant stakeholders to "double-down" on passing the National Elections Act in Parliament and operationalize the National Elections Commission, "so that the South Sudanese people can begin to decide the form and content of their new constitution and electoral system". However, no electoral process can be credible and successful without adequate civic and political space for all citizens to participate in it, and a great deal needs to be done in this regard, he added.

"The challenges are many in South Sudan, but I am hopeful that with cooperation, partnership, and sustained leadership, a positive change in the lives of the South Sudanese people can be achieved," he said.