

Questions are being asked: If someone is sent to Rwanda, who will assess their asylum claim?

UK Court

Sending asylum seekers to Rwanda is a policy devised by the UK Government :



Unlawful - UK Court rules; Tories out to 'score cheap political points' says the public:

BIG BLOW TO DEFIANT SUNAK AND SUELLA AS BRITAIN'S BRUTAL RWANDA REFUGEE DEPORTATION POLICY BACKFIRES

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
shamlalpur4@gmail.com



The contentious Rwanda asylum agreement signed on April 14, 2022, between former Home Secretary Priti Patel and Rwanda Foreign Minister Vincent Biruta in Kigali. Photo Courtesy

The United Kingdom's controversial plans to deport some asylum seekers to the landlocked Central Eastern African country Rwanda were dealt a big blow last week, 29 June, when the three judges at the Court of Appeal in London ruled the move unlawful. They reversed the High Court's decision on 19 December 2022 that the plan was lawful and the UK could send unwanted asylum seekers to Rwanda.

This week's decision will likely be appealed, but no asylum seekers can be sent to Rwanda. It can apply to anyone who came to the UK without a visa

or other permission to enter the country from 1 January 2022.

This judgement is a major blow to the UK ministers' controversial immigration policies that even humanitarian bodies have roundly condemned, saying the Government wants to score cheap political points by throttling people's freedom and rights. The plan has already cost at least £120 million and would cost a further £169,000 per person deported (compared with the £106,000 per person it costs to house an asylum seeker in the UK). With legal costs now stacking up, the Rwanda plan is quickly becoming very expensive,

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Kenya-Congo ties will broaden economic opportunities

Kenya and Congo have signed bilateral agreements

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Develop Kiswahili And Other African Languages To Make Them Globally Competitive

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All set for Russia-Africa second summit

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Adequate Education And Experience Should Give Someone Humility

Ukraine Backpage
Ukraine's Zelenskyy brings home Azovstal commanders from Turkey



Ugandans urged to learn and speak Kiswahili

Ugandans have been called upon to learn and Kiswahili as part of efforts to promote regional integration and economic growth in East Africa. Making the call, Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community (EAC) Affairs, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, was

a widely spoken language that could be utilised to unite not just East Africa but the entire African continent, adding that Ugandans should therefore embrace it as an African language.

Kadaga said that Kiswahili had earned a bad reputation partly be-

cause it was used in pre-colonial times by slave traders from the East African Coast.

Kadaga said that the Government of Uganda was currently working on a roadmap aimed at promoting the use of Kiswahili in the country even and added that the recruitment of

Kiswahili teachers would be a key component in the roadmap.

The 1st Deputy Prime Minister disclosed that currently Kiswahili was

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Time

By: Toshturdiyev Nurbek
xxxxxxxxxxxxxWorth
Noting:

- The Rwanda plan, which humanitarian bodies have slammed as inhuman, has derailed British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's plans to control immigration, hitting the buffers for now.
- This policy is based on his five priority pledges made at the beginning of the year, including stopping illegals entering the country in small boats used by people traffickers.
- The three Appeal Court judges overturned a high court decision that previously ruled that Rwanda could be considered a safe third country to send 'unwanted' refugees. At the same time, the UK's Home Office decided the fate of other possible cases - to admit or deport them.
- Though the decision last week is a massive blow to the political integrity of Prime Minister Sunak and his Home Secretary, the controversial Suella Braverman's latest judgement left them a small ray of hope - an appeal.



Time

Time is our life. Time is not separate from our life, the connection between time and life is very close, like the connection between the sun and its rays, tree and fruit, eye and sight. There is no doubt that humans, let alone other creatures, need time and space. To waste time is to waste our lives, whose time cannot be measured and whose value cannot be measured. Time is my life. I cannot separate time and it from me. Looking back on my twenty years, which is not even a quarter of a century old, makes me a little old. I learned one thing: time makes everything that seems new to us old. He gives the judgment of the joy and sorrow he gives, he does the treatment himself. We can do anything. We

can make some changes. Not just time. We can never influence time.

Everyone knows that a person is a guest on our planet only once. Chingiz Aitmatov, a world jurist, concluded: "Life is a tragedy by its very nature, as soon as a person opens his eyes, he gradually approaches death." Man's long life in this world is but a moment compared to the boundless and infinite time-measure of great creation. If you look at life from beginning to end, the golden age of human life, fruitful, meaningful, conscious life is even short. There is a lot of water on earth, and if you take away twenty years of childhood and forty years of a person who has made a face, his meaningful life, the golden age, will be only for-

ty years. Whether the golden age is long or short, the intellectuals who glorified it like gold and were able to use it at their peak will leave an indelible mark behind them, and the intellectuals who spend their lives as mindless creatures and idiots will not be erased. capable of fulfilling human and civil duties.

Analyzing the world in terms of time and life, based on the strengths and weaknesses of people's perception of time, people can be divided into two large groups: those who value time and those who do not value time. First, those who value time. Such people race against time. They have a clear goal and purpose prepared in advance for any task, a project plan to achieve it, a firm require-

ment and a strong will. They set aside the day and the hour, count the minutes and seconds, and strive to act accordingly. They are in a hurry to quickly achieve their goal, whether they are lying down, standing up, walking or sitting, they are determined and think about it. All their work is done on time based on a predetermined plan. They are hardworking, simple, thrifty in everyday life and spend a lot of money. They do not engage in meaningless, meaningless activities that deceive themselves and waste time. His life is always orderly and organized. Sometimes those who value time are criticized for being too busy, needlessly torturing themselves, and even unhealthy. Due to the constant zeal of those who

value time, a mountain of income, many results appear as the days go by, and a lazy person who does not value time is subject to criticism, to see, to the day. - Today. A person who appreciates time, analyzes various things according to the law of step-by-step development, takes the first step towards the desired peak with great confidence and determination, and climbs step by step towards the desired peak. , who vowed not to surrender to him. any difficulties encountered there. He is a lazy person who does not value that time, shows intolerance to the difficulties of his work, and avoids unnecessary tasks that leave the work in the middle. After all, lazy people who don't value time lose, those who value time lose, and those who value time win and leave an indelible mark. Those who value time in their limited life leave behind an infinite wealth, the last ones are admired and never leave their mouths, an exemplary human value, a great teaching duty.

Everyone in the monastery knows that guests come to this world only once. But it is not possible for all mankind to appreciate this wonderful event that happened once and live a meaningful life. Especially when you're young, you feel like you're immortal, that life is a series of endless days, and it's deceiving you. The image looks timeless and durable. That is why a person should always study, work hard, engage in various researches, try to be as busy as possible in areas where development is necessary, compete with time, months, days, even hours and minutes. need strive to win. I think this is a noble quality that every intelligent, intelligent person should possess.

Reach Editorial Team on:

diasporaglobalnews@yahoo.com / diasporaglobalnews@gmail.com

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Diaspora Times Global

Editor's Desk



Group Executive Chairman
M. Danson
Shashi Court, Ring Rd, Westlands
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Kenya.
Tel/WhatsApp: +254720 918 828
Email: dan@mtkenyatimes.co.ke
Adverts: ads@mtkenyatimes.co.ke



Associate publisher & Senior
Editor UK & G. Britain
Shamlal Puri, London
E: media@adlinkinternational.com
(advertising inquiries only)
shamlalpur14@gmail.com
(editorial)
Phone 0044 330 606 1438.
WhatsApp 00447432220184



Senior Editor Botswana & S.
Paula.O.M Otukile
Africa Plot 15215, Tshikinyega,
Mahalapye, Botswana
P.O Box 20392 Mahalapye, Botswana
Tel/WhatsApp:
+267 77 458 029
Email: paula200500293@
gmail.com



Senior Editor India & Asia
Sakshi Agrawal
10, Balughat Main Road,
Near Shubham Poultry Farm,
Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India. Pin
Code: 842001
Tel/WhatsApp: +91 74882 30902
Email: agrawalsakshi684@
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Israel

Israeli protests reignite as Netanyahu pushes new justice bill

Demonstrators are back on the streets after Netanyahu relaunched his quest to control the country's judiciary.

Worth Noting:

- Israeli media estimated the turnout at Saturday's protest in Tel Aviv – the 27th since the proposed changes were unveiled in January – at 150,000, ahead of a vote on Monday in parliament on a key provision of the proposed overhaul.
- “We must act against what the Netanyahu government is doing to our country and to the Israeli dream,” historian Yuval Noah Harari told the rally.
- “If the Netanyahu government does not stop, it will soon learn what happens when we get angry,” he said.

Tens of thousands of Israeli protesters have demonstrated in Tel Aviv and other cities against proposed changes to the judicial system they say could mean a more authoritarian government. Demonstrators have kept up the pressure with weekly rallies against the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned to power in December at the head of a coalition with ultra-Orthodox Jewish and extreme-right allies. Israeli media estimated the turnout at Saturday's protest in Tel Aviv – the 27th since the proposed changes were unveiled in January – at 150,000, ahead of a vote on Monday in parliament on a key provision of the proposed overhaul. “We must act against what the Netanyahu government is doing to our country and to the Israeli dream,” historian Yuval Noah Harari told the rally. “If the Netanyahu government does not stop, it will soon learn what happens when we get angry,” he said. Police used water cannon to disperse some 100 demonstrators who blocked a main highway in the coastal city, the AFP news agency said. The government argues that the judicial changes, which critics say would give politicians more power over the courts, are necessary to ensure a better balance of power.

Netanyahu renews his bid. The protests subsided a little since late March when Netanyahu, under pressure at home and abroad, suspended the plan for compromise talks with opposition parties meant to reach a broad agreement over judicial changes. However, deeming the talks pointless last month, Netanyahu relaunched his government's quest to control what it sees as an overreaching, left-leaning and elitist Supreme Court, causing the renewed protests. Netanyahu claims the new proposals are more moderate than the original. Monday will see the first reading of a bill aimed at excluding the judiciary's right to rule on the “reasonableness” of government decisions. One of its potential effects would be on the appointment of ministers. In January, Netanyahu was forced to dismiss cabinet member Aryeh Deri after intervention by the Supreme Court over a previous tax evasion conviction. Organisers have announced a day of protest for Tuesday. The government's drive to overhaul the judiciary has stirred fears for Israel's democratic health and dented the economy, with the shekel falling more than 5 per cent since it began.

Source: News Agencies



Demonstrators block a highway during protests against the Israeli government's judicial plan [Jack Guez/AFP]



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Contact Information

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Lawyers want victims priority over war lords in the DRC conflict

As the conflict in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo intensifies and more people are killed by the country's atrocities, Collectif of Lawyers, a group of attorneys representing the Hema of Ituri Province, the Banyamulenge of South Kivu Province, and the Tutsi of North Kivu Province in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, has criticised the Congolese army for failing to step in and ensure the safety of its citizens.

During a seminar that was immersed in controversy, one of the collectif's solicitors, Benard Maingain, said, "We don't ask for declarations; we want action; they have to give a guarantee of peace and security for each civil person, and our victims have rights to peace and security," the victims' harrowing accounts of the atrocities they endured at the hands of the rebels were accompanied by a dismal atmosphere.

The three-day seminar will feature testimonies from the victims who will be recorded and given to the International Criminal Court. It was held in Nairobi because of its proximity to the victims and because Kenya has been a major player in peace negotiations in the DRC.

Due to the constant politicisation of the conflict and its effects on the Congolese people, the conference also aims to give the victims a platform to share their stories and to inform the world of the horrors that take place there. According to Jean



Collectif of Lawyers representing the victims from left : Benard Maingain and Jean Paul Shaka

Paul Shaka, a member of the New York bar, participants in the armed organisations are responsible for the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Jean went on to say that victims should be the focus of the Congo peace conference rather than armed groups, and their voices should be heard and given a chance to be heard. "It is without a doubt acceptable to bring people with blood on

their hands, house them here, and pay them while they wreck havoc back home." As a result, it has become necessary to hear from the victims about their experiences.

The attorneys have also urged the UN general secretary to look into the behaviour of the During massacres, the MONUSCO stabilisation mission of the United Nations. MONUSCO has been accused of being complacent recently, with lo-

cal authorities charging that despite being a part of the UN peacekeeping force, it had done little to affect the country's protracted civil war.

In addition to lawyers from Brussels and the New York City Bar Association, the Collectif of Lawyers is made up of lawyers who are members of the bar associations in Bunia, Goma, Bukavu, and Kinshasa. The lawyers' pursuit of justice for the war victims began three years ago when a group

from Banyamulenge requested legal assistance.

The Collectif observes that the voices of the victims of these atrocities are sometimes disregarded or even unheard, which is why they are often . The victims are now hoping that they will find justice and be restored.

KBC Digital

Germany

Germany reaffirms support for the Morocco-Sahara autonomous plan

The two nations also reaffirmed their support for Staffan de Mistura, the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, and his initiatives to advance the political process in accordance with the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

Germany reaffirmed its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for the Sahara on Thursday, describing it as a "serious and credible" attempt by the Kingdom and a "very good basis for a solution accepted by the parties".

The head of German diplomacy, Annalena Baerbock, reiterated Germany's "long-standing support for the UN-led process for a realistic, pragmatic, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution" following her meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita, who was in Berlin on a working visit.

The two ministers restated their shared stance on this occasion in favour of the "exclusivity" of the UN in the political process, as well as their support for the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions, which have noted the role and duty of the parties in attempting to reach a rea-

sonable, practical, and long-lasting political agreement based on compromise.

The two nations also reaffirmed their support for Staffan de Mistura, the personal envoy of the UN secretary general, and his initiatives to advance the political process in accordance with the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

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The head of German diplomacy, Annalena Baerbock meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Moroccan Expatriates, Nasser Bourita



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Motivation

Adequate Education And Experience Should Give Someone Humility

By: N. George
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

- Those with good mastery of the tasks they do are always able to remain in charge at all times without need for consultation.
- They are able to respond to various questions regarding their work in a good way so they do not become hostile to anyone who is trying to query their mode of operation.
- The great mastery help them to correctly assess the level of understanding of other people who they are dealing with in a certain subject hence be able to rate and support others to develop deeper understanding of the matter making them to be friendly to other people as there is nothing about them in regard to the subject they can fear.

It's an universal law intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility. Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn.

A Greek philosopher Plato said that empty vessels makes the loudest sound meaning that people who talk a lot about their knowledge, talent or experience are often not as knowledgeable, talented or experienced as they claim to be.

When a container is half empty or having some empty spaces it becomes difficult to carry especially if what is within it is moving even when the content is in

liquid form for example if you carry ten litres of water in a twenty litres jerrican on your back the water will be moving sideways, you will be unstable even if you transport such liquid with a lorry with the container being half empty the lorry will be unstable. A similar case happens to those people with little knowledge it challenges most of them in dealing with issues regarding the subject that they are not well conversant with.

Those people who doubt their knowledge has a hard time trying to prove the much they know. The big question to them is whether those around them are aware about their level of knowledge. In an attempt

to prove to people that you have a lot of knowledge of the subject people try to exaggerate whatever little they have.

The ones with limited knowledge about a certain subject when put in charge majority of them have fear that they may be overshadowed by their juniors so they keep suspecting their juniors or trying to micromanage the processes. What troubles them is their inability to verify whether the work done or going on is done through the correct process.

Those with good mastery of the tasks they do are always able to remain in charge at all times without need for consultation.

They are able to respond to various questions regarding their work in a good way so they do not become hostile to anyone who is trying to query their mode of operation.

The great mastery help them to correctly assess the level of understanding of other people who they are dealing with in a certain subject hence be able to rate and support others to develop deeper understanding of the matter making them to be friendly to other people as there is nothing about them in regard to the subject they can fear.

Thorough understanding of a subject helps one to know what is required to have such an accomplishment. He is

able to respect other people who have taken similar steps to attain the standards he has so he will have a good understanding of them.

Knowing that you have knowledge on a certain subject leaves you with no doubt hence no need to prove that you know. This will help you to come up with ideas of how to handle any case that is presented to you in the best possible way without need to exaggerate or feel belittled.

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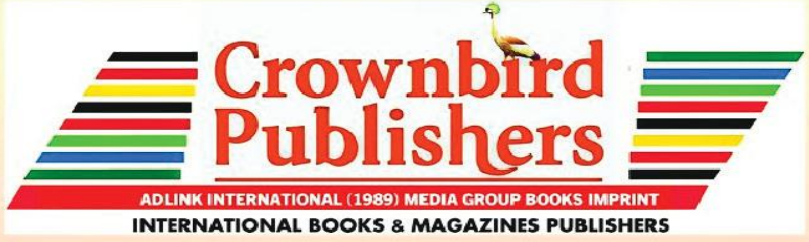
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Diaspora News

Unlawful - UK Court rules; Tories out to 'score cheap political points' says the public:**BIG BLOW TO DEFIANT SUNAK AND SUELLA AS BRITAIN'S BRUTAL RWANDA REFUGEE DEPORTATION POLICY BACKFIRES**

By: Sham Lal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpur14@gmail.com

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Worth Noting:

- The Rwanda plan, which humanitarian bodies have slammed as inhuman, has derailed British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's plans to control immigration, hitting the buffers for now.
- This policy is based on his five priority pledges made at the beginning of the year, including stopping illegals entering the country in small boats used by people traffickers.
- The three Appeal Court judges overturned a high court decision that previously ruled that Rwanda could be considered a safe third country to send 'unwanted' refugees. At the same time, the UK's Home Office decided the fate of other possible cases - to admit or deport them.
- Though the decision last week is a massive blow to the political integrity of Prime Minister Sunak and his Home Secretary, the controversial Suella Braverman's latest judgement left them a small ray of hope - an appeal.

hitting the UK taxpayers already struggling for survival.

The escalating cost is a testimony to the Government's stubbornness in pursuing this plan despite the obvious cost implications when better options are available in the UK. The final analysis will not augur well for the ruling Conservative Party, which gives somewhat cynical priority to Sunak's wish horse.

A considerable section of the indigenous Britons committed Christians, who believe in compassion, oppose the Government's 'inhuman' approach to resolving the country's immigration problems. They could vote with their feet and reject the Conservatives at the next General Election.

The Government's refugee policy suits radical right-wingers and White racist supremacists who secretly wish to remove all non-white people. The country's race relations laws stop them from coming out in the open. They know the UK will stop functioning if these former migrants, now in cushy lifeline jobs, withdraw their labour only for a month.

A Labour Party supporter said while it is the UK's right to scrutinise migrant applications, it beggars belief when they refuse to consider better economic measures are available in the country. These funds could, for example, be used to fund ailing services such as the National Health Service, which is begging for the budget to keep it functioning or help with the cost of living crisis. The Rwanda plan, which humanitarian bodies have slammed as inhuman, has derailed British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's plans to control immigration, hitting the buffers for now.

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week is a massive blow to the political integrity of Prime Minister Sunak and his Home Secretary, the controversial Suella Braverman's latest judgement left them a small ray of hope - an appeal.

"By a majority, this Court allows the appeal on the issue of whether Rwanda is a safe third country. It unambiguously dismisses the other grounds," the ruling states.

Undoubtedly, the Appeal Court judgement shocked the Sunak Government, shaking it to the core. However, still smarting from the blow, a defiant Rishi Sunak retorted, albeit diplomatically, that he "fundamentally disagrees" with the legal ruling on their Rwandan deportation scheme and that the Government would take its case to the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the Appeal Court decision.

The Appeal Court Judges noted that sending asylum seekers to Rwanda would breach the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), of which the UK is still a signatory, even though it has parted from the European Union,

The European Convention on Human Rights is an international treaty that the Member States of the Council of Europe have signed, including the UK, even after Brexit.

Brexit has no automatic impact on the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA 1998) or the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) provided for by the HRA 1998. It is an entirely separate body from the Council of Europe. Many unfamiliar with UK politics will ask: What exactly is the Rwanda policy?

The Government of then Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a new migration plan on 14 April 2022. To be overseen by the then Home Secretary Priti Patel, whose family migrated to the UK from Uganda after fleeing to the UK from the despotic military leader Idi Amin's regime.

The plan could see some people who entered the UK without a visa or other permission being sent to Rwanda with no right to return to British shores.

Sending asylum seekers to Rwanda is a policy devised by the UK Government as a new plan for immigration management. It seeks to reduce the number of people



Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel initiated the Rwanda asylum agreement.



To add mileage to the Rwanda asylum programme Boris Johnson flew to Kigali where he met President Paul Kagame.

seeking asylum in the UK. Boris was forced to resign during the Partygate sleaze. Priti Patel, his ardent supporter, also lost her job. Rishi Sunak inherited the Rwanda policy, giving the charge to his Home Secretary Suella Braverman, fast gaining a reputation for her rottweiler type of politics. Sunak and Suella have doggedly fought to keep the plan alive despite legal setbacks making removing boat people part of his pledges to control immigration. Mike Adamson, British Red Cross chief executive, said the Rwanda plan had caused distress and anxiety to people and their families indirectly affected, "Outsourcing our asylum obligations should play no part in the UK's refugee system. We are hearing directly from many people about the

MORE

PEOPLE WITH NO RIGHT TO BE HERE

REMOVED

Stark reminder of the UK's plans to beef up their Immigration policy and block unwanted migrants.

Contd Page 11.

Diaspora News

Unlawful - UK Court rules; Tories out to 'score cheap political points' says the public:**BIG BLOW TO DEFIANT SUNAK AND SUELLA AS BRITAIN'S BRUTAL RWANDA REFUGEE DEPORTATION POLICY BACKFIRES**

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpur14@gmail.com

Contd from Page 10

Worth Noting:

- The Rwanda plan, which humanitarian bodies have slammed as inhuman, has derailed British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's plans to control immigration, hitting the buffers for now.
- This policy is based on his five priority pledges made at the beginning of the year, including stopping illegals entering the country in small boats used by people traffickers.
- The three Appeal Court judges overturned a high court decision that previously ruled that Rwanda could be considered a safe third country to send 'unwanted' refugees. At the same time, the UK's Home Office decided the fate of other possible cases - to admit or deport them.
- Though the decision last week is a massive blow to the political integrity of Prime Minister Sunak and his Home Secretary, the controversial Suella Braverman's latest judgement left them a small ray of hope - an appeal.

distress and anxiety recent announcements have provoked. Even though they may not directly impact them, this policy has greatly impacted the men, women, and children seeking safety here.

"It also comes at a huge cost to the taxpayer and will do little to prevent people from risking their lives to flee from war, violence, and persecution. Again and again, we hear from people that they have no prior knowledge of the UK's asylum system, so making it harsher will do nothing to stop them from seeking safety on our shores.

"People come here for reasons we can all understand, like wanting to be reunited with loved ones or because they speak the language. Some have no choice at all, as smugglers choose their destination for them.

"We want to work with the Government to create a fairer, more compassionate, and effective system. As a nation, we should provide alternatives to dangerous journeys, improve decision-making to reduce the backlog of applications and ensure that people are treated with dignity and respect throughout the process."

Questions are being asked: If someone is sent to Rwanda, who will assess their asylum claim?

The Red Cross says, "People seeking asylum sent to Rwanda will have their asylum claims assessed by the Rwandan Government. People would not be going through the UK's asylum process in another country and would not be able to return to the UK. Instead, they would be permitted to live in Rwanda."

Human rights bodies such as the London-based Liberty have slammed the 2023 Immigration Bill, known as the Refugee Ban Bill, calling it an assault on human rights that will put people's lives at risk and allow the Government to abuse rights with impunity. The Rwanda policy is a plank of this Bill. "This Bill will violate the human rights of people needing safety and protection. Give the Home Secretary of the day unprecedented powers to make laws and life-changing decisions, evading Parliamentary scrutiny and giving the Government a free pass to commit human rights abuses, re-



Seeking a new home... These boat people flee their countries for a new life in Britain, risking their lives only to be booted out to Rwanda.

moving vital methods for people to challenge them and seek justice." It said in a statement in London.

Liberty warned that the public should be worried about the consequences of this law.

"The Bill deliberately breaches international and domestic law, from the UN Refugee Convention to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). It will put lives at risk of extreme harm by removing fundamental human rights from refugees, migrants and victims of slavery and human trafficking.

"It will severely limit the ability for people to challenge detention and to appeal deportation decisions. It will grant the Home Secretary the power to detain people anywhere and whenever they consider appropriate.

A spokesperson said, "It will give the Home Secretary the power to overrule 'interim measures' by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) - a tool which is only used by the Court in extreme cases to place a temporary stop on an action likely to produce a significant breach of human rights to allow time for a full judgment to take place. It will also give the Home Secretary the sole power to decide whether a threshold for 'serious and irreversible harm' has been met when deporting/detaining people, a term intentionally not defined in the Bill."

"This Bill breaks multiple domestic and international laws and gives free rein to the Government to commit widespread human rights abuses. It is a clear power grab from the Government to do what it wants without being held accountable by the people, the courts or Parliament.

"This is a cruel, reckless and desperate move from a government willing to rip up ev-



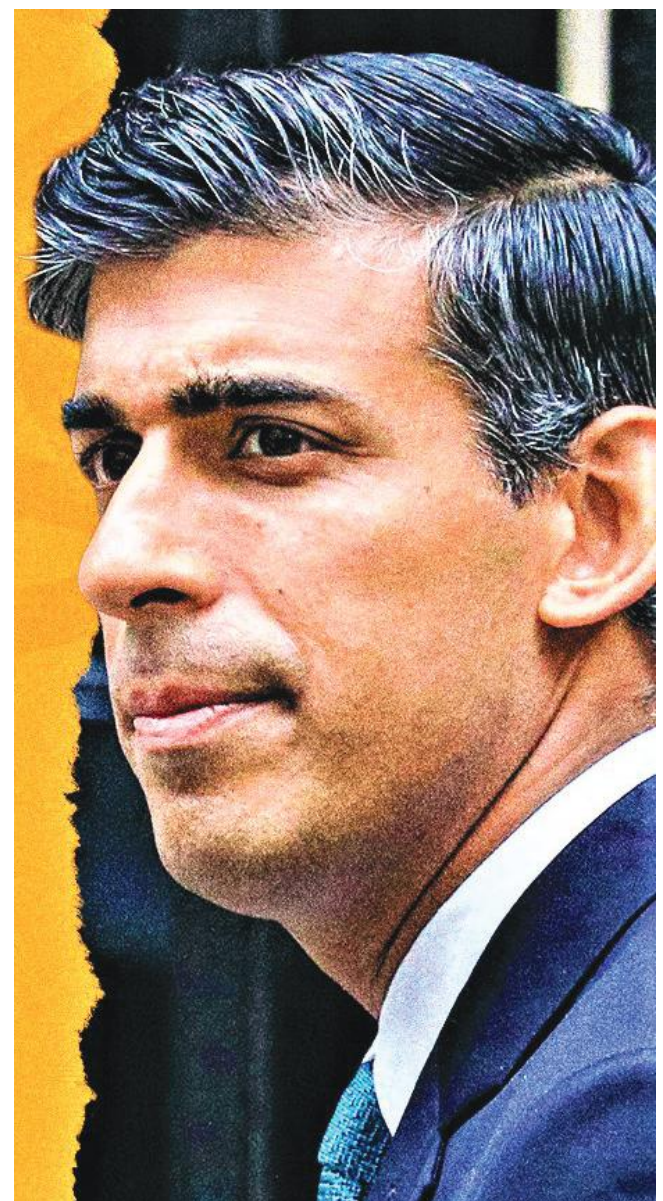
Rwanda's shame... A bloody reminder of the nation's recent past. A collection of human skulls, part of a museum exhibit near Kigali about the country's genocide. Photo Fanny Schertzer.

everyone's rights and freedoms for cheap political points.

"In creating a Bill, it knows will break the law, the Government is knowingly putting thousands of lives at extreme risk. The Bill will remove vital protections for refugees and victims of human trafficking. It will tear families and communities apart, and it'll lead to more children and vulnerable people being kept in detention.

It warned that The Government is deliberately setting itself up to clash with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR or ECtHR). Observers are questioning Rwanda's credentials in receiving these refugees from the UK.

None.
I agree with that assertion. For someone who has covered Rwanda intensely over a long period and witnessed that tiny country's troubled and bloody history from close quarters, Rwanda is unsafe for those fleeing violence from their homelands only to end up in a place



Fighting on...Prime Minister Rishi Sunak inherited the Rwanda asylum programme and is determined to see it through...whatever it takes, even court battles.

Contd Page 13.

Kenya-Congo Ties Will Broaden Economic Opportunities

By: PCS

Kenya and the Republic of the Congo have signed comprehensive bilateral agreements aimed at expanding their economic welfare.

The more than 18 agreements include partnerships in trade and investment, energy, ICT, transport, security, education, tourism, culture, agriculture, the blue economy, among others.

President William Ruto said Kenya and Congo have agreed to abolish visa restrictions to ease people movement.

He noted that the move will enhance integration and boost trade, adding that Kenya was working towards restoring direct flights between Nairobi and Brazzaville.

He made the remarks on Saturday at the Palais du Peuple in Brazzaville during a media briefing alongside his host President Denis Sassou N'Guesso.

President Ruto committed to fast-track the opening of a resident diplomatic mission in Brazzaville.

He said joint infrastructure development will significantly improve the region's connectivity and boost investment.

He cited the ongoing infrastructure project seeking to connect Mombasa and Pointe Noire through road, rail and water.

He told the media that Kenya and

Congo will continue cooperating under the AU and IGAD frameworks to restore peace and stability in the Horn of Africa and the Eastern DRC.

"We emphasise the need to maintain peace, security and stability within the region as a prerequisite for development," he said.

President Ruto said Kenya and Congo have also agreed to take common stands at the global levels on issues affecting the people of the two nations.

He cited the need to reform the United Nations and other multilateral organisations to make them more representative, accountable and responsive to geopolitical realities.

He said the two nations have also resolved to partner in transforming climate action into green, climate-positive growth.

The President said the two countries are committed to leveraging on the African Free Continental Trade Area to grow trade whose potential is yet to be exploited.

"We have plenty of room to expand the scale, size and value of commercial activities between our nations," he maintained.

The President argued that Kenya and Congo will work together to confront food insecurity in the region.

"We can make steady progress to-



President William Ruto and President Denis Sassou N'Guesso

wards food stability."

Earlier, President Ruto presided over a business forum in Brazzaville that brought together Kenyan and Congolese investors.

"We will establish a conducive environment where entrepreneurs

can freely invest under the African Free Continental Trade Area framework," he told the meeting.

On his part, President N'Guesso said Congo will play its part towards the realisation of the signed agreements. He said Congo is committed to en-

hancing infra-African trade.

"We are going to implement this agreement for the benefit of the people."

International Financial Systems

Africa leaders, parliaments must speak in unison against flawed international financial systems

By: PCS

President William Ruto has asked African leaders and Parliaments to champion the continent's development agenda.

He asked them to implement policies and legislations that will unlock Africa's

potential and create opportunities for its people.

The President said Africa has the resources and opportunities necessary to drive a clean, just, and inclusive prosperity here and across the world.

This, he explained, will include infrastructure development, elimination of visa and trade barriers in order to stimulate free trade.

"It is the right time to engage Africa's leaders for the purpose of mobilising a firm African position on issues that are directly connected with our collective aspirations," he said.

The President made the remarks on Friday during a joint session of the Congolese Parliament in Brazzaville, where he is in a two-day state visit.

He noted that African leaders must speak with one voice and called for collective climate action on a global



President William Ruto (Centre) during a joint session of the Congolese Parliament in Brazzaville

scale.

The Head of State argued that the leaders must advocate for reforms in the multinational financial institutions to address the debt crisis in

the continent.

President Ruto added that it was unfortunate that African countries have to choose between their development needs and climate action.

"It is, therefore, clear that if we do not solve the debt issue, it will be impossible to address the climate crisis."

He was received by President Denis

Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo.

Diaspora News

Unlawful - UK Court rules; Tories out to 'score cheap political points' says the public:**BIG BLOW TO DEFIANT SUNAK AND SUELLA AS BRITAIN'S BRUTAL RWANDA REFUGEE DEPORTATION POLICY BACKFIRES**

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpur14@gmail.com

Contd from Page 11

Worth Noting:

- Mike Adamson, British Red Cross chief executive, said the Rwanda plan had caused distress and anxiety to people and their families indirectly affected,
- "Outsourcing our asylum obligations should play no part in the UK's refugee system. We are hearing directly from many people about the distress and anxiety recent announcements have provoked. Even though they may not directly impact them, this policy has greatly impacted the men, women, and children seeking safety here.
- "It also comes at a huge cost to the taxpayer and will do little to prevent people from risking their lives to flee from war, violence, and persecution. Again and again, we hear from people that they have no prior knowledge of the UK's asylum system, so making it harsher will do nothing to stop them from seeking safety on our shores.

where peace is constantly threatened.

This 10,169 sq mile landlocked country lies in the Great Rift Valley of central Africa, bordering Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its capital is Kigali. All the countries except Tanzania have had a brutal history of civil war and bloodshed.

Of particular importance to us is the bloody history of Rwanda. Democracy is a rare commodity in that country. Today it has an authoritarian government under the guise of a Unitary Presidential Republic.

It ranks among the lowest in the international measurement of official transparency.

It had a blood-curdling ethnic war involving the controlling tribes of Banyarwanda, the main ethnic group, Hutu, the minority Tutsi and the tiny population of Twa or Pygmies.

Without delving into its long colonial history with German and Belgian rule, the UK has never ruled Rwanda, though it has been a Commonwealth country since 2009; the relevant part is the bloody tribal civil war in which more than half a million Rwandan Tutsis were massacred.

Scars of the 1990 Rwandan Civil War are still fresh in the minds of the present generation, Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a Tutsi tribe rebel group, invaded north Rwanda from Uganda, condemning the Hutu-dominated Government in Kigali for its authoritarian rule and mistreatment of the Tutsis.

There was a brief lull after a three-year war when a peace agreement was signed between the insurgents and the Government on 4 August 1993, brokered jointly by the Organisation of African Unity, the continental grouping of African nations and the United Nations.

That peace was short-lived when, on 6 April 1994, the Presidential plane carrying the Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana and his neighbouring Burundi counterpart President Cyprien Ntaryamira, was shot down as it flew towards Kigali's main airport, killing both leaders.

Hutus blamed the Rwandan Patriotic Front insurgents for this assassination, although this claim was con-

tentious.

The Hutus and Tutsi have a historical enmity going back to colonial days, manifesting into hatred leading to bloody skirmishes and battles. There was a civil war in the 1980s also.

The political assassinations were a catalyst for the Rwandan genocide in which Tutsis were primarily targeted, and moderate Hutus also were killed.

The 100-day mass murder of these communities is estimated to have taken the lives of 491,000 to 800,000 innocent men, women and children, but scholars say there were 500,000 and 662,000 Tutsi deaths.

Those behind this mass murder were members of the Hutu-ruled Government led by the fiery Theoneste Bagasora on the one side, and the Intrahamwe factions led by Robert Kajuga, the Impuzamugambu by Jean-Bosco Barayagwiza and Hassan Ngeze.

There is a monument to the 1994 genocide at the Nyamata Genocide Memorial Church, some 30 km from Kigali, where the remains of 50,000 victims of the war are buried. Their skulls are displayed for the public to see. It is a stark reminder of Rwanda's bloody past.

Why the United Kingdom chose Rwanda to house the deported asylum seekers raises many questions. There is no guarantee that peace will remain in Rwanda for long despite the present praises being heaped on that landlocked country.

Why has Rwanda agreed to accept these refugees boot-ed out by the UK? It's big business and big money. It costs the UK something like £169,000 per refugee bulk of money which goes to Kigali. This converts to a whopping 250,036,604.75 Rwanda Francs in local money per refugee - big money.

For Rwanda receiving these refugees is nothing short of a business deal. It is devoid of any guarantees for the safety of the people that the UK hands over to that Eastern African country.

Did the Boris administration, and by default, the Sunak administration, not consider the possibility of the mortal danger of these people fleeing violence in their countries or study the consequences of Rwanda's violent past and the future severe case of wars again? Or was the UK Government



The story so far...British government progress report on their immigration policy



Continuing partnership Home Secretary Suella Braverman flew to Kigali, where she met President Paul Kagame. She signed an expansion agreement to settle asylum seekers in Rwanda.



Murambi Genocide Memorial Centre, near the town of Murambi in southern Rwanda where skulls are laid out. Note the deep gashes delivered by the killers, which are visible in the skulls

Photo courtesy

ready to use these refugees as sacrificial lambs to get them off their backs and get their immigration problems resolved?

Did they not think it was their responsibility to offer safe refuge to the people running away from violence and danger?

There is no guarantee that UK officials, keen to meet targets of deportations, may fail in their duty to assess relatively justified applications for asylum; who may have qualified for asylum? Is it difficult to think they could escape the net and be sent to Rwanda?

These UK officials may fail to understand their plight due to language difficulties or a justified applicant being unable to explain himself. The UK is a signatory to the Geneva Convention and must consider asylum applications in their land and not hand them to a foreign power. Perhaps, the present UK government is devoid of conscience.

According to observers, Sunak's confrontations with the judiciary may cost his party the next election. Sunak may or may not win the Supreme Court Appeal. The UK judiciary is different

from other autocratic countries masquerading as democracies, where the ruling party hijacks the judiciary, and judges are poodles of the manipulator leadership while pretending to be impartial. In those countries, the leadership has only to wag their finger for judges to favour the Government or risk losing their plum posts. The UK judiciary is a world apart from those leaderships. They mean business when delivering justice on the merits of the case. Lots of questions on the Rwanda policy remain unanswered.

Uganda

Ugandans urged to learn and speak Kiswahili

Kiswahili
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

• The 1st Deputy Prime Minister disclosed that currently Kiswahili was still an optional subject but added that it would in future be made a compulsory and examinable subject beginning with primary schools.

• The DPM said that plans were at an advanced stage to amend the EAC Treaty to operationalise the use of Kiswahili and French following the adoption of the two languages as official languages of the Community by the 21st Ordinary Meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State in February 2021.

• Kadaga was speaking during a media briefing on the upcoming 2nd EAC World Kiswahili Day celebrations to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 5th – 7th July, 2023. She said that it was a great honour for East Africa as the home of Kiswahili to have it as the first indigenous African language to be recognised by UNESCO.



Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community (EAC) Affairs, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga second right

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The DPM further said that 7th July, which is World Kiswahili Day, is of significance to the EAC in that it was the day that the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC came into force.

The Treaty was signed by their Excellencies President Daniel arap Moi (Kenya), President William Benjamin Mkapa (Tanzania) and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (Uganda) on 30th November, 1999. It came into force on 7th July, 2000.

Hon. Kadaga further dis-

closed that the East African Legislative Assembly further passed a resolution in 2016 to have Kiswahili adopted as an official language of the Community.

Addressing the press conference, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political Sectors, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, who represented EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki, described Kiswahili as a language that carries African culture.

“Kiswahili as language enables us to express ourselves, showcase our culture to the rest of the world, carries our aspirations and projects our beauty as Africans,” said Malueth.

In her remarks, the Exec-

utive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC), Dr. Caroline Asimwe, said that the EAC Treaty recognises Kiswahili as the lingua franca for the region, adding that the status of Kiswahili has since been elevated after it was adopted by the Summit as one of the official languages of the Community in addition to English and French.

Dr. Asimwe urged Ugandans to change their negative attitudes towards Kiswahili, adding that mastery of the language would open up immense opportunities in trade, media, criminal justice system and healthcare, among other sectors.

“The negative perceptions and attitudes towards Kiswahili are misplaced. The

negative attitude is carried by personalities, not the language,” said Dr. Asimwe.

The Executive Secretary said that the EAKC would work with Partner States governments and the media to sensitise East Africans on the importance of learning and speaking Kiswahili.

On his part, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Justice Nestor Kayobera, urged officials of Partner States' governments and EAC Institutions to always ensure that they always comply with the provisions of the EAC Treaty while executing their duties. Justice Kayobera said that abiding by the Treaty would prevent unnecessary court cases before the EACJ, adding that the Community has

spent lots of money in compensating aggrieved parties for violation of the Treaty.

Speaking at the same event, East African Legislative Assembly Speaker, Rt. Joseph Ntakirutimana, expressed hope that Kiswahili would in years to come be spoken on all the continents becoming a world language in the process.

“In 1,000 years to come, Kiswahili will be spoken in Japan, Europe, America and other parts of the world. This will be a great recognition for East Africa,” said Rt. Hon. Ntakirutimana.

The highlight of the event will be the celebrations of the 2nd EAC World Kiswahili Day on Friday, 7th July, 2023 at the Hotel Africana in Kampala.



EAC peace caravan

EAC peace caravan, benchmarking tour for border communities launched in Namanga

By:.....
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Worth Noting:

- The seven-day caravan involved representatives of the Atekar community composed of Turkana, Kenya; the Toposa of South Sudan, and; the Karamajong of Uganda, started in Lodwar, Turkana County in Kenya and travelled by bus to Namanga border through Eldoret to interact and learn from the experiences of the Maasai community.

- Speaking at the launch, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary, Musalia Mudavadi, said the caravan provides platforms for EAC to sensitize effected border communities on the ongoing national, regional and continental initiatives on peaceful and sustainable resolution of disputes.

- "There is no doubt therefore that we collectively stand to benefit from peaceful co-existence, good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of disputes along our borders," said Mudavadi.

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in collaboration with the republics of Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan and in partnership with the AU Border Programme (AUBP), have launched a peace caravan.

This and a benchmarking tour for border communities in selected areas where border and/or boundary issues have been peacefully and successfully resolved for experiential learning at Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border, Kenya side.

The overall objective of the caravan is to promote peaceful co-existence, good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of disputes among border communities through experiential learning from best practices of other border communities in the region.

The peace caravan and benchmarking tour is also aimed at sensitising the border communities on ongoing national, regional and continental initiatives to peacefully and sustainably resolve the borders/boundary issues as well as learn from experiences, lessons and best practices of border communities where border disputes were peacefully and successfully resolved.

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Eldoret to interact and learn from the experiences of the Maasai community.

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"There is no doubt therefore that we collectively stand to benefit from peaceful co-existence, good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of disputes along our borders," said Mudavadi.

The Prime CS underscored the importance of the caravan as an opportunity to appreciate that borders are not barriers but bridges to the movement of goods, services and people across East Africa without any impediments.

"In this manner, borders should make significant contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through investment, pastoralism value chains and informal cross border trade," said Mudavadi.

Mudavadi commended the Partner States for putting in place joint initiatives like the establishment of joint surveying and demarcation teams or commissions and MoUs and agreements for the management of borders, among other things.

The Prime CS informed the meeting that historically, borderlands have borne the disproportionate burden of poverty, insecurity, displacement, climate change im-

pacts and inadequate food and water, among other challenges.

He added that seamless cross-border mobility among affected inhabitants, poor cohesion building mechanisms, lack of joint management of shared natural resources and gender insensitivity predispose border communities to the twin threats of insecurity and strife.

The Prime CS told the border communities that the EAC integration is a people-centric process that brings on board elders, women, youth, the civil society, religious leaders, private sector players and other interest groups.

"Let me echo the words of His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto, that the EAC will only achieve its full potential when it eliminates the restrictions inhibiting free movement of citizens across the borders by way of creating a borderless community," said Mudavadi.

On his part, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive, Social, Infrastructure and Political Sectors, Hon. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, said the peace caravan and benchmarking tour is anchored in Articles 5, 6, 123 and 124 of the Treaty for Establishment of the EAC as well as Article 4 of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security.

"In these provisions, EAC Partner States commit to the promotion of peace and security, peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness among States as well as

peaceful resolution of disputes," said Ariik.

The DSG added that Partner States agreed that peace and security are the prerequisites to social and economic development within the Community and vital to the achievement of the objectives of the Community.

"In other words, EAC's overarching vision of a peaceful, prosperous, competitive and politically united East Africa can only be attained within an environment capable of protecting the gains so far registered," said Malueth. "Indeed, without peace and stability all remarkable achievements of the past two decades including the under Common Market, Customs Union and progress toward a monetary union would fall like a castle built on sand," he said.

The Deputy Secretary General disclosed that a study on the state of borders and boundaries in the region conducted by the EAC Secretariat in 2021, identified 22 boundary and territorial disputes (both manifest and latent) gestating in East Africa.

"According to the study, though some border issues in the region are still dormant. All EAC Partner States have experienced varying degrees of intra- and extra-regional border challenges. The potential for the unresolved issues to escalate into violence and threaten peace, security and regional integration cannot be underestimated," added Malueth.

"The peace caravan and

benchmarking tour therefore is part of the EAC Secretariat and Partner States' response to the border communities' request in an effort to promote peaceful co-existence, sustainable peace and stability in the region," said the DSG.

The DSG informed the meeting that for efficiency and effectiveness of the learning process, the peace caravan has been organised in two phases.

Phase one, involving the Atekar communities of Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan Trijunction visiting and benchmarking with the Maasai community; and phase two, involving the Madi and Kuku communities of Moyo and Kajokeji (Uganda and South Sudan border) visiting Vurra (Uganda/DRC border).

On his part, Ambassador Frederic Gateretse Ngoga, the Focal Point for Partnerships and Regional Security Mechanism to the Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security from African Union (AU) said unresolved border issues have the potential to escalate into violence and threaten peace, security, regional integration, creating insecurity in border communities, the movement of people, goods and services.

Amb. Ngoga reaffirmed the AU Commission's commitment to assist all AU Members States to achieve their joint objectives of enhancing the peaceful co-existence of their border communities.

Develop Kiswahili

Develop Kiswahili And Other African Languages To Make Them Globally Competitive

By: Christine Muchira
xxxxxxxxxxxx



EAC official opening session of the 2nd EAC World Kiswahili Language Day celebrations in Kampala, Uganda, Kiswahili language scholar and University of Dar es Salaam

Worth Noting:

- The don, however, observed that all was not lost as the Kiswahili language sphere is spreading across East and Central Africa, adding that some EAC Partner States had already established National Kiswahili Councils to promote the language.
- “The positive attitude towards Kiswahili amidst multilingualism aims at achieving unity and cohesion among the people of East Africa/Africa in general through identifying and working towards having a lingua franca for Africa. This will entail going through different policies and declarations from the AU, EAC and SADC,” said Prof. Senkoro.
- “As we examine the challenges that we face regarding Kiswahili and multilingualism, we must look on the positive side so that we identify the opportunities that evolve from the situation,” he added.
- Prof. Senkoro emphasised the importance of using other local languages to teach Kiswahili and gave the examples of South Africa and Zimbabwe where the Zulu and Shona languages respectively were already being used to teach Kiswahili.

Africans have been called upon to develop Kiswahili and other African languages to make them globally competitive.

Delivering the keynote address during the official opening session of the 2nd EAC World Kiswahili Language Day celebrations in Kampala, Uganda, Kiswahili language scholar and University of Dar es Salaam academic Prof. Fikeni Senkoro further said that languages have become commodities on the global stage.

Prof. Senkoro said that there is an urgent need to develop Kiswahili and other languages to make them marketable in people's daily lives and business transactions. Prof. Senkoro said that most Africans worship foreign languages due to their colonial heritage thus the division of the continent into Anglophone (English), Francophone (French) and Lusophone (Portuguese) linguistic zones.

“The place of this language in the midst of multilingualism is multi-faceted. It includes the foreign languages that were forced on us through colonialism, which gave us the derogatory labels of Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone Africa. It also has to do with attitudes, strategies, policies and lobbying by Africans themselves regarding their languages,” said Prof. Senkoro.

The Kiswahili scholar said that the other challenge for

the language had come from negative perceptions and singled out Uganda where Kiswahili had been viewed as a language of the army and police.

The don, however, observed that all was not lost as the Kiswahili language sphere is spreading across East and Central Africa, adding that some EAC Partner States had already established National Kiswahili Councils to promote the language.

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Prof. Senkoro emphasised the importance of using other local languages to teach Kiswahili and gave the examples of South Africa and Zimbabwe where the Zulu and Shona languages respectively were already being used to teach Kiswahili. He said the teaching of Kiswahili through other languages was possible because

all languages have meeting points.

Noting that there are approximately 200 million people spread across East and Central Africa and other parts of the world, Prof. Senkoro advocated for the teaching of Kiswahili through African philosophies or ideologies including Ubuntu, Humanism, Ujamaa and Pan-Africanism.

“It is very possible that the Pan-Africanist spirit originated from African philosophies contained in African languages. We can refer to the philosophies and outlooks by the leaders of different African countries immediately after independence, such as Ubuntu, Humanism (Kenneth Kaunda), Ujamaa (Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere), and others,” said Prof. Senkoro. Prof. Senkoro recommended that there is a need to ensure that Kiswahili is gradually adopted as a medium of instruction in those areas where it is well spoken, and a taught language where it is not.

The don further recommended that competition between individual language groups with regards to the selection of the appropriate lingua franca for Africa should be discouraged “and in their stead it should be stressed that the choice of Kiswahili is backed by research and data that shows how this language will make Africa speak in one, unified voice regarding the matters

that affect their lives.”

“There is a need to revive the East African Publishing House to be owned by the East African Community through which printing, publishing and distribution of Kiswahili teaching materials will be carried out,” added Prof. Senkoro.

Making a presentation titled ‘Kiswahili, Multilingualism and Pan-Africanism,’ Prof. Kenneth Simala, who teaches Kiswahili at Masinde Muliro University in Kakamega, Kenya, said that one of the weakest fields of scholarship on Pan-Africanism is the relatively little research that has been undertaken on the Kiswahili Language.

Prof. Simala, who was the pioneer Executive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission, said that a key principle of Pan-Africanism as an ideological movement is commitment to the promotion of political and cultural solidarity and identity. “Questions of language and identity, therefore, have played an important role throughout modern African history. Over the years, Kiswahili has acquitted itself well to be the most suitable language and single most critical factor in the construction of African identity and has the capacity to unite Africa and contribute to its development,” said Prof. Simala.

Prof. Simala said that the new status of Kiswahili at EAC, SADC, AU and UN

levels as an official language comes with hopes, expectations and even fears to individuals, communities, nations and organisations, adding that the new position of the language at national, regional and global levels gives premium to Kiswahili as a Pan-African language of identity.

“It is, therefore, important for the EAKC to coordinate and promote the development and use of Kiswahili, while acknowledging, recognizing and respecting existing multilingualism in Africa. This can be done by setting innovative directions and harnessing modern technologies that are inevitable in the 21st Century,” said Prof. Simala.

Officially opening the celebrations, Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Rt. Rebecca Kadaga, said that 21 African countries use French as the official language with a few others using Spanish and Portuguese as their official languages.

Kadaga that the prospects for the development of Kiswahili in Uganda were bright noting that a good number of Ugandans had earned doctorates in Kiswahili from Makerere University, Kampala while a national Kiswahili Language Teachers Association had already been established.

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Diaspora

Drug Addiction Is A Significant, Global Problem
In WorldwideBy: Zebo Ibragimova
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Zebo Ibragimova

According to the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 7, 1987 (No. 42/112), "June 26 - International Day of Combating Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" is celebrated worldwide every year.

Since this day, the people of the world have united in the fight against the epidemic of drug addiction, the reason why drug addiction is one of the main problems of the world society and is a dangerous factor in our time. Every year on the 26th of June, various agreements are signed between the countries to limit the sale of narcotic substances and not to cultivate them.

In February 1909, representatives of 13 countries gathered in Shanghai to fight against the cultivation of narcotic drugs in Asia and established the Shanghai Commission. Reading such information, we are convinced that drug addiction is a global problem.

In addition, more than 500 million people are infected with this disease in the world, and these indicators continue to grow. Most of them are under 30 years old. As a result, more than 211,000 people die prematurely every year. The average age of people who die from drug addiction in Europe is 35 years. According to experts, 1.6 million people contracted AIDS as a result of drug use, 1.2 million people were diagnosed with hepatitis B virus, and 7.2 million people were infected with hepatitis C virus. At the same time, 57 percent of crimes committed in the world are committed by drug addicts.

Therefore, in order to strengthen the fight against drug addiction, the UN Conventions "On Narcotic Substances", "Psychotropic Substances" and "Conventions on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances", and in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 1999 "On narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" law was adopted.

Measures are always being taken to eliminate this global problem, illegal consumption and circulation of psychotropic substances. However, have we ever thought about why people become "captives" of such narcotic and psychotropic substances?

Physiological and psychological changes that occur in people can sometimes lead people to consume drugs. For example: various disagreements with family members, ignorance about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, severe depression, simple curiosity, misalignment of values in modern society, strong western psychological influence and lack of promotion of a healthy lifestyle, it is examples like these that unknowingly start people addict to drug.

Sometimes, some people who want to be materially rich put an end to the lives of several people in the way of their selfish goals. They intended to educate the population, especially young people, about psychotropic substances and then profit from them. But as it is said that every work has its reward and punishment, it is inevitable that they will be prosecuted for this activity.

In conclusion, it is necessary to avoid becoming a victim of bad vices such as drug addiction. It is the duty of each of us to be aware of what is happening in the society and around us, and to fight against the rise of drug addiction, without being indifferent to the fate of the whole humanity.



Uzbekistan steps up anti-drug efforts among youth



Uzbekistan injecting drug among youth

Worth
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Italy applauds Morocco's efforts in the Moroccan Sahara

By:.....
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Italy praised Morocco's "serious and credible efforts" to resolve the Sahara conflict in the Action Plan for the Multidimensional Strategic Partnership between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Italian Republic, signed on Wednesday in Rome.

According to the Action Plan, which was signed by Nasser Bourita, the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Expatriates, and Antonio Tajani, his Italian counterpart, "Italy commends the serious and credible efforts made by Morocco", as reflected in Security Council Resolution 2654 of October 27, 2022.

In relation to the Moroccan autonomy proposal, Italy also reiterates "its support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to pursue the political process aimed at achieving a just, realistic, pragmatic, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution to the Sahara" The document emphasises the need for a compromise approach to the issue, in line with Resolution 2654.

It is stated in the same Action Plan that Italy "encourages all parties to pursue their commitment in a spirit of realism and compromise,



Nasser Bourita, the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation, and Expatriates, and Antonio Tajani, his Italian counterpart

within the framework of arrangements consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The action plan, which comes after

the Joint Declaration signed in Rabat on November 1, 2019, is a practical application of the multifaceted Strategic Partnership between Morocco and Italy, a partnership geared

towards ongoing communication and effective, mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

On Wednesday, July 5, Nasser Bou-

rita, the minister of foreign affairs, African cooperation, and Moroccan expatriates, travelled to Italy on business.

KENYA & COMOROS

Kenya commits to abolish visa requirements for Comoros nationals

Kenya has committed to abolish the requirement of visas for all persons holding valid travel documents issued by the Union of the Comoros into Kenya, before the end of 2023. This according to President William Ruto who is in Comoros for the 48th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of the Comoros. To further strengthen ties between the two nations in the education sector, President Ruto said Kenya is working closely to allow students from Comoros to pursue higher education in the country and pay the same amount of fees as local students.

"Kenya stands with Comoros as partners in progress, committed to deepening our collaboration for the benefit of our peoples. Together, we can harness our shared potential to create opportunities, foster innovation, and build sustainable economies that leave no one behind." Said President Ruto.

While congratulating President Azari Assoumani for accepting the responsibility to Chair the African Union (AU), for 2023, Ruto noted that Comoros is the first island state

to assume the leadership of the continental governing body, adding that this is a highly exemplary achievement that will give confidence to all the people of Africa irrespective of whether they come from small or big country.

He reiterated Kenya's commitment to support Comoros as Azari leads the African continent to greater heights and confronting the people's day-today challenges.

Ruto said he is looking forward to tremendous progress in institutional reforms at the African Union, that will enable the AU Commission, AU organs and specialised agencies to rise to their full potential and fulfil their mandate of facilitating the emergence of a union that can effectively participate in global affairs.



President William Ruto

Russia-African Trade

All set for Russia-Africa second summit

By: Margaret Kalekye
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

The Second Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum will take place in St. Petersburg at the ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre on 27-28 July 2023.

The events aim to comprehensively strengthen Russian-African cooperation and outline the trajectory of Russia's relations with African countries in the long term.

The Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum programme includes more than 30-panel sessions and thematic events on the most important issues involving cooperation between Russia and African states.

"African countries will obviously play an increasingly important role in the emerging architecture of a multipolar world. Bolstering ties between Russia and Africa in security as well as sustainable economic and humanitarian development creates the basis for the establishment of powerful, prosperous, and safe regions in the new realities," said Anton Kobayakov, an Advisor to the President of the Russian Federation and Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee for the Russia-Africa events.

The Forum's business programme consists of four major thematic pillars that encompass all areas of cooperation between Russia and Africa: 'The New Global Economy', 'Integrated Security and Sovereign Development', 'Cooperation in Science and Technology', and 'The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life'.

The programme of the pillar 'The New Global Economy' will focus on what kind of prospects Russian businessmen have for doing business in Africa.

The experts will discuss such topics as expanding business cooperation between Russia and African countries, their export potential amidst the new challenges, as well as cooperation in agriculture, energy, and logistics.

The main themes of the 'Integrated Security and Sovereign Development' pillar will be international security, political stability, food security, as well as joint efforts to combat epidemics and emergencies. The key question that experts plan to



The organising-committee has announced the programme



Bolstering ties between Russia and Africa is the key focus

answer as part of this pillar is: "How can Russia's experience in ensuring security be beneficial to African countries?"

During the panel discussions of the 'Cooperation in Science and Technology' pillar, experts will discuss collaboration between Russia and Africa in advanced technologies.

The key themes of the pillar are how industrial cooperation leads to technological sovereignty and advanced technologies for Africa's sustainable development.

Separate sessions will be devoted to nuclear, digital,

and healthcare technologies. During the discussions, speakers will talk about how high-tech solutions could unleash Africa's potential and have a positive socio-economic impact on numerous areas of society.

As a multipolar world takes shape, cooperation in humanitarian affairs is of particular importance. This vast area of focus includes many specific aspects of interaction in education, culture, sports, and empowerment for women and young people.

These topics will be addressed as part of the pillar

'The Humanitarian and Social Sphere: Working Together for a New Quality of Life'.

In addition, events on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum will include the Media Forum, the Congress of University Rectors, a roundtable attended by the supreme audit institutions of Russia and African countries, youth programme events, sessions of the Creative Business Forum and the Healthy Life Forum, as well as a session dedicated to cooperation between Russian and African gov-

ernment agencies and enterprises engaged in the precious metals industry, and much more.

Worth Noting:

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What makes South Asia so vulnerable to climate change?

Extreme weather events in the world's most populous and one of the poorest sub regions susceptible to food insecurity, displacement and diseases.

Worth Noting:

- For thousands of years, South Asia was seen as the world's "granary" for agriculture – a region with weather patterns well-suited for growing crops, Pakistan-based climate scientist Fahad Saeed told Al Jazeera.
- "However, with the onset of climate change, the delicate balance which was important for crops to grow has been disturbed," Saeed said.
- Results from a study published in 2021 on wheat production up to 2050, using crop simulation models, found the most negative effects will be seen in South Asian nations with a yield decline of 16 percent.
- Environmentalist Anjal Prakash said climate change will have "significant implications" for food security in South Asia.
- "Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms ... pose substantial challenges to agricultural systems in the region," said Prakash, adding livestock productivity and fisheries will be adversely affected.



Men carry children on their shoulders and wade along a flooded road, following rains and floods during the monsoon season in Nowshera, Pakistan [File: Fayaz Aziz/Reuters]

Heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan over the past week killed at least 50 people across the country, nearly a year after massive flooding killed more than 1,700 people and affected 33 million others.

In neighbouring India, about a dozen districts in the northeastern state of Assam were hit by deadly flash floods in June, forcing thousands to flee their homes and seek refuge at makeshift relief camps.

The ravaging floods – which killed at least 11 people – meant many faced the daunting task of rebuilding their lives as they returned to destroyed homes and drowned livestock.

Climate-change-induced downpours, drought, and soaring temperatures have become increasingly common across the eight countries of South Asia, making it one of the world's most vulnerable regions to the impacts of global warming. Saleemul Haq, director at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, said the region is particularly at risk because of a combination of geography, population and poverty. "Over a billion and a half people are living in an area that is not such a big part of the world. It has major river systems from the Hindu Kush and the Himalayan mountain regions flowing

through," he told Al Jazeera. Some 750 million people in South Asia have been affected by at least one natural disaster, according to data compiled by the Washington-based World Bank. The lack of land to grow food, water shortages, and displacement of populations are some of the challenges the region is facing as climate experts predict irreversible consequences to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions.

Food insecurity

For thousands of years, South Asia was seen as the world's "granary" for agriculture – a region with weather patterns well-suited

for growing crops, Pakistan-based climate scientist Fahad Saeed told Al Jazeera. "However, with the onset of climate change, the delicate balance which was important for crops to grow has been disturbed," Saeed said. Results from a study published in 2021 on wheat production up to 2050, using crop simulation models, found the most negative effects will be seen in South Asian nations with a yield decline of 16 percent.

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terns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and storms ... pose substantial challenges to agricultural systems in the region," said Prakash, adding livestock productivity and fisheries will be adversely affected.

Furthermore, Prakash said climate change could also make water availability of a significant issue in the region, which has one of the highest number of glaciers in the world, situated in the Himalayas.

"Melting glaciers and changes in rainfall patterns can disrupt irrigation systems, affecting crop growth and exacerbating water scarcity," Prakash, who has previously worked with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, asserted.

A University of Leeds study published in 2021 found the ice from glaciers in the Himalayas is melting "at least 10 times higher than the average rate over past centuries", a result of human-induced climate change.

Researchers said the Himalayas, which cover countries such as Pakistan, Nepal and India, had lost 40 percent of their ice over several hundred years.

Water scarcity and low crop yields will result in adding to the continuing hunger crisis in the region, climate experts said.

In 2021, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FOA) said some 21 percent of people in South Asia faced severe food insecurity, a 2 percent rise from 2020.

In the same year, the region had the highest number of undernourished people in the world – 330 million – the FOA said.

'Push factor'

Fears of declines in food production, together with other climate-related calamities such as rising sea levels, have also raised the alarm as millions in South Asia are being internally displaced.

A report published by activist group ActionAid in 2020 estimated the region could see up to 63 million people become migrants by 2050 as a result of extreme weather events.



A farmer harvests wheat on the outskirts of Jammu in Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir [File: Channi Anand/AP]

What makes South Asia so vulnerable to climate change?

Heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan over the past week killed at least 50 people across the country, nearly a year after massive flooding killed more than 1,700 people and affected 33 million others.

Contd from Page 22.

Worth Noting:

- Huq said displacement from human-induced climate change was further adding to economic migration from rural to urban areas – a continuing phenomenon worldwide – with South Asia being a major “hotspot”, with the greatest displacement taking place in low-lying coastal areas.
- “Climate change ... is exacerbating the ‘push factor’ – the motivation to migrate away from place of residence – for people who are living in places where they can no longer continue to have livelihoods that they used to have, whether it’s farming or fishing,” he said.
- “From the damage that occurs to infrastructure, agricultural land and homes, many people that evacuate aren’t able to go home again. They become effectively refugees.”
- In Bangladesh, Huq said an estimated 2,000 people were moving to the capital Dhaka, many displaced by the effects of extreme weather from low-land coastal districts such as Barisal and Satkhira.

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“Dhaka is one of the fastest-growing megacities in the world. Absorbing many millions – possibly in the region of 10 million new climate migrants over the next decade – is just going to be impossible. Facilities are inadequate for the existing population. They’re going to be even more inadequate for the additional population,” said Huq.

Concerns for human health Climate scientists also warned that extreme weather patterns are aggravating the dire health conditions in some of the world’s poorest regions, with South Asia being no exception.

Physician and climate analyst K Srinath Reddy of the Public Health Foundation of India said heavy rainfall and floods are a precursor for a myriad of vector-borne diseases.

“Malaria, chikungunya, dengue fever are already present as health challenges in South Asia, but they’re going to markedly increase because of several factors such as rising temperatures,” he told Al Jazeera.

“Mosquitoes can breed in warmer areas which have now opened up. In fact, as humans are wilting in the heat, mosquitoes become



Soldiers provide food to residents following heavy monsoon rain in Goyainghat, Bangladesh [File: Mamun Hossain/AFP]

athletic and can rise to higher heights and so can spread farther and faster. You will find even hilly areas which were previously not malaria prone now much more malaria prone at higher altitudes.”

Meanwhile, the increased intensity of heatwaves in South Asia has been linked to illnesses, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease, Reddy said.

According to a study by the World Weather Attribution, deadly heatwaves in India and Bangladesh in mid-April were made 30 times more likely because of climate change.

A study published by Lancet in October showed India had seen a 55 percent rise in fatalities from extreme heat in the periods between 2000-2004 and 2017-2021.

Rais Akhtar, a climate expert and former national fellow at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said the dire state of health facilities in South Asia would make it easier for extreme weather to affect human health, especially in rural areas where most people live.

“In countries like Bangladesh and India, there is a dualism of sorts where

in certain cities, there are well-established healthcare facilities. But in the rural, underdeveloped areas, these facilities are severely lacking ... including shortage of doctors,” he told Al Jazeera. People must travel to major cities to receive treatment, a costly ordeal for many.

Saeed, associated with German think tank Climate Analytics, noted in addition to weak health infrastructure in South Asia, governments do not possess the response and rescue capacity to provide adequate relief when climate-related calamities strike.

“The devastation from last year’s floods were so huge ... affecting around 33 million people ... that government authorities such the National Disaster Management Authority and hospitals were caught on their heels,” he said.

Moreover, the catastrophic floods also directly affected numerous health facilities across Pakistan, with the World Health Organization reporting more than 1,400 hospitals were destroyed or damaged, leaving thousands without access to medical care.

Source: Al Jazeera



A paramedic checks a patient suffering from heat stroke in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh [File: Rajesh Kumar Singh/AP]

Ukraine's Zelenskyy brings home Azovstal commanders from Turkey

Russia denounces the soldiers' return, accusing Kyiv and Ankara of violating a prisoner exchange deal under which the men were to remain in Turkey until the end of the war.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, centre, and other officials pose for a picture with commanders of defenders of the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works in Mariupol inside a plane as they return to Ukraine from Istanbul, Turkey July 8, 2023 [Ukrainian Presidential Press Service/Handout via Reuters]

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has returned home, from a visit to Turkey, with five commanders of Ukraine's former garrison in Mariupol, a move Russia said violated the terms of a prisoner exchange deal engineered last year. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Saturday that Ankara had promised under the exchange agreement to keep the men in Turkey and complained that Moscow had not been informed of the move.

The five commanders, lionised as heroes in Ukraine, led last year's defence of the southern port of Mariupol, the biggest city Russia has captured in its invasion. Thousands of civilians were killed inside Mariupol when Russian forces laid the city to waste during a three-month siege.

Zelenskyy on Saturday posted a one-minute video showing himself and other officials shaking hands and hugging the smiling commanders before they boarded a Czech aeroplane together.

"We are returning home from Turkey and bringing our heroes home," said Zelenskyy, who met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks in Istanbul on Friday.

"Ukrainian soldiers Denys Prokopenko, Svyatoslav Palamar, Serhiy Volynsky, Oleh Khomenko, Denys Shleha. They will finally be with their relatives," he said on the Telegram messaging app.

Kyiv had finally ordered the Ukrainian defenders, who held out for weeks in tunnels and bunkers under a steel plant, to surrender in May last year. Russia freed some of them in September last year in a prisoner swap brokered by Ankara under terms that required the commanders to remain in Turkey until the end of the war.

Zelenskyy gave no explanation for why the commanders were being allowed to return home now and there was no immediate comment from Turkey.

Many Ukrainians hailed the news on social media. "Finally! The best news ever. Congratulations to our brothers!" Major Maksym Zhorin, who is fighting now in eastern Ukraine, said on Telegram.

'Direct violation'

The Kremlin, however, accused Ukraine and Turkey of violating agreements by releasing the commanders. "The return of the leaders of the Azovites from Turkey to Ukraine is nothing more than a direct violation of the terms of the existing agreements. Moreover, in this case, the terms were violated by both the Ukrainian side and the Turkish side," said Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman.

"No one informed us about this. According to the agreements, these ringleaders were to remain on the territory of Turkey until the end of the conflict," he said.

Peskov added that the re-

lease was a result of heavy pressure from Turkey's NATO allies ahead of next week's summit of the military alliance at which Ukraine hopes to receive a positive sign about its future membership.

In a ceremony alongside the men in the western city of Lviv, Zelenskyy thanked Erdogan for helping secure the soldiers' release and pledged to bring home all remaining prisoners.

He said that before the outbreak of war, "many people in the world still did not understand what we are, what you are, what to expect from us and what our heroes are. Now everyone understands." Denys Prokopenko, one of the five commanders, told the gathering that his men "will have our word to say" in the counter-offensive launched by Ukrainian forces in the past month.

"The most important thing is that Ukraine has seized the strategic initiative and is advancing," he said.

Analysts said the return of the soldiers could strain Turkey's relations with Russia. Ankara has so far managed to maintain a delicate balancing act, even helping broker a deal with Russia last year that allowed the safe export of grain and fertiliser from Ukrainian ports. "Turkey's a member of NATO, which has been backing Zelenskyy and Ukraine in the war. But at the same time, Erdogan has maintained good relations personally with President [Vladimir] Putin of Russia,"

Bulent Ali Riza, the founding director of the Turkey Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), told Al Jazeera.

"Erdogan has not applied sanctions, unlike the other members of the Western alliance and he's been able to do this successfully. Until now, he's been able to broker the grain deal because he has connections with both sides. And yet, with these most recent moves that he has made – hosting Zelenskyy and then releasing the Azov fighters – is obviously going to be interpreted by Russia as heavily tilted to the other side," Bulent said,

500 days of war

The repatriation of the commanders came as Ukraine marked the 500th day of Russia's full-scale invasion. In honour of the day, Zelenskyy released a video of him visiting Snake Island, a Black Sea outcrop that Russian forces seized on the first day of the invasion last year and later abandoned.

Speaking from the island, Zelenskyy honoured the Ukrainian soldiers who fought for the territory and all other defenders of the country, saying that reclaiming control of the island is "great proof that Ukraine will regain every bit of its territory."

"I want to thank – from here, from this place of victory – each of our soldiers for these 500 days," the Ukrainian leader said. "Thank you to everyone who fights for

Ukraine!" United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken marked the 500 days by describing Russia as "the sole obstacle to a just and lasting peace" and promising to back Kyiv "for as long as it takes".

France's foreign ministry said the time frame "must bring Russia to the realisation that it is in an impasse and immediately stop its illegal war of aggression".

The latest US pledge of support included plans to supply widely-banned cluster munitions. Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov promised the munitions would not be used in Russia.

The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces said Ukrainian troops on Saturday "continued offensive operations" in two sectors in the southeast.

Officials said that a Russian rocket strike on the town of Lyman killed eight civilians and wounded 13 others early on Saturday. Pavlo Kyrylenko, the governor of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, posted images showing some of the dead, including a body lying under a bicycle and body fragments on the pavement next to a damaged vehicle, saying that "the Russian terrorists are continuing to strike civilians in Donetsk".

Lyman is a few kilometres from the front line, where Russian troops have recently intensified fighting in the forests of Kreminna.

The United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence, meanwhile, said in its latest intelligence update that the eastern town of Bakhmut captured by the Russians in May has seen some of the most intense fighting along the front during the last week.

It said that Ukrainian forces have made steady gains in both the north and south of Bakhmut. "Russian defenders are highly likely struggling with poor morale, a mix of disparate units and a limited ability to find and strike Ukrainian artillery," the ministry added.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

Worth Noting:

- "The return of the leaders of the Azovites from Turkey to Ukraine is nothing more than a direct violation of the terms of the existing agreements. Moreover, in this case, the terms were violated by both the Ukrainian side and the Turkish side," said Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman.
- "No one informed us about this. According to the agreements, these ringleaders were to remain on the territory of Turkey until the end of the conflict," he said.
- Peskov added that the release was a result of heavy pressure from Turkey's NATO allies ahead of next week's summit of the military alliance at which Ukraine hopes to receive a positive sign about its future membership.