

A full-blown ugly political battle is underway in London

Sunak Sacks Suella

Suella Braverman has been controversial since she joined the Conservative Party government:



Trouble at the top, Tories in turmoil, silent political coup? Prime Minister Rishi's future hangs in a precarious balance.: SUNAK SACKS SUELLA, SURPRISES BRITONS AS FORMER PREMIER CAMERON RETURNS IN CABINET RESHUFFLE

By: Shamlal Puri
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& Senior Editor – UK
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Under pressure from the Cabinet to slash migration to the UK, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is fighting to honour his pledges but has failed so far. Photo Courtesy.

A full-blown ugly political battle is underway in London to topple Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as his Conservative or Tory Party's right-wing members plot to unseat him and instal their own Tory leadership candidate, a dangerous concoction that could decimate the ruling party's chances of winning the forthcoming general election. A silent political coup is being hatched, the backstabbing style, to remove Sunak from Downing Street after right-wing Conservatives, offended by the sacking of the controversial Home Secretary Suella Braverman, touched their raw

nerve. Her critics have called her "Cruella". Suella Braverman has been controversial since she joined the Conservative Party government. She was sacked by Sunak's processor Liz Truss, who was the prime Minister for 44 days, for breach of ministerial conduct, and now she has been shown the door by Rishi Sunak following the unacceptable incendiary comments she made about the police's handling of a pro-Palestine march recently in which thousands of people took part. The clock was ticking for Braverman when she Ms Braverman's article sparked

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WHO kicks off shipments of malaria vaccine to African countries



Full text of President Xi Jinping's written speech at APEC CEO Summit

By CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday delivered a written speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in San Francisco on Thursday. The follow-

ing is the full text of the speech: Meeting Challenges with Unity of Purpose To Write a New Chapter for Asia-Pacific Cooperation Written Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China At the APEC CEO Summit

San Francisco, November 16, 2023 Representatives of the Business Community, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends, It gives me great pleasure to be invited to address the APEC CEO Summit. I visited San Francisco

many years ago, and I was deeply impressed by the openness, inclusiveness and creativity which this beautiful city is famous for.

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Role Of Mother In Human Life

By: MARIPOVA MUSLIMABONU
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Worth Noting:

• A mother's love is a divine power. A mother's love is a cure for any pain. Even if the mother is 60 years old, she says she is my child; she loves him and always worries about him. Relationships with friends may lose their strength, but a mother's love for her child never loses its strength.

• Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Mirza Ulughbek, Abu Nasr Muhammad ibn Muhammed al-Farabi, Tomaris, Nadirabegim, Abu Ali Ibn Sina gave birth to our grandfathers, mothers gave them education, and We see that they showed the right path, and instilled love and loyalty to the country in their hearts from childhood.



MARIPOVA MUSLIMABONU with her mother

Mother is a great being. There is a person whose mother brings her into the world, holds him in her arms, gives her white milk, spends his nights with the morning, endures all difficulties for her child, washes her white, combs her white, brings her up beautifully, teaches her child knowledge, corrects her mistakes and shortcomings.

Growling, teaching good deeds, raising him to be honest and pure, working for the future of her child, for his dream goals, brings her to adulthood. There is every mother who says my child, my child's happiness. Mother's love is a unique and priceless blessing, mother's love brings a person from darkness to light, saves from ignorance, mother's love saves the world.

First of all, every mother works a lot for her child's manners and upbringing, that is, on religious and worldly knowledge, and in order for her child to be smart and intelligent, they increase not only their children's knowledge, but also their own knowledge.

In fact, the first teacher is the mother, when a person is born, she teaches him to explain his thoughts and what he wants to do with gestures, and then to speak to him, to be able to speak beautifully, to eat at the table saying "Bismillah", to observe cleanliness, to take the first steps, mother considers it her duty to give him childhood happiness. As the child grows up, the mother always worries about his health, his future, and fights for the happiness of his child.

A mother is a priceless treasure. A mother is such a breed that she can find a way to her child's heart with her love. As a person grows up, he goes to kindergarten, later to school, college, university to learn, but not everything is easy during a person's life, there are difficulties, there will be trials, in overcoming these trials the mother is a very important person.

A mother can bestow such power on her child, she can give confidence to her child, she can be proud of her child, she can find the right solution to his short-

comings. A mother's faith in her child is a very powerful force. Confidence is a weapon and a shield that can overcome any obstacles, a child can build his own bright future to justify his mother's trust, the love of a mother who always supports and trusts her child in difficult situations is a priceless and inexhaustible wealth.

A mother's love is a divine power. A mother's love is a cure for any pain. Even if the mother is 60 years old, she says she is my child; she loves him and always worries about him. Relationships with friends may lose their strength, but a mother's love for her child never loses its strength. Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, Mirza Ulughbek, Abu Nasr Muhammad ibn Muhammed al-Farabi, Tomaris, Nadirabegim, Abu Ali Ibn Sina gave birth to our grandfathers, mothers gave them education, and We see that they showed the right path, and instilled love and loyalty to the country in their hearts from childhood.

The role of mothers is very important in human life, beautiful and exemplary people grow up with their lessons, Mother educates a teacher, mother educates a soldier, mother gives birth to kings and scientists, educates the generation that will lead the world out of ignorance.

A mother creates a ground for her child to learn with all his might, so that he can become a necessary person in a learned society, who can be an example to others with his exemplary behavior. Mother is light. Stronger than sunlight, brighter and hotter than sunlight, light always leads to light on the right path, light dispels darkness, every particle has worldly meanings.

Mother is also the salvation, the strongest light that leads a person from darkness to light, from sorrow to joy, to freedom from problems, to spiritual maturity and perfection. Mother is the person who inspires every person, every person wants to be a strong person like my mother, as this power is powerful, and the life paths of mothers are not easy ei-

ther. It is the duty of every child to honor his mother, to respect her, to give her love, to find a way to her heart, to protect and love her, even when she loses her strength.

A mother acquires knowledge and imparts knowledge, a mother buys a book, reads it herself, teaches it to her child, learns a trade, teaches her child, that is why a mother is the most priceless wealth for her child. As a mother reads to her children, tomorrow these children will also read to their children. As she sets an example to her children with good manners and behavior, this generation will raise a future generation with a good character who can be an example for people. A mother can adequately replace all people, friends, but other people cannot replace a mother.

MARIPOVA MUSLIMABONU

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UZBEKISTAN

THE NEW UZBEKISTAN IS ON THE WAY TO ESTABLISH AN ENLIGHTENED SOCIETY

By: Makhamadov Abduhoshim
xxxxxxxxxxxx

"Establishing a new Uzbekistan is not just a desire, a subjective phenomenon, but the existing political-legal, socio-economic, spiritual-educational situation in our country, which has fundamental historical foundations. It is an objective necessity that demands it, corresponds to the centuries-old aspirations of our people, and fully meets its national interests."

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Looking at the centuries-old history of our Motherland, we can see the hard work and efforts to achieve the high milestones of the development stage. In these processes, the formation of our national statehood, the rise of science, culture and art in the life of society, the scientific achievements and discoveries of our great ancestors during their activities, and the unparalleled contributions to the world civilization are embodied before our eyes.

In particular, the first renaissance in the history of Uzbekistan - the era of the Somonites, the scientific and philosophical works of our great thinkers - scholars who lived and created during this period, as well as the universal inventions and discoveries became the foundation stone for the Islamic civilization and development. The fact that this

period is recognized as the "golden age of Islamic culture" in historical sources is a clear proof of this.

First of all, the emergence of a strong centralized state, comprehensive development of economy and politics, social sphere, construction of relations in the life of society based on certain rules and principles, economic and cultural development of cities and villages as well as regions, emergence and centralization of science and enlightenment centers are important. processes have a special place in the history of our medieval country and statehood.

The phenomenon of "Second Renaissance" during the era of Amir Temur and the Timurids enabled not only Movaraunahr, but also the entire Central Asian countries to rise to a new level in development, and was able to bring it to a new stage. Undoubtedly, the place and importance of the great kingdom built by Amir Temur is incomparable.

During this period, the foundations of statehood were improved, great achievements were made in crafts and all its branches, urban planning and architecture. International trade and diplomatic relations accelerated. Also, the development of science, medicine, culture and art and the processes of the rise of the

sphere of thought during this period became the basis for the second renaissance.

During the celebrations of the 29th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the words of the head of our state were heard: "At the present time, when the glorious power of our people is flourishing, a new renaissance is being laid in Uzbekistan - the foundation for the Third Renaissance." Finally, this attractive strategic idea shows the necessity that its greatness should be manifested in all aspects of national development.

First of all, our society should deeply understand the idea of the Third Renaissance. Our work in every field, our plans and future programs, education and personnel policy, investment policy - all should be aimed at creating conditions and environment for it.

In fact, the processes of growth and development that are taking place in our rapidly developing life today are manifesting themselves in all spheres. Therefore, in the early years of our independence, the slogan "Uzbekistan is a great country in the future" was put forward. In practice, it serves as a national idea and played a major role in uniting and mobilizing the people. At this time, we tried to realize our national identity, to grasp the true essence of our

rich historical, spiritual and scientific heritage and to realize it, now our people have come together to implement the idea of "national revival - national rise" with steady steps. In this period, the upward trend of social thinking is established in our society, and the embodiment of both national and universal values characteristic of it is recognized. Social thinking, which combines national spirit and universal human values, is becoming the main criterion and solid foundation of the stable development of our country. Due to the growing level of social thinking in our country, the culture and responsibilities of the approach to work and industry in industry, agriculture and other areas have changed. There is a deep meaning behind the special attention paid to the field of science. Science is a way of thinking, which is one of the main factors that ensure stability in society. As science develops, not only the economy, but also the socio-cultural sphere develops. Attention to science serves to grow and expand human thinking. As the thinking of society grows, the sphere of culture and art also grows and develops in harmony with these requirements.

Indeed, today we are on the threshold of a third Renaissance. If the laws, decrees and decisions signed

by the President of Uzbekistan in the next five years in the direction of the development of the only direction of our life, that is, education and science, approved state programs, new initiatives put forward No one doubts that New Uzbekistan will be the center of the next Enlightenment Renaissance.

As the head of our state noted, "It would be true to say that in modern times, when the glorious power of our people is flourishing, a new renaissance is being laid in Uzbekistan - the foundation for the Third Renaissance. Because today's Uzbekistan is yesterday's Uzbekistan." not Uzbekistan. Our nation today is not the nation of yesterday."

Of course, like the First and Second Renaissance, the Third Renaissance is a long process. The process of creating the foundations of the Third Renaissance requires a much longer and more laborious period than five to ten years. For this, first of all, thousands of talented personnel, talented modern youth, selfless people are extremely necessary. There is no doubt that these universal results will serve to leave a worthy legacy for future generations.

Makhamadov Abduhoshim
is a student of Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute

Worth Noting:

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Israel hopeful of Hamas deal to release hostages in 'coming days'

By: Muraya Kamunde
xxxxxxxxxxxx

The Israeli ambassador to the US says he is hopeful a deal for the release of a significant number of hostages will be reached "in the coming days".

Michael Herzog told ABC "serious efforts" were being made, but that the fewer details he revealed, "the better the chances of such a deal".

Hamas took an estimated 240 people hostage during their 7 October attacks which killed 1,200 Israelis.

Qatar, which has been mediating, also says a deal is within reach.

The Washington Post newspaper has reported that Israel and Hamas are "close to agreement on a US-brokered deal that would free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza in exchange for a five-day pause in fighting", citing "people familiar with the emerging terms".

Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said on Sunday that only "very minor" practical and logistical obstacles remain, adding that "we are close enough to reach a deal".

The US has not confirmed any details of progress.

White House National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne



Protesters have gathered in cities around the world calling for the release of hostages taken by Hamas

Watson posted on X: "We have not reached a deal yet, but we continue to work hard to get to a deal."

And Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out a full ceasefire.

Qatar has been playing a leading role in mediation efforts to secure the release of hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza.

It was involved in the negotiations

that have seen four people freed so far – a mother and daughter, who are US nationals, and two elderly Israeli women.

The small, gas-rich Arab Gulf state is home to the political leadership of Hamas, which has had an office in the capital, Doha, since 2012, headed by its leader Ismail Haniyeh.

On Saturday, protesters calling on

the Israeli government to prioritise securing the release of hostages walked from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before holding a demonstration outside Mr Netanyahu's residence.

Mr Netanyahu has been criticised for not doing more to free those held by Hamas.

In a press conference on Saturday night, he said the first goal of the

war was to destroy Hamas, the second was to return the hostages and the third was to eliminate the threat from Gaza.

"We want answers," said protester Ari Levi, who had two family members – including his 12-year-old son – taken by Hamas from kibbutz Nir Oz on 7 October.

"It's not normal to have children kidnapped for 43 days. We don't know what the government is doing, we don't have any information," Mr Levi told the AFP news agency.

"I want the government to bring them home to us," said Dvora Cohen, 43, whose brother-in-law and 12-year-old nephew are both believed to be held by Hamas.

This week Israel's military said it had found the bodies of two hostages – 65-year-old Yehudit Weiss and 19-year-old soldier Noa Marciano – in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has launched a massive retaliatory operation – involving air and artillery strikes as well as ground troops – with the aim of eliminating Hamas.

The Hamas-run health ministry says the death toll in Gaza since then has reached 12,300. More than 2,000 more are feared to be buried under rubble.

Russia

'Waves' of Russian drones attack Kyiv for second night in a row

Russia has launched several waves of drone attacks on Kyiv for the second night in a row, the city's military administration said.

Serhiy Popko, head of the administration, said Ukraine's air defence systems hit around 10 drones in Kyiv and its outskirts.

No "critical damage" or casualties have been reported, he said.

Meanwhile, Russian authorities said a Ukrainian drone heading for Moscow was shot down on Saturday.

The defence ministry said the uncrewed aircraft (UAVs) was intercepted over the Bogorodsky District on the north-eastern outskirts of the capital.

Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyenin said there was no damage or casualties.

Sunday's air raids against Ukrainian targets follow a wave of attacks the night before, with Kyiv saying it had shot down 29 out of 38 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched by Russia.

The BBC is unable to independently verify exactly how many drones were launched and destroyed.

On Saturday, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy praised his air

force for shooting down the UAVs – the highest number reported to have been launched by Russia in more than six weeks.

In his nightly address, President Zelenskiy said: "Your accuracy, guys, is literally life for Ukraine" – but he warned that as winter approaches Russia would try to make their attacks more powerful.

Mr Zelenskiy said Russia could be stockpiling missiles for a winter assault on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Friday night's drone strikes caused power cuts in more than 400 towns and villages across Ukraine and also damaged an oil depot in Odesa in the south – leaving more than 1,500 residents without power.

Ukraine said nearly 21,000 people in the Donetsk region have no electricity, and 63 settlements are cut off in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Last winter, Russian attacks left millions of Ukrainians without power for hours in freezing temperatures. Meanwhile, Ukraine's general staff said on Saturday that its forces "continue to hold positions on the left (eastern) bank of the Dnipro river".



Ukrainian forces said this week they had gained a foothold on the eastern bank of the Dnipro about 30km (19 miles) from the city of Kherson.

The river has separated Ukrainian and Russian forces since Moscow's troops withdrew from Kherson a year ago.

"Our defenders are consolidating

their positions and firing on the occupiers," the general staff said on Saturday, updating on its operations on the eastern side of the river.

Russia conceded on 15 November that "small groups" of Ukrainian forces had set up positions in the village but insisted they had sustained heavy losses and had no chance of

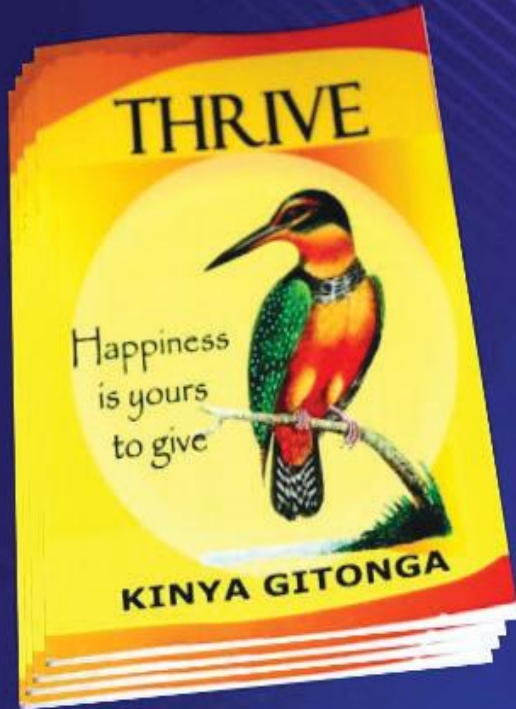
breaking through.

On Thursday, Mr Zelenskiy said Russia was "accumulating" missiles and that while Ukraine did not have "100% protection" from Russian strikes, the country's air defences were better than last year.

BBC

Kingya N. Gitonga

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Motivation

Israeli failures, US charades and a negotiated truce

The temporary ceasefire suggests Israel and the US are nowhere near 'wiping out' Hamas.

By: Mouin Rabbani
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• This is quite close to the deal initially offered by Hamas several weeks ago, and it appears the bulk of its demands have been conceded by Israel and the US. If the adage that negotiations reflect reality on the ground rather than overturning it applies, Hamas – in contrast to the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip, which has been Israel's main target – seems far from desperate. Instead, it appears sufficiently confident to stick to its priorities until these are accepted by the US and Israel.

• Pursuant to the agreement, Hamas has also forced the US and Israel to consent to the supply of large amounts of essential humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip. In other words, Hamas has in one fell swoop achieved exponentially more on the humanitarian front than the much-vaunted US diplomacy to secure humanitarian relief for Gaza's Palestinian civilians during the past month.



Smoke rises over Gaza City as displaced Palestinians take shelter at al-Shifa Hospital on November 8, 2023 [File: Reuters/Doaa Rouqa]

In the early hours of November 22, Qatar formally announced that an agreement had been reached for an Israeli-Palestinian exchange of captives. The available details suggest it largely reflects the proposal offered by Hamas several weeks ago that was initially rejected by Israel.

The announcement was made just a week after Israeli tanks and soldiers stormed into the al-Shifa Hospital compound in Gaza City, causing international outrage. Israel had claimed that there was a Hamas command centre there and repeatedly vowed to destroy it. As it happened, the only facility to be found within the compound was a hospital. The United States fully supported Israel's violation of al-Shifa's sanctity and even claimed it had independent intelligence about a Palestinian Pentagon beneath it but produced no evidence in support of this assertion.

At the time, this led to speculation that these events may have been the product of an informal US-Israeli agreement: The Biden administration would support Israel's seizure of al-Shifa and would cover for this war crime politically and diplomatically with lies of its own, thus allowing an Israeli military with few achievements since October 7 to have its "Iwo Jima moment" atop "Mount Shifa".

But once it would become clear that there was nothing of military significance within the premises, the US would proceed to finalise a deal with Hamas and Israel would have to agree to its

implementation.

It does indeed appear to be the case that in exchange for US support for Israel's systematic destruction of the health sector in the Gaza Strip, a deal with Hamas has been reached.

The agreement is significant in several respects. Perhaps most importantly, the US and Israel, which repeatedly vowed to eradicate Hamas, are now negotiating with the Palestinian movement and reaching agreements with it. Qatari-Egyptian mediation, while indispensable, is ultimately a formality. The US and Israel are not negotiating with Egypt and Qatar but with Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip and architect of the October 7 attacks.

The tenor of Israeli press reports in recent days has been that Hamas is desperate for a respite, however brief and at almost any price, from the ferocious Israeli onslaught against the Gaza Strip.

Yet the available reports about the deal suggest otherwise: Israel has committed to releasing three times as many imprisoned women and children as the Palestinians; no Israeli soldiers are included in the exchange; significantly more humanitarian supplies, including fuel, will reach the Gaza Strip; the exchange of captives will be implemented during a continuous four-day truce rather than one in which the slaughter is paused for a brief period each day; and Israeli jets and drones will be prohibited from using the airspace over the Gaza Strip for several hours each day.

This is quite close to the deal initially offered by Hamas several weeks ago, and it appears the bulk of its demands have been conceded by Israel and the US. If the adage that negotiations reflect reality on the ground rather than overturning it applies, Hamas – in contrast to the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip, which has been Israel's main target – seems far from desperate. Instead, it appears sufficiently confident to stick to its priorities until these are accepted by the US and Israel.

Pursuant to the agreement, Hamas has also forced the US and Israel to consent to the supply of large amounts of essential humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip. In other words, Hamas has in one fell swoop achieved exponentially more on the humanitarian front than the much-vaunted US diplomacy to secure humanitarian relief for Gaza's Palestinian civilians during the past month.

This confirms that the entire US effort was in essence a circus – a diversionary charade to enable Israel to continue with its mass killings and transform the Gaza Strip into a wasteland and a killing field.

It bears repeating that Hamas has forced the US and Israel to allow significant quantities of food, water, medicine and fuel to reach the civilian population of the Gaza Strip. Yet Hamas is the anointed terrorist organisation in this equation while Israel is the light unto nations with the world's most moral army and the

US – the world's greatest democracy dedicated to spreading freedom and human rights to the rest of the planet.

What happens next is difficult to assess. According to reports, only Israeli and dual nationals are to be released, presumably to help the Israeli leadership swallow this very bitter pill and to allay Israeli concerns that the release of foreign nationals would be privileged in negotiations with Hamas. Yet by insisting on this formula, Israel has ensured that further negotiations to release foreign citizens would continue, potentially leading to an extension of the truce.

At the same time, it is difficult to believe that the Israeli leadership can accept a temporary truce that metamorphoses into an indefinite one. It is clearly in the Israeli premier's personal and political interest to keep this conflict going while the security establishment is also desperate to wipe away the stain of October 7. Other members of Israel's governing coalition partners see this war as a golden opportunity to unleash the apocalypse and want it to escalate further rather than wind down.

Although the Gaza Strip has been substantially destroyed, Hamas has yet to be significantly degraded, and the Israeli army has yet to kill more Hamas commanders than United Nations staff.

If Israel is confident it can once again flout US policy without consequences, it will. This could take the form of sabotaging the truce

or resuming hostilities to ensure it is not extended. Farther afield, the Israeli-Lebanese front also seems to be rapidly heating up.

So further escalation is likely, but it is also possible that the implementation of this deal could cause Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to collapse under a combination of public pressure and internal conflicts among leaders who mutually detest and distrust each other.

The US leadership is also a question mark. With respect to the impact of this crisis on US interests in the region and beyond and particularly the question of regional escalation, US President Joe Biden appears not to care, Secretary of State Antony Blinken appears not to know while CIA Director William Burns and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin look mortified. Which faction gains the upper hand remains an open question.

The one conclusion that can already be drawn is that the various "day after" scenarios produced by the Washington echo chamber can be safely discarded because they uniformly require the eradication of Hamas and not negotiated agreements with it.

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

Mouin Rabbani is a Co-Editor of Jadaliyya and Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies

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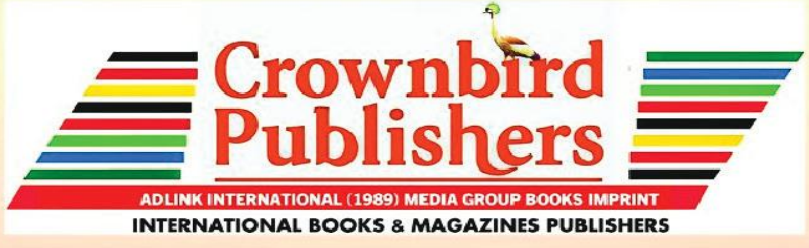
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BEST SELLER NOVELS

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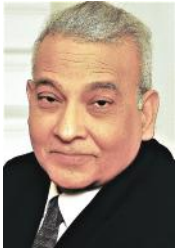
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Diaspora News

Trouble at the top, Tories in turmoil, silent political coup? Prime Minister Rishi's future hangs in a precarious balance.::

SUNAK SACKS SUELLA, SURPRISES BRITONS AS FORMER PREMIER CAMERON RETURNS IN CABINET RESHUFFLE



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

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- The clock was ticking for Braverman when she Ms Braverman's article sparked a furious outcry after she accused Scotland Yard of "playing favourites" over the Pro-Palestine rally. Critics demanded that she be sacked immediately.
- Braverman said she had urged Sunak to consider legislation to ban pro-Palestinian marches in the UK to "stem the rising tide of racism, intimidation and terrorist glorification threatening community cohesion."
- While Mr Sunak's spokesperson at the time said he retained "full confidence" in her, they confirmed that No 10 did not approve the final text.
- This throws light on the control at Downing Street, where Cabinet Ministers are subject to some form of 'censorship' or 'control' and that they cannot comment on issues like loose cannons.
- Ironically, just days before throwing her out, Sunak was unconditionally supporting Braverman and backing her draconian move to stop the flow of migrants into the UK by boats.

a furious outcry after she accused Scotland Yard of "playing favourites" over the Pro-Palestine rally. Critics demanded that she be sacked immediately.

Braverman said she had urged Sunak to consider legislation to ban pro-Palestinian marches in the UK to "stem the rising tide of racism, intimidation and terrorist glorification threatening community cohesion." While Mr Sunak's spokesperson at the time said he retained "full confidence" in her, they confirmed that No 10 did not approve the final text.

This throws light on the control at Downing Street, where Cabinet Ministers are subject to some form of 'censorship' or 'control' and that they cannot comment on issues like loose cannons. Ironically, just days before throwing her out, Sunak was unconditionally supporting Braverman and backing her draconian move to stop the flow of migrants into the UK by boats.

Some observers suspect that Suella's dismissal was half-hearted. The Prime Minister was not even interested in sacking Suella but was forced to bow to quell demands from his party and the opposition for her to be fired and to protect his position as the leader.

Usually, sacked or retired ministers return to the back benches, but it seems Suella will rock the boat by being a thorn in the Prime Minister's side because of uncontrolled immigration numbers.

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), net migration has hit a new record high. Estimated net migration to the UK stood at a provisional 672,000 in the year to June 2023, up from 607,000 in the previous 12 months. The figures also reveal that from January to December 2022, migration is estimated to have hit a record 745,000.

She has vowed to take on Rishi Sunak on the latest swelling migrant numbers to the UK, but she has conveniently forgotten that it happened under her watch when she was the Home Secretary.

Sunak chose to ignore her ministerial gaffes (or misdemeanours), but push came to shove when the controversial Government plan to send unwanted migrants and Asylum seekers to Rwanda backfired in the

Government's face when the Supreme Court declared it unlawful.

This ruling shook the immigration plans of Sunak's Government, which had sold British voters its plans to curtail the entry of migrants crossing into the UK in boats from across the European mainland, backfired on the Government's face like a Guy Fawkes day blast shaking the core of the Government.

The Supreme Court ruled the Rwanda asylum policy unlawful and unlikely to succeed in reducing asylum seekers. This proved the Government had failed miserably to foresee the legal minefield in its aggressive plans to block migrants.

The historic ruling has dealt a significant blow to the Government's plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, highlighting the challenges and legal disputes surrounding the policy.

Sunak's critics believe that the Prime Minister and the former Home Secretary failed to see the legal implications and chose to bulldoze their plans and ignore flaws in their Rwanda asylum plan.

Sunak was left helpless, as if in a rudderless political boat. He had to act. Suella is seen as more of a liability than an asset to his Cabinet. The sacked Home Secretary disagrees with that categorisation.

Sunak seemed to be fighting a losing battle on almost all fronts after showing the door to his Home Secretary Suella Braverman following demands from his party besides the opposition parties to remove Braverman, who seemed to them to be a thorn on the side of the leadership in 10 Downing Street.

Conspiracies and shenanigans against Sunak in the high political circles are a reminder of the days when Boris Johnson lost all the support of his Cabinet colleagues, forcing him to resign against his will.

Not to be done, Sunak fired on all cylinders as he announced a cabinet reshuffle, showing the door to Suella and appointing Foreign Secretary James Cleverley Home Secretary.

In what Sunak's supporters



Sacked...former Home Secretary Suella Braverman was shown the door by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently, leading to a major reshuffle and a war of words with Downing Street. Photo Courtesy.



Former British Prime Minister David Cameron, now Lord Camern, is the new Foreign Secretary in a surprise move by Premier Rishi Sunak. Photo UK Government



James Cleverly was appointed the Home Secretary to replace Suella Braverman. Photo X

Contd Page 11.

Diaspora News

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

Contd from Page 10

Worth Noting:

- Sunak chose to ignore her ministerial gaffes (or misdemeanours), but push came to shove when the controversial Government plan to send unwanted migrants and Asylum seekers to Rwanda backfired in the Government's face when the Supreme Court declared it unlawful. This ruling shook the immigration plans of Sunak's Government, which had sold British voters its plans to curtail the entry of migrants crossing into the UK in boats from across the European mainland, backfired on the Government's face like a Guy Fawkes day blast shaking the core of the Government. The Supreme Court ruled the Rwanda asylum policy unlawful and unlikely to succeed in reducing asylum seekers. This proved the Government had failed miserably to foresee the legal minefield in its aggressive plans to block migrants.

saw as 'a master stroke', the Prime Minister, unprecedented in 53 years, brought in former Prime Minister David Cameron (now Lord Cameron) to be the Foreign Secretary, a somewhat political demotion for Cameron. Cameron resigned from politics after his Government was defeated in the Brexit referendum. His appointment set political tongues wagging, asking how Cameron could be in the Sunak Cabinet when he was not even an MP. Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle expressed his frustration at Mr Cameron's appointment - saying it was "especially important" that MPs should "scrutinise" the work of the Foreign Office during current international crises. The poser was: Is this permissible? Yes, this is allowed. David Cameron was immediately made a life peer, Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton. Cameron, the British Prime Minister from 2010 to 2016, became the first Prime Minister to accept this lower position half a Century later, after Sir Alec-Douglas Home, who was the Prime Minister for one year in 1963 but accepted to be Foreign Secretary for four years in 1970. He will sit in the House of Lords. Theoretically, he can be made a minister without being in the Commons or Lords, but in practice, they will sit in the Lord if a minister is not an MP. In his maiden speech in the House of Lords earlier this week, Lord Cameron conceded that he had been "surprised" to be asked to return to the Government. But was proud to serve under Rishi Sunak, whom he described as a "strong and callable Prime Minister". While much of the cabinet reshuffle appeared like musical chairs, another top Tories her portfolio portfolios besides Suella. Rachel Maclean was sacked as housing minister. Seven Tory ministers quit, including Nick Gibb (Schools Minister; Neil O'Brien (Levelling-Up Portfolio); Will Quinns (Health); Jesse Norman (Transport); Therese Coffey (Environment); Jeremy Quinn (Paymaster General) and Goerge Freeman (Science). Suella is said to have been very angry with her sacking. She fired a scathing three-

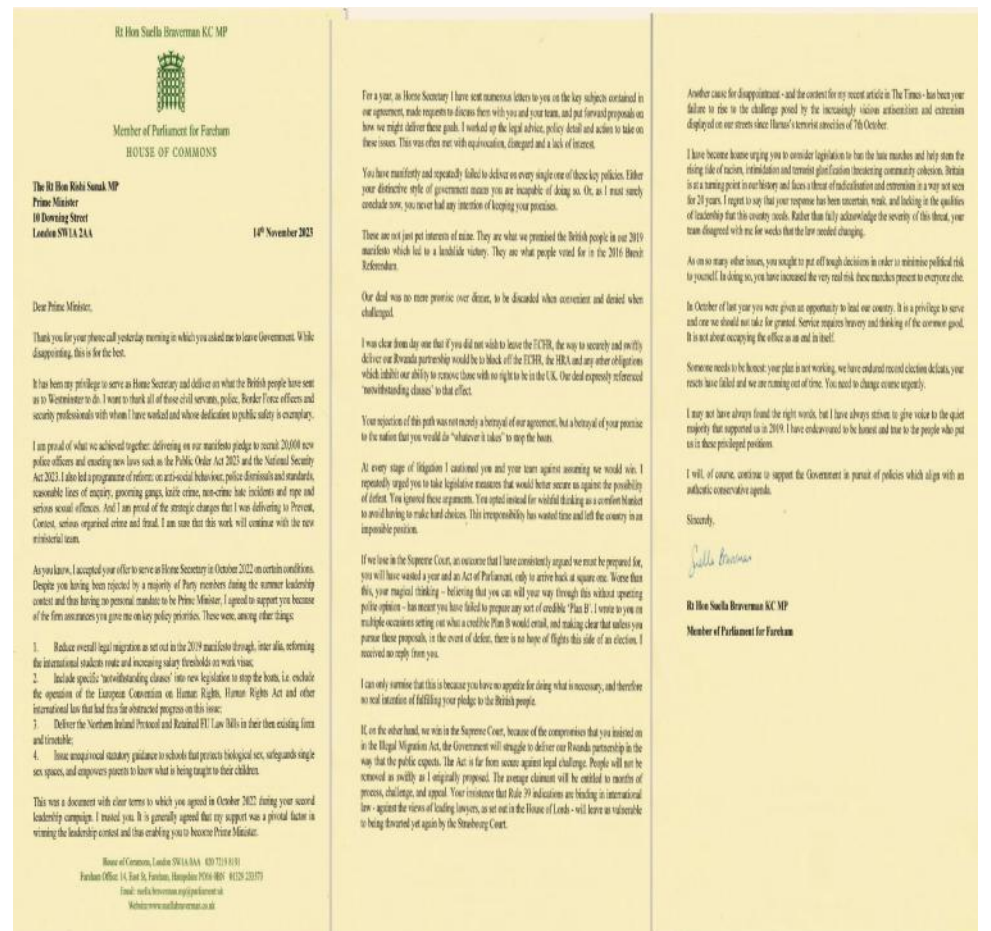
page letter accusing Sunak of betraying the nation by backtracking on a 'secret deal' to ignore all European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) rulings and to push the government agenda of sending asylum seekers to Rwanda in a deal signed between the two countries which had so far cost over £100 million. The Prime Minister, she said, had dodged "hard decisions" on how to stop the boats of migrants coming into the UK through the English Channel route. She accused Sunak of "irresponsibility". She accused him of a breach of trust between the two on the agenda they had jointly agreed. Far from throwing in the towel after her sacking, Suella is still pushing her hardline "authentic Conservative agenda". Observers saw this as a threat of future leadership challenge to Rishi Sunak. No 10 did not deny Suella Braverman's claims in her letter and chose to give a weak response to her accusations, but said the Prime Minister believes in actions, not words. So, what is transpiring now after Suella was sacked? Rishi Sunak has come out fighting, vowing to continue with his aggressive policy of continuing the Rwanda treaty but in a different format and even bypassing all stumbling blocks, including challenging the ECHR, if it needs to be done. This has put him on a collision course with his party colleagues who plan to oppose his plans. More than 55 Tory MPs have decided to step down at the next election, drastically reducing the Conservative's 350 majority in a Parliament of 650 House of Commons seats. The opposition Labour has a 198 majority, which is a far cry from the 326 seats needed to be the majority party. Recent polls have shown Labour could "possibly" win the next general election if it plays its cards right. Labour has a dismal record of past failures, isolating them from leadership stakes. In general, all is not well in the United Kingdom. Industrial disputes are looming,



The Rwanda asylum programme agreement signed on April 14, 2022, between former Home Secretary Priti Patel and Rwanda Minister Vincent Biruta, which the Supreme Court in London declared illegal. Photo Courtesy.



No. 10 Downing Street in London, where Prime Minister Rishi Sunak phoned Suella Braverman asking her to leave his Cabinet.



Suella Braverman wrote a scathing letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak after he sacked her as Home Secretary levelling accusations of incompetence against him.

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Russia-Africa

Sanctions hindering Russia from channelling more support to Kenya, Africa – Envoy

Maksimychiev says over 20,000 tonnes of fertilizer majorly destined for Africa have been impounded and that Russia currently doesn't have access to it, making it difficult to honour requests from countries in need of them.

By: Eric Biegon
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Dmitry Maksimychiev is the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kenya.

Worth Noting:

- He also blames frustrations from the West for the collapse of the Black Sea Grain Deal that would have seen smooth shipment of food and grain stocks from Ukraine into world markets to bridge the global food supply gap and reduce pressure on high prices.
- “The deal was initiated by Ukraine. It was a deal and every deal has parties. Its purpose was to facilitate the export of Ukrainian grain to the international market alleviating the shortage, and we agreed to that. But the other part of the deal was that the West and the Secretary General of the UN would facilitate the lifting of illegal sanctions against our exporters,” explained the Ambassador.
- “We fulfilled our part of the deal, by allowing ships to move with grain from the ports of Ukraine, however, the other parts of the deal were not fulfilled because the West has not lifted the sanctions against us.”

Russian Ambassador to Kenya Dmitry Maksimychiev has blamed sanctions imposed on Moscow by the West for the country's inability to channel the necessary support to Kenya and other countries in Africa. The ambassador indicated that there have been numerous requests from different African governments, Kenya included, for support from Russia, especially to do with food and fertilizers but argued Kremlin has been unable to deliver them because its efforts are being frustrated by the US and the European Union. “We want to increase the export of food. But we are in a disadvantaged position because they (the West) are trying to hinder and erect obstacles in our exports. However, we are trying to find ways to supply grain. The most affected are the poorest countries,” noted Maksimychiev during an interview with KBC Channel 1 TV.

“We have a problem because a huge amount of Russian fertilizers has been confiscated in the European ports just when they were getting ready to be exported to various countries. This has been done for political reasons.” He said about 20,000 tonnes of fertilizer majorly des-

tined for Africa have been impounded and that Russia currently doesn't have access to it, making it difficult to honour requests from countries in need of them.

“If European Union decides to release it, then we are ready to provide it to African countries for free, as part of our humanitarian operation,” confirmed the Ambassador.

The envoy reiterated that President Vladimir Putin's government is ready to offer aid to Africa in time of need, giving the example of the recent donation of 34,000 tonnes of fertilizers to Kenya through the World Food Programme by the Russian Federation.

“It was fully funded by Russia. The end product will be 100,000 tonnes that will reach farmers. The Kenyan farmers now have the possibility to use the fertilizer to increase the productivity of their crops,” said Maksimychiev.

Black Sea Grain Deal

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sure on high prices.

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“We fulfilled our part of the deal, by allowing ships to move with grain from the ports of Ukraine, however, the other parts of the deal were not fulfilled because the West has not lifted the sanctions against us.”

Moscow's top diplomat in Nairobi further reiterated Russia's position that the agreed grain route was being used by the US and its allies to bolster Ukraine's capabilities in the war against Russia.

“The second aspect is that Ukraine and the West were using the sea route to smuggle weapons into Ukraine from the West,” he adds.

Maksimychiev insists that the accusation that Russia walked out of the deal therefore amounted to a false accusation and only aimed at painting Moscow in a bad

light.

He said Russia means well for Africa and that the country has invested so much in the development of Africa, right from the continent's struggle for independence.

“You will not find any bigger supporter of Africa's self-reliance and sovereignty than Russia. We think that a vibrant, sovereign, free, independent, and prosperous Africa is a necessary precondition for global peace and development,” he said.

“We think it would be to everybody's benefit if Africa reasserts itself as an independent force in the global arena,” added the diplomat citing this as the motivation behind the Russia-Africa summit that has so far been convened twice. “This is a platform for honest dialogue between Russia and Africa. We couldn't do it if we didn't believe in Africa.”

Kenya-Russia Relations

To support Kenya's development aspirations, the ambassador pointed out that Russia is guided in its efforts to assist by the concept of sustainable development which fits perfectly into the bottom-up philosophy.

“We have been consistently trying to help Kenya develop as an independent country to build its state and

develop its human capacity. We also pay a lot of attention to food security. Over many years we have been providing food assistance to Kenya in the form of donations,” noted Ambassador Maksimychiev.

At the same time, Maksimychiev said trade between Russia and Kenya is expanding and that at the moment Moscow has opened its market to a good number of Kenyan products, which is a boost to the country's economy.

“We are witnessing positive trends. The size of our trade has been expanding over the last several years. There is hope that by the end of this year, we will reach a trade volume of USD 500 million, which is an achievement.”

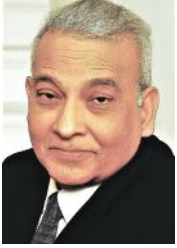
He continued: “Until recently, we have been the second-largest buyer of Kenyan tea. We also buy horticultural produce like flowers, fruits, and vegetables. We are trying to expand trade between our two countries and there is room for improvement.”

On the issue of oil, the ambassador said Russia is willing to negotiate and enter into a deal with Kenya and any other country that has interests in its vast energy resources.

Diaspora News

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Contd from Page 11

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- In what Sunak's supporters saw as 'a master stroke', the Prime Minister, unprecedented in 53 years, brought in former Prime Minister David Cameron (now Lord Cameron) to be the Foreign Secretary, a somewhat political demotion for Cameron.
- Cameron resigned from politics after his Government was defeated in the Brexit referendum. His appointment set political tongues wagging, asking how Cameron could be in the Sunak Cabinet when he was not even an MP.
- Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle expressed his frustration at Mr Cameron's appointment – saying it was "especially important" that MPs could "scrutinise" the work of the Foreign Office during current international crises.



Seeking a new home... these boat people flee their countries for a new life in Britain risking their lives but are booted out to be deported.

and there is little control over the escalating living costs and rising unemployment.

This week marks five weeks until 2024, and public transport commuters are reeling from fears that rail passengers will face an unholy combination of strikes, staff shortages, and engineering work between now and New Year's Day.

Sunak has to tread carefully in handling these industrial disputes and other issues that have added to the malaise of the UK, as any drastic moves could hit the Tory Party's popularity, not forgetting his reputation. Transport workers, jobless people and their families are also voters.

On the other hand, Labour could win the election if the polls are any comfort of this party winning over 300 seats in the 2024 general elections.

Assuming that the Tories bounce back to power, there will be no peace among the party members as the political wounds of the Sunak era will still be fresh in the minds of right-wingers. If Suella becomes the Tory Party leader, and by her position, the UK Prime Minister, the Tory Party could be pushed to the sidelines, ending their decades of political domination in this country.



To plan protests on Armistice Day is provocative and disrespectful, and there is a clear and present risk that the Cenotaph and other war memorials could be desecrated, something that would be an affront to the British public and the values we stand for.

The right to remember, in peace and dignity, those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for those freedoms must be protected.

I have asked the Home Secretary to support the Met Police in doing everything necessary to protect the sanctity of Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

RISHI SUNAK
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Prime Minister Sunak supported Suella Braverman over her plans and actions but did not accept her actions as a Cabinet Minister.



Desperate to slash the number of migrants, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak supported his former Home Secretary Braverman's strategy to control immigration but disagreed on issues.

APEC

Full text of President Xi Jinping's written speech at APEC CEO Summit

By:CGTN
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

— Openness and inclusiveness are the defining feature of Asia-Pacific cooperation. Development in our region has been achieved not through provoking antagonism and confrontation, pursuing a beggar-thy-neighbor policy, or erecting high fences around a small yard, but by staying open and inclusive and drawing on each other's strengths. We have stayed committed to open regionalism, jointly formulated the Bogor Goals and the Putrajaya Vision, promoted trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and bolstered economic integration of the region. Over the past three decades, the Asia-Pacific has cut its average tariff rate from 17 percent to 5 percent, and contributed 70 percent of global economic growth.

— Development for all is the overarching goal of Asia-Pacific cooperation. Development is an eternal pursuit in our region. We have stayed focused on development and continually deepened economic and technical cooperation, thus strengthening the ability of developing members to achieve self-development.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

Three decades ago, where humanity should be headed in the post-Cold War era was the question of the world, of history and of the times in front of Asia-Pacific leaders. In response, they followed the trend toward peace and development, and convened the inaugural APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. They agreed unanimously to rise above the outdated mentality of bloc confrontation and zero-sum game, deepen economic cooperation and integration in the region, and build a dynamic, harmonious and prosperous Asia-Pacific community. This major decision enabled Asia-Pacific development and economic globalization to embark on a fast track of growth, turning the region into a powerhouse for world economic growth, an anchor of stability for global development, and a pacesetter for international cooperation.

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of voluntarism, consensus-building and incremental progress, and we respect the right to development of all members. Over the past three decades, per capita income in the Asia-Pacific has more than quadrupled, and one billion people have been lifted out of poverty. This is an important contribution to human progress and global sustainable development.

— Seeking common ground while shelving differences is the best practice of Asia-Pacific cooperation. Economies in the region have different histories and cultures and are in different stages of development.

Forcing uniformity will not advance cooperation in the region; seeking common ground while shelving differences is the right way forward. Over the past three decades, we have properly tackled major challenges such as the Asian and international financial crises, and have sustained the momentum of economic development in the Asia-Pacific. Our success was possible because we have followed the underlying trend, kept

the larger picture in mind, and capitalized on the spirit of partnership featuring harmony without uniformity, and solidarity and mutual assistance. This has enabled us to turn diversity in membership into momentum for cooperation and make collective progress through tapping into complementarity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

The world has entered a new period of turbulence and change. The momentum of world economic growth is sluggish. Destabilizing, uncertain and unpredictable factors are increasing. Where will Asia-Pacific cooperation be headed in the next 30 years? This is a new question of the times facing us. As an ancient Chinese scholar observed, "Plants with strong roots grow well, and efforts with the right focus ensure success." We should stay committed to APEC's founding mission, never forget our mission bestowed by history, and move to relaunch Asia-Pacific cooperation.

San Francisco, where the United Nations Charter was

signed, embodies the noble aspiration of all peoples for peace across the world. Peace does not come by easily, and development is a long and arduous task. We should jointly uphold the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and follow the right norms for state-to-state relations to maintain Asia-Pacific prosperity and stability through dialogue and partnership rather than confrontation and alliance. The region cannot and should not be an arena for geopolitical rivalry, still less should it be plunged into a new Cold War or camp-based confrontation.

The story of Asia-Pacific prosperity and development shows that development is only possible with cooperation, absence of cooperation is the biggest risk, and that decoupling and supply-chain disruption are not in anyone's interests. We should remain committed to open regionalism, and steadfastly advance the building of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. We should respect laws governing economic development, bring out the best in each and every one of us, make our economies more interconnected, strengthen synergy between relevant regional trade agreements and development strategies, and build an open Asia-Pacific economy featuring win-win cooperation.

Facing a new wave of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, we should look beyond the horizon, seize the opportunities, and move along with the trend to promote transition to digital, smart and green development. We should jointly boost innovation and market application of scientific and technological advances, and push forward full integration of digital and physical economies. We should jointly improve global governance of science and technology, bolster support for green and digital transition and sustainable development through innovation, and build an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment for the development of science and technology.

Ten years ago, I called for building a community with

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APEC

Full text of President Xi Jinping's written speech at APEC CEO Summit

By:CGTN
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 14



APEC CEO SUMMIT USA 2023

Creating Economic Opportunity

Sustainability. Inclusion. Resilience. Innovation.

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a shared future for mankind. The APEC Putrajaya Vision explicitly lays out its vision for an Asia-Pacific community by 2040, charting the course for further cooperation in our region. In recent years, in response to the pressing needs around the world, I have proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). They are intended to galvanize all stakeholders to address global challenges, promote common development, and improve the well-being of humanity. China will work with all in the Asia-Pacific to advance and implement these initiatives, and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world of lasting peace, universal security and shared prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,
This year, China's economy has been steadily recovering and turning for the better. Its growth rate is among the highest among major economies of the world. And solid gains have been made in our pursuit of high-quality development. China remains the most powerful engine of global growth, and will generate one-third of global growth this year. Just as some leaders of the business community have said, China has become a synonym of the best investment destination, and that the "next China" is still China. We invite friends from business communities across the world to invest and deepen your foot-

print in China. China enjoys distinct strengths such as a socialist market economy in systemic terms, a supsize market in terms of demand, a full-fledged industrial system in terms of supply, and abundant, high-caliber labor forces and entrepreneurs in terms of human resources. China's economic development is self-generative, resilient and has many potentials. In the past, China surmounted numerous difficulties and obstacles by defusing risks and meeting challenges, and made historic achievements. Today, the overall Chinese economy, blessed by its strong resilience, enormous potential and ample room for maneuver, remains promising, and it will remain so in the long run. We have the confidence in, and even more capability of achieving long-term and stable growth, and through our development we will continue to provide the world with new growth momentum and opportunities. China is committed to applying the new development philosophy with a focus on achieving innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all, and it is pursuing high-quality development and high value-added and green economic growth. Recent years have seen rapid growth in China's export of "the new three," namely, new energy vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and photovoltaic products. A national voluntary greenhouse gas emissions reduction trading mar-

ket will soon be launched, which will create huge green market opportunities. China will expedite its efforts to modernize the industrial system, provide better institutional safeguards to enable business entities of all types to share in the gains of development, and foster new drivers of growth and create more room for development.

We remain committed to pursuing development with our doors open. We will unswervingly advance high-standard opening up and further expand market access. China has announced the removal of all restrictive measures on foreign investment in manufacturing. The sixth China International Import Expo was held recently, and the second Global Digital Trade Expo will be held later this month. All these steps will expand China's opening up and create more development opportunities and benefits for other countries. China is applying high standards to its implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. It is working to align itself with the high-standard economic and trade rules of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement to advance the process of acceding to these two agreements, and expand a globally-oriented network of high-standard free trade areas. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative that I

proposed. Last month, China hosted the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation with 458 deliverables. Chinese financial institutions established a financing window of 780 billion yuan for Belt and Road projects, and Chinese and foreign companies reached business deals worth \$97.2 billion. All this will contribute to high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and provide strong momentum for connectivity, development and prosperity around the world.

No matter how the international situation evolves, China's resolve to foster a market-oriented, law-based and world-class business environment will not change. And our policy of providing equal and quality services to foreign investors will not change. We will continue to improve the mechanisms for protecting the rights and interests of foreign investors, further shorten the negative list on foreign investment, fully ensure national treatment for foreign investors, and continue to strengthen IPR protection. We will strive to tear down the barriers to the flow of innovation factors, deepen reform of the digital economy, and promote free and orderly flow of data in compliance with the law. We will also take more "heart-warming" measures, such as improving the policies on entry and stay of foreign nationals in China and removing for them choke points in financial, medical, e-payment and other services. All this

is designed to make it easier for foreign companies to invest and operate in China. I wish to stress that Chinese modernization naturally calls for high-quality development by overcoming economic challenges and making steady progress. Its immutable goal is to deliver a better life to the whole of more than 1.4 billion Chinese people. For the world, this means a broader market and unprecedented cooperation opportunities. It will also instill strong impetus in the global modernization endeavor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,
The Asia-Pacific business community has always been courageous pioneers in Asia-Pacific cooperation and global development. I hope that you will make full use of your entrepreneurship, and contribute even more to building an open Asia-Pacific economy and boosting global economic development. I also hope to see an active part of the global business community in the Chinese modernization drive to benefit from the huge opportunities brought by China's high-quality development!

Thank you.

America

Former US First Lady Rosalynn Carter dies aged 96



Former US first lady Rosalynn Carter speaking in New Delhi in 2006

Worth Noting:

- Mrs Carter was born Eleanor Rosalynn Smith on 18 August 1927.
- She married Jimmy Carter on 7 July 1946 and they had four children.
- The Carters' son, Chip, described her as a loving mother, extraordinary first lady and "a great humanitarian in her own right."
- "She will be sorely missed not only by our family but by the many people who have better mental health care and access to resources for caregiving today."
- She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, after losing a grandson in 2015.
- When her husband began his political career in the 1960s – first as Georgia state senator, governor, and later US president – Mrs Carter was focused on raising mental health awareness and reducing the stigma attached to people with mental illnesses.

Former US First Lady Rosalynn Carter, the wife of ex-President Jimmy Carter, has died at the age of 96. The Carter Center confirmed in a statement that she died peacefully with her family by her side. On Friday, it was reported that she had entered a hospice care home in the state of Georgia, and was spending time with her 99-year-old husband, who has been in hospice care since February. Mrs Carter was diagnosed with dementia in May. The longest-married first couple marked their 77th wedding anniversary in July. "Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished," said Mr Carter in the statement. "She gave me wise guidance and encouragement when I needed it. As long as Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew somebody loved and supported me."

Mrs Carter was born Eleanor Rosalynn Smith on 18 August 1927. She married Jimmy Carter on 7 July 1946 and they had four children. The Carters' son, Chip, described her as a loving mother, extraordinary first lady and "a great humanitarian in her own right." "She will be sorely missed not only by our family but by the many people who have better mental health care and access to resources for caregiving today." She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, after losing a grandson in 2015. When her husband began his political career in the 1960s – first as Georgia state senator, governor, and later US president – Mrs Carter was focused on raising mental health awareness and reducing the stigma attached to people with mental illnesses.

As first lady of Georgia she was a member of a governor's commission to improve services for the mentally ill, and as US First Lady she became honorary chair of the President's Commission on Mental Health, which was key to the passage of a 1980 act that helped fund local mental health centres. After leaving Washington she and her husband founded the Carter Center in 1982, through which she continued her advocacy work for mental health, early childhood immunisation, and other humanitarian causes. The couple were also key figures in the Habitat For Humanity charity, helping build homes for families in need. They received recognition for their humanitarian work in 2002 when Mr Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In a 2013 interview with

US TV network C-SPAN, she said: "I hope our legacy continues, more than just as first lady, because the Carter Center has been an integral part of our lives. "And our motto is waging peace, fighting disease and building hope. And I hope that I have contributed something to mental health issues and help improve a little bit the lives of people living with mental illnesses." US President Joe Biden paid tribute to Mrs Carter, saying she "walked her own path, inspiring a nation and the world along the way." "On behalf a grateful nation, we send our love to the entire Carter family and the countless people whose lives are better, fuller, and brighter because of Rosalynn Carter," President Biden posted on X, formerly Twitter. Former First Lady Michelle Obama said: "When our family was in the White House, every so often, Ro-

salynn would join me for lunch, offering a few words of advice and always – always – a helping hand. "She reminded me to make the role of First Lady my own, just like she did. I'll always remain grateful for her support and her generosity." Former President George W Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush said Mrs Carter was "a woman of dignity and strength". In a statement, they said: There was no greater advocate of President Carter, and their partnership set a wonderful example of loyalty and fidelity. "She leaves behind an important legacy in her work to destigmatize mental health."

BBC



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Diaspora

End of an era: How corruption in Liberia cost George Weah the presidency

In six years, Liberia's most famous citizen became unpopular enough to lose the presidential vote to a man he defeated in 2017.

On January 22, 2018, a cheering crowd welcomed George Weah to the Samuel K Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, outside Liberia's capital, Monrovia. But the man once crowned the world's best footballer was not there to add to his 75 matches for the Lone Stars, Liberia's senior national football team.

It was his inauguration as the West African nation's 25th president. Those present, like many Liberians glued to television sets at home and in the diaspora were brimming with hope at the expected transformation that his presidency would bring, just as his football career had given them joy and pride.

"It is my belief that the most effective way to directly impact the poor and to narrow the gap between rich and poor is to ensure that public resources do not end up in the pockets of government officials," Weah said in his inaugural address.

Weah had gone from a slum dweller in one of the poorest areas of one of the world's poorest countries to the only African winner of the Ballon d'Or, football's most coveted prize, and to Liberia's highest office. His election win made headlines across the world, and his inauguration speech seemed as convincing as his ball-striking prowess had been.

"I further believe that the overwhelming mandate I received from the Liberian people is a mandate to end corruption in public service," Weah told rapturous supporters, many of whom had survived corruption-fueled, back-to-back civil wars in the 1990s and 2000s, which killed more than 250,000 people.

Almost six years on, Liberia's most famous citizen dead or alive has become unpopular to the point of losing the presidential vote to a man whom he defeated in 2017.

Last week, Weah, 57, conceded defeat to former Vice President Joseph Boakai, 78, after a November 14 run-off. There are several reasons why voters denied Weah a second term, including his failure to establish a war crimes court for the country and the ripple effects of a drug epidemic. However, one issue stands out: cor-



Incumbent George Weah casts his vote in the first round of Liberia's presidential election at a polling station in Monrovia on October 10, 2023 [Guy Peterson/AFP]

ruption. It drove some of the biggest protests the country has seen since the end of Liberia's second civil war in 2003.

"[Weah] promised to 'weed out the menace of corruption'; however, greed and graft have become the hallmarks of his presidency," said Robtel Neajai Pailey, a Liberian academic, activist and author based in London. "President Weah squandered practically every opportunity to score the country's most important goal of socioeconomic transformation."

A banknote scandal

For decades, Liberia has been ranked as one of the world's most corrupt countries, but that notoriety reached its lowest depths under Weah. Since 2018, Liberia has averaged 29 points out of a possible 100 on Transparency International's corruption perceptions index. It currently ranks 136 out of 180 countries. In the six years before Weah, Liberia had averaged nearly 39 points.

Corruption became synonymous with Weah's government from the very beginning.

First, Weah refused to publicly declare his assets despite doing so in 2005 when he first ran for office. His officials followed suit, ignoring his mandate to declare theirs. But there was more

ahead.

Just nine months into this presidency, the Liberian press reported the alleged disappearance of 15.5 billion Liberian dollars (US\$96m at the time) in banknotes, approximately five percent of the country's gross domestic product. An inquiry by Kroll, a Philadelphia-based firm funded by the United States government, revealed that the banknotes had not gone missing but had been illegally printed. The investigation also found that US\$16.5m had been printed in excess and was unaccounted for. Several officials of the Central Bank of Liberia, including Charles Sirleaf, a son of former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, were charged and jailed for alleged economic sabotage, bribery, and criminal facilitation but were released, and their charges were later dropped.

Two months before the missing banknotes scandal, Weah had injected US\$25m into the economy to extract the excess Liberian dollars in circulation. In a national address, Weah said the injection would curb inflation and the depreciation of the Liberian currency.

This, too, led to another scandal. An examination by Liberia's General Auditing Commission found several discrepancies with disbursements. Some of the funds had not been accounted for,

and staff had not used the government-approved rate for some transactions.

The end of an era

Anderson Miamen, the lead campaigner at the Centre for Accountability and Transparency in Liberia, a partner of Transparency International, believes Liberians voted Weah out because of corruption.

"Everywhere we went, people asked questions about the situation of corruption in the country and what the government is doing about it. In the different reports that we've done over the years, citizens have expressed disappointment in the government's lack of strong will to deal with corruption," Miamen said. After four national auditors died in just over a week in 2020, public mistrust of the Weah government over corruption heightened in the country of 5.2 million people.

First, Albert Peters and Gifty Lama of the Liberia Revenue Authority were discovered dead in a car in Monrovia on October 2. Pathologists found they died of carbon monoxide poisoning due to the car's defective exhaust system.

Next, George Fahnboto, another auditor of the Liberia Revenue Authority, died from head wounds in an apparent car crash just outside Monrovia on October 4.

Then Emmanuel Nyeswa, head of Liberia's Internal Auditing Agency, died on October 10, 2020. His body was found lying outside his home with head wounds in the same neighborhood as Fahnboto. The result of his autopsy was inconclusive.

The deaths of the auditors sparked outrage. The public rejected the outcomes of the autopsies while the US-based Institute of Internal Auditors asked then-US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to help Liberia investigate the deaths.

That assistance did not come. However, the US sanctioned three senior members of Weah's government over corruption. Nathaniel McGill, minister of state; Bill Twehway, managing director of the Freeport of Monrovia; and Serenius Cephas, solicitor general, were sanctioned for "their involvement in public sector corruption in Liberia". The trio resigned their posts, but no one was prosecuted.

The continued lack of consequences for the elite ultimately hurt the man at the helm, analysts said. "We believe that it played a part in the way people voted," Miamen said. "He didn't really live by his word."

Source: Al Jazeera

Worth Noting:

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Hundreds leave Gaza's al-Shifa hospital as many feared killed at UN shelter

Hundreds of people including some patients left Gaza City's main hospital on Saturday. Some medical staff said they had been told to leave but Israel disputes this.

Many were seen walking along rubble-strewn streets as gunfire rang out.

Separately Hamas health officials said two explosions in Jabalia in northern Gaza together killed 80 people.

Israel told the BBC it could not confirm it struck a UN school-turned-shelter but was investigating.

BBC Verify has geolocated footage to al-Fakhoura school in Jabalia that shows many people – including women and children – with severe injuries or lying motionless on the floor in different parts of the building.

There are more than 20 such casualties visible in the footage, and around half of these are seen in one particular room on the ground floor, which also shows signs of considerable damage.

The head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) Philippe Lazzarini said he had seen “horrific images and footage of scores of people killed and injured” in one of his agency's schools “sheltering thousands of displaced”.

“These attacks cannot become commonplace, they must stop,” he said. Separately, the Hamas-run health

ministry said more than 30 people from the same family had been killed elsewhere in Jabalia, in what it also said was an Israeli strike.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had no immediate comment on the report but said it was expanding operations in Gaza, including in Jabalia, to target Hamas.

The Hamas-run health ministry says the death toll in Gaza has reached 12,300. More than 2,000 more are feared to be buried under rubble.

A joint UN team led by the World Health Organization (WHO) has described al-Shifa hospital as a “death zone” after visiting the facility following its occupation and evacuation by Israeli military.

The team assessed the hospital for one hour, and said they saw evidence of shelling and gunfire, and observed a mass grave at the hospital's entrance.

They were told it held the remains of 80 people.

Following evacuation orders issued by the Israeli army, 300 critically-ill patients remain in al-Shifa – formerly the largest and most advanced hospital in Gaza.

The WHO team said it was attempting to arrange for the urgent evacuation of remaining patients and staff to other facilities in Gaza.

A journalist at the hospital told the BBC that only “patients who could not move and a very small number of doctors” remained behind.



“We raised our hands and carried white flags,” Khader, a journalist who had been at al-Shifa, told the BBC.

“Last night was very difficult. The sounds of explosions and gunfire was terrifying. The bulldozers created huge holes in the hospital yard and swept away some buildings,”

Earlier, the Hamas-run health ministry said 120 patients remained at the hospital, as well as an unspecified number of premature babies.

The IDF denied ordering the evacuation of al-Shifa and said it had agreed to a request from the hos-

pital's director for those wanting to leave to evacuate through a “secure route”.

“At no point did the IDF order the evacuation of patients or medical teams and in fact proposed that any request for medical evacuation will be facilitated by the IDF,” a statement said.

Dr Ramez Radwan, a doctor who said he was ordered to leave al-Shifa by Israeli authorities, described the situation at the hospital as “miserable”, saying there were no painkillers or antibiotics and some patients had “worms coming out of the wounds”.

Israel's military has raided the hospital in recent days, as part of what it describes as a “targeted operation against Hamas”, but is yet to provide substantial evidence that the group conducted a major operation underneath.

It has told Palestinians in northern Gaza to leave for their own safety and has now begun telling people in the southern city of Khan Younis, where many thousands of people who have fled northern Gaza are, that they must now also leave.

BBC

Ethiopia talks with Oromo rebel group end without deal for a third time

The negotiations in Tanzania followed talks in April and May that also failed to produce an agreement.

A second round of peace talks between Ethiopia's government and a rebel group aimed at ending a decades-old conflict in the country's largest region Oromiya has ended without a deal, both sides said on Tuesday.

The negotiations in Tanzania between the government and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) followed talks in April and May that also failed to produce an agreement. The OLA is an outlawed splinter group of a formerly banned opposition party that returned from exile in 2018. Its grievances are rooted in the alleged marginalisation and neglect of people in Oromiya, which surrounds the capital, Addis Ababa. The violence in Oromiya has killed hundreds of people in the past few years and been one of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's main security headaches since the end of a two-year civil war in the northern Tigray region last year.

“Due to the intransigence of the other party, the talks have come to an end without an agreement,” Redwan Hussien, Abiy's national security adviser, said in a post on social media site X. “The obstructive approach and unrealistic demands of the other party are the principal reasons

why these talks could not succeed.”

In a statement, OLA accused the government of failing to address the “fundamental problems that underlie the county's seemingly insurmountable security and political challenges”.

The East African trade bloc IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) said on Wednesday it was “optimistic” about further talks. Its executive secretary Workneh Gebeyehu appealed to the parties “to uphold their commitment to the peace process in the best interest of the people of Ethiopia”.

“IGAD will continue to remain seized of the situation and stands ready to provide unwavering support to both sides in their pursuit of a peaceful resolution to the situation,” the statement said.

The government struck a peace deal in November 2022 to end the conflict in Tigray after tens of thousands of people were killed and millions displaced. But conflict has raged elsewhere.

Besides Oromiya, fighting in the neighbouring Amhara region between government forces and local militiamen has killed hundreds of people since late July. Tensions have been rising since April, when the



Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians gather to welcome returning leaders of the once-banned Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) in the capital, Addis Ababa, on Saturday, September 15, 2018 [File: Mulugeta Ayene/AP Photo]

federal government announced it was dismantling regional forces nationwide, triggering protests by Amhara nationalists who said the move would weaken their region.

The fierce fighting has seen the fed-

eral forces – known as the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) – battle local Fano fighters. Fano, an informal armed group with no publicly known command structure that draws volunteers from the

local population, was an ally in the ENDF's war against Tigray.

Source: News Agencies

Earth to warm up to 2.9C even with current climate pledges: UN

UN warns world 'out of road' for limiting warming to 1.5C ahead of COP28 meeting in Dubai.



The UN says the world must make a decisive move away from fossil fuels [File: Lou Benoist/AFP]

The world's emissions-cutting pledges are nowhere near enough to curb the effects of climate change, with Earth on track for warming a potentially catastrophic 2.9C (5.2F) this century, the United Nations has warned.

The UN Environment Programme

(UNEP)'s annual Emissions Gap report, published on Monday, assesses countries' promises to tackle climate change against the action needed. This year is expected to be the hottest in human history.

"The world is witnessing a disturbing acceleration in the number,

speed and scale of broken climate records," UNEP said.

The report found the world faces between 2.5C (4.5F) and 2.9C (5.2F) of warming above preindustrial levels on current commitments if governments do not take more aggressive climate action.

At that level of warming, scientists predict the world could pass several catastrophic points of no return, from the runaway melting of ice sheets to the Amazon rainforest drying out, and leave vast swathes of the planet essentially uninhabitable for humans.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for "dramatic climate action" at the COP28 climate talks, which begin in Dubai on November 30.

He likened the emissions gap to a canyon.

"Leaders can't kick the can any further. We're out of road," he said, condemning a "failure of leadership, a betrayal of the vulnerable, and a massive missed opportunity".

Guterres said the world "must reverse course" and make a decisive move away from polluting coal, oil and gas.

Time to 'step up'

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" 2C (3.6F) above preindustrial times – with a safer limit of 1.5C (2.7F) if possible.

Nearly 1.2C (2.2F) of global heating so far has already unleashed an escalating wave of deadly hazards – from intensifying hurricanes to floods and deadly heatwaves – across the planet.

UNEP said temperatures had risen above 1.5C (2.7F) for more than 80 days already this year, although the Paris warming thresholds will be measured as an average over several decades.

The report said that planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions must fall by 42 percent by 2030 to hold warming at 1.5C (2.7F).

But even in the most optimistic emissions scenario, the chance of now limiting warming to 1.5C (2.7F) was just 14 percent, it added.

The report said the world continues to pump record levels of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, with emissions up by 1.2 percent from 2021 to 2022, reaching a record 57.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The increase was largely driven by the burning of fossil fuels and industrial processes, it noted.

UNEP chief Inger Andersen said it was crucial that G20 nations – the world's wealthiest economies, together responsible for about 80 percent of emissions – "step up" and lead on reductions but lamented that some were in "snooze mode".

The report said none of the G20 nations had reduced emissions in line with their targets.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

ECOWAS

Niger government asks court to force ECOWAS to lift coup sanctions

Millions in Niger face hardship due to economic sanctions after the July 30 coup that toppled President Bazoum.

Niger's military government on Tuesday asked West Africa's regional court to order the lifting of sanctions imposed on the country by its neighbours following a July coup that deposed elected president Mohamed Bazoum.

"There is no sector of the Nigerien society that has not been affected by these sanctions" which have caused in one of the world's poorest countries, Younkaila Yaye, one of the government's lawyers, argued at the hearing in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

After a group of soldiers calling itself the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) toppled Bazoum, a raft of economic sanctions were imposed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Other countries, including the United States, that had provided aid for health, security and infrastructure needs, also suspended their support.

Until the coup, aid accounted for almost half of Niger's annual budget. Niger's neighbours also closed their borders to the country, and



A supporter of Niger's National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) holds a placard of Niger's new military ruler, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, as they gather at Place de la Concertation in Niamey on August 20, 2023 [AFP]

more than 70 percent of its electricity, supplied by Nigeria, was cut off. Financial transactions with West African countries were suspended. Niger's assets in external banks were frozen, and hundreds of millions of dollars in aid were withheld.

The sanctions were the most strin-

gent yet imposed by the regional bloc in an effort to stem the tide of coups in the Sahel. But they have had little or no impact on the ambition of the government, which has consolidated its hold on power while millions in Niger face growing hardship.

At the hearing, the government's lawyers described the ways the sanctions are hurting Niger: Children are unable to return to school because of limited supplies. Drug stores are running out of supplies. Businesses are shutting down because of rising costs.

Yaye accused ECOWAS of punishing Nigeriens over the coup in ways harsher than it has handled coups in other countries, "especially regarding financial transactions".

The government asked the court to relax the sanctions pending the final judgement. But ECOWAS protested against their request.

Advertisement

Francois Kanga-Penond, the ECOWAS lawyer, argued that the government is not recognised under the bloc's protocol and does not have the power to institute such a case in court.

The court adjourned until December 7.

Bazoum, who has been under house arrest since the coup, has asked the same court to order his release and the return of constitutional order. The court is set to rule on November 30.

Source: News Agencies

The Sun Of Hearts



Umirzakova Barno

The nature of the human race is interesting: it always appreciates the blessings it has been given only after it has been lost. Wealth, health, loved ones... The saddest thing is that mothers, who are the greatest blessing given to man by God, during their lifetime, their two mouths are full of sweet words, and after they die, they say "Oh my mum, mum" But it cannot help them...

Mother! This one word, which contains the meaning of the whole existence, sometimes acquires a tone that makes the human heart tremble. Mother - what a beautiful word! No matter what language it is spoken, it is a word that always evokes the most optimistic feelings in the human heart... When we say "Mother", affection and love appeared in our blood, in our hearts. Is it easy to be a mother?

Who can love like a mother? Who looks like a mother? They may raise their voices, get angry, say things that seem bitter to you, but their love for their children is a wellspring of example boiling in their hearts. A mother is such a breed that gives joy and life to everyone with her motherly nature.

No matter how old the child is, mothers do not change, they do not forget their children, they do everything in their power to make their children happy. A mother is an example of a candle: even if she burns out, she will not stop lighting up her child's life. Mother is the one who is told without sleeping at night, the cradle that is constantly rocked

during the day, the eyes that look at you with loving eyes...

Mother is the wrinkled hands that gently caress your head, the white hair that has been whitened by the wind of years. Humans are born always striving for excellence. He constantly studies, searches, works - he achieves success. At that moment, he feels pride in his heart - "I did it!" He does not understand that he did not reach this level by his own efforts. After every prayer, "O Allah, keep my child in your shelter, make his work prosperous, make his path smooth, and make his face bright!" Two palm prayers are the reason for noble achievements. Only mothers can love us unconditionally, for who we are.

America's first president, George Washington, said: "My mother is the most beautiful woman I have ever seen. Mothers are the sacred creation of God and the source of our life. She is a holy statue of selfless love, forgiveness and patience. I am my mother. I am always indebted to him." A mother is a person in the heart of every person who can never be replaced by another person. She is like Mother Nature, only she can give without getting anything in return.

We love him from the first moment of our life. When we open our eyes, the first figure we see is mother! Every time we start talking, the first word becomes "Mother". He is our first love, our first teacher and our first friend in this world. When we were born, we were a weak baby

that couldn't even feed itself, and he raised us in his arms, and for once he didn't thank us for it, and we, as if we had grown up, forgot everything. Mothers give us our identity.

They are ready to give up everything for their children. They never think about themselves, and we don't think about them either. It is enough for us to have our own dreams, our shiny future painted in bright colors!

We owe a lot to our mothers: we got their beautiful figures before we were born, their night sleep after we were born, their daytime pleasures with various harshashes when we got a little older, and their dark hair with our own problems after we started a family.

Instead, mother did not demand anything from us. He always tried to give us his best, but all he heard was this: "You don't understand me!" We broke the heart of our mother, who always took care of us, cared about our trivial problems more than us, listened to our every pain, even in insignificant situations, saying "You will never understand me." What did the mother do? He wiped his tears on the end of his handkerchief. "I couldn't be a cure for this child's pain," he said. But he didn't say. He prayed and loved us. Sometimes the bitter words we said, our rudeness, and our rude behavior became a thorn in the heart of our mother.

What happened to our mother when she slammed the door after a word of sweet words? We didn't think... we didn't think! If a person takes a loan from someone, his head is always

bowed next to him. If someone does him a great favor, he is ready to be at his service for a lifetime, thanks a thousand times and bows a thousand times. But he does not have time to thank his mother, who gave birth to him, gave him life by risking her life, introduced him to God, taught him religion, and gave up his dreams and goals for his child. In fact, didn't we owe the most to our mother? After all, when a person comes to life, he is a piece of flesh that is weak and does not know anything. God gives him life and puts him in the arms of the so-called mother angel.

The mother takes care of him, feeds him, educates him. In the Holy Quran, which was revealed to our prophet Muhammad, the Lord of the Universe, it is emphasized that "Obey Allah and do good to your parents." You see, the next deed after praying to God is doing good to parents and being in their service. This is both a duty and a debt to us. In particular, when talking about mothers, the hadith narrated by Abu Huraira, may Allah be pleased with them, is often remembered. It is said that a person asked the leader of mankind, may God bless him and grant him peace: "To whom shall we do good, O Messenger of God?"

He said: "Do good to your mother, your mother, and again to your mother, and then do good to your dear father." In fact, in our religion, attention and respect for mothers is unlimited. After all, heaven is under the feet of mothers! In addition, the role of mothers in the development of a child in terms of education and training is incomparable. In this place, the story about the famous inventor Thomas Edison and his mother touched many people: "One day, Thomas Edison came home from school and held a letter that his teacher had given to his mother. Her mother had tears in her eyes as she read it. "My child, your teacher wrote: "Your son's knowledge is very strong, there is no qualified teacher in our school who can teach him.

Teach him yourself at home," said the mother, hugging her child. That's what the mother did: she educated him at home, she taught her child as much as she could. Years later, when his mother died, Thomas had already become one of the most famous and great people. One day he saw the boxes in the house. While looking through it, he finds an old letter in which he says: "Ma'am, your son is delirious - always talking about strange things.

We don't want such an illiterate child to study in our school" was written. It was a letter sent by Edison's teacher. Thomas, who read the letter, cried for hours and wrote in his diary: is an "illiterate" child turned into a genius..." We all are like that, if our mothers didn't hold our hands, we wouldn't have reached the current level.

At this point, a question arises that torments everyone: "How many graces can we repay our mothers? How many apologies can wash away our guilt and sins in front of them?" In fact, along with millions of

thanks, we owe billions of apologies to mothers... I'm sorry, my mother, I'm sorry for every bad thing I've done. I'm sorry, my mushfiq, for every drop of tears that flowed from your eyes.

Forgive me, my mother, because I was having fun in the street while you were worried about me at home. Forgive me, mother, for accusing you of not understanding anything when I was young, when you gave me good advice.

I'm sorry, my love, for not giving you enough love by being kind to the "good" people on the street, for not saying a single sweet word to you after being tired of others. I'm sorry mom, I can't live up to the white milk you gave me. Forgive me for not mentioning you at least once in every prayer. Every time you start saying "my child" you say "Oiiii, I'm not a young child!" I'm sorry for hurting your heart.

Forgive me for not being a child that fills your eyes and heart with pride. Forgive me for bothering you for two minutes, when I spent hours on the phone with my friends. Mom, I'm sorry that I can't be a child worthy of you. Mother, every time my heart is filled with pain, I turn to you, like a bird in need of love. I poured out all my pains to you. I cried, I made you cry too.

But once in a while, "How are you, mom?" I didn't ask. I didn't think of you. After all, you believed in me, you expected love from me. But I can't sympathize with you, I can't confide in you. I'm sorry, mom, I'm sorry for every strand of white hair... Mother - dear! What a great miracle is this? Is it possible to contain so much love, kindness, forgiveness, care, patience, perseverance, love... so many divine feelings? Munisim, you are the sun of my heart, my soulmate! Mother, there are many words that I wanted to say to you in my heart, but I did not say them because of my stupid pride...

When I was young, I longed for your heart,

I'm sorry, your child like me,
As I grew up, I appreciated you,
How would you describe your mother?

I will serve you for a lifetime
My life is not enough to pay off my debt.

Thank you for your hard work
You are my existence, without you my life!

In short, the more good we do to these great beings, the less. What have we done for our mother, when a companion carried her mother on his shoulder and circumambulated the Kaaba without even being able to repay her for the one night she spent awake for her? It is better to put your hands on your eyes and receive their prayers once during your lifetime than to cry a thousand times after their death. Don't forget, mothers are precious creatures! Leave the worries of this world; are they worth a single strand of your mother's hair? Appreciate it...

Umirzakova Barno 18. 11. 2023.

Are the Americans ready for another Iraq?

Netanyahu is taking advantage of the war in Gaza to push the United States into a direct confrontation with Iran.

By: Sultan Barakat
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Smoke rises following Israeli artillery shelling on the village of Beit Lif, along Lebanon's southern border with northern Israel on November 13, 2023 [AFP]

Worth Noting:

- They did so partly because Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu manipulated their leaders and elites (who seem to be totally disconnected from the populations they represent) to buy into the misleading narrative that on October 7, Israel has experienced an event comparable to the Holocaust at the hands of an evil force that is identical to ISIS.

- By evoking memories of the Holocaust, Netanyahu managed to ascribe a level of sanctity to Israel's unlawful and totally disproportionate reaction, projecting himself and his country as a perpetual victim and creating disdain for any attempt to question or criticise his narrative, both within Israel and in the Western world.

- And by likening Hamas to ISIS, he was able to further dehumanise Palestinians and convince the international community of the need to annihilate Gaza to eradicate Hamas, just as they had to do so a few years ago in Mosul to eradicate ISIS.

Away from the media spotlight which remains on Israel's war on Gaza, there are reports of growing confrontations between the Shia militias of Syria and Iraq and the American soldiers stationed in these countries. There are even reports, eagerly suppressed by both the US and Iran, of an increasing number of American casualties being treated in the region's hospitals, which makes the situation all the more dangerous and susceptible to an unintended and sudden escalation.

Since the beginning of this latest Gaza war, the international community found solace in the fact that Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Iran-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah, has publicly tried to de-escalate the situation and made clear that he is not seeking an immediate direct engagement with Israel or its allies. The fact that he had to come out and do so twice within a week, however, speaks volumes about the build-up of pressure in the region, which might get out of control at any moment.

While we live through the unravelling of one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes since World War II – the collective punishment of a besieged population of 2.3 million, which has already resulted in the deaths of more than 14,000

people, including over 5000 children – the G7 leaders have struggled even to utter the word “ceasefire”.

Instead, the US and its allies have rallied to call only for much more diluted, inconsequential, and short-lived “humanitarian pauses”. Even as a four-day truce was finally agreed after 47 days of war crimes and indiscriminate violence on Wednesday, the US and its allies did not hesitate to announce their support for Israel's declared intention to continue its brutal and disproportionate attacks on Gaza after the end of this short “pause” in hostilities. By effectively giving Israel a carte blanche to do whatever it pleases in Gaza without any consideration of international law or the most basic human rights of the Palestinians, these states shattered their self-constructed image as the guardians of a “rules-based world order”.

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And by likening Hamas to ISIS, he was able to further dehumanise Palestinians and convince the international community of the need to annihilate Gaza to eradicate Hamas, just as they had to do so a few years ago in Mosul to eradicate ISIS.

This, of course, ignores the fact that, unlike ISIS, Hamas is driven not by a blind ideology that requires it to kill nonadherents across the globe. Netanyahu knows well that Hamas is more than just a group of fighters – he knows that it is an idea that is rooted in the aspirations of an oppressed population to resist and liberate itself from the shackles of its oppressors. Even if Israel somehow goes on to kill all the existing Hamas fighters, which is inconceivable without the unleashing of a human catastrophe of biblical proportions on the region, it will only have sown the seeds for a new generation of resistance, united under Hamas or a different avatar, that will make the world yearn for the moderateness of the earlier one.

So, if Netanyahu knows all this, why is he working so hard to convince the world that Hamas is the same as ISIS and thus has to be completely eliminated at any cost?

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Benjamin Netanyahu

Worth Noting:

• The answer is simple: Benjamin Netanyahu's objective, beyond unleashing his wrath on Gaza with impunity, is to convince or manipulate the US into fighting Iran on his behalf. This is something that the veteran Israeli Prime Minister has consistently been advocating ever since the US has done his bidding in Iraq. And he is succeeding – the US has never been as close to an actual confrontation with Iran as it is today.

• Iran, on the other hand, and despite its high-pitch rhetoric, remains keen to avoid a direct confrontation with the US. Iran had already made it clear that it did not want to go to war with the US when it refrained from responding in any major way to the January 2020 assassination of its Major General, Qasem Soleimani. Iran's distaste for escalation was also apparent in its muted response to repeated bombings of Iranian bases in Syria and Iraq by the US and Israel prior to October 7.

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In the wake of its first significant diplomatic success against the US since 1979 – which included the unfreezing of \$6bn in Iranian assets held in South Korea – rather than embarking on a costly direct confrontation, Iran clearly prefers to act through its various proxy armed groups in the region. These groups have been engaged in a controlled escalation against Israel and the US since October 7 to demonstrate their readiness to act as a deterrent while preventing Iran from being forced into a direct war.

The strongest among Iran's proxies, Hezbollah, no longer enjoys the regional standing that it once did due to its support of Bashar al-Assad against the Syrian people in the civil war.

Hezbollah is also wary of dragging its fragile home country, Lebanon, into a war that is not its own (considering that Hamas carried the attack on Israel without consulting Hezbollah), and that will inevitably lead to Lebanon's total economic collapse.

Furthermore, Hezbollah's praise for the deal Lebanon reached with Israel on the Karish gas field demonstrates its pragmatism in light of the precarious political and economic situation in Lebanon. Hezbollah, for now, is content with helping their ally, Hamas, by ensuring substantial Israeli forces are committed to the north, thus relieving some pressure off Gaza while exacerbating the economic and social woes of Israel by forcing the evacuation of Israelis from the north.

However, despite both Iran and Hezbollah's desire to avoid a direct confrontation with the US, Netanyahu appears determined to secure his political survival at any cost. In the wake of the biggest intelligence failure in the history of Israel taking place under his watch, Netanyahu declared a religious war on the Palestinians, likening them to Amalekites, thus justifying their genocide, enforced emergency laws by formally declaring war

for the first time since 1973, called the army and the reservists, thereby arm-twisting the entire Israeli society into partnership with him and closing the doors to any critical voices against his innumerable failures.

Netanyahu's repeated provocations and especially his presentation of the war as a religious one, coupled with the US reluctance to reign him in and de-escalate, mean that there is a serious risk of the conflict in Gaza eventually morphing into a much larger regional conflagration, one in the face of which Iran will no longer be able to calm its own proxies in the region.

The region is already at a boiling point. There is a growing antipathy among the Arab, Muslim and wider Global South populations towards the US, whom they see as being complicit in Israel's war crimes. With the recent Arab uprising still fresh in their memory, the Arab leaders will be careful not to test their populations and be seen as aligning with the US. It is highly probable that in such a volatile situation, Israel will engineer a situation that will instigate a direct confrontation between the US and Iran. It is up to the US to decide if it is willing to become a partner in blood with Netanyahu

in this region and get embroiled here for another 10 years, replaying or perhaps even dwarfing their experience in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

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WHO kicks off shipments of malaria vaccine to African countries

Since 2019, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi have been administering the vaccine in 4 doses from around 5 months of age. The deliveries herald final steps toward broader vaccination against malaria

By: Margaret Kalekye
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Vials with the Mosquirix malaria vaccine at the Malava County Hospital, Kakamega, Kenya.

Worth Noting:

- Nearly every minute, a child under five dies of malaria. In 2021, there were 247 million malaria cases globally, which led to 619 000 deaths. Of these deaths, 77 per cent were children under 5 years of age, mostly in Africa.

- A further 1.7 million doses of the RTS,S vaccine are expected to arrive in Burkina Faso, Liberia, Niger and Sierra Leone in the coming weeks, with additional African countries set to receive doses in the months ahead. This reflects the fact that several countries are now in the final stage of preparations for malaria vaccine introduction into routine immunisation programmes, which should see first doses administered in Q1 2024.

- Since 2019, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi have been administering the vaccine in a schedule of 4 doses from around 5 months of age in selected districts as part of the pilot programme, known as the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (MVIP).

Shipments of the world's first WHO-recommended malaria vaccine, RTS,S, have begun with 331 200 doses landing in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The delivery is the first to a country not previously involved in the malaria vaccine pilot programme and signals that scale-up of vaccination against malaria across the highest-risk areas on the African continent will begin shortly.

Malaria burden is the highest on the African continent, which accounts for approximately 95% of global malaria cases and 96% of related deaths in 2021.

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Since 2019, Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi have been administering the vaccine in a schedule of 4 doses from around 5 months of age in selected districts as part of the pilot programme, known as the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (MVIP). More than 2 million children have been reached with the malaria vaccine in the three African countries through MVIP – resulting in a remarkable 13% drop in all-cause mortality in chil-

dren age-eligible to receive the vaccine, and substantial reductions in severe malaria illness and hospitalizations. Other key findings from the pilot programme show that vaccine uptake is high, with no reduction in use of other malaria prevention measures or uptake of other vaccines. MVIP is coordinated by WHO in collaboration with PATH, UNICEF and other partners, and funded by Gavi, the Global Fund, and UNITAID, with donated doses from GSK, the manufacturer of the vaccine.

Safety

The data from the pilot have shown the impact and safety of the RTS,S vaccine and provided important evidence on vaccine acceptability and uptake that helped inform the recent WHO recommendation of a second malaria vaccine – R21, manufactured by the Serum

Institute of India (SII).

Results of a phase 3 trial for R21 showed that the vaccine has a good safety profile in the clinical trial setting and reduces malaria in children. The R21 vaccine is currently under review by WHO for prequalification. The availability of two malaria vaccines is expected to increase supply to meet the high demand from African countries and result in sufficient vaccine doses to benefit all children living in areas where malaria is a public health risk.

In preparation for scaled-up vaccination, Gavi, WHO, UNICEF and partners are working with countries that have expressed interest and/or have confirmed rollout plans on the next steps.

“This is another breakthrough moment for malaria vaccines and malaria control, and a ray of light in a dark time for so many vulnerable children in the

world. The delivery of malaria vaccines to new countries across Africa will offer life-saving protection to millions of children at risk of malaria,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “But we must not stop here. Together, we must find the will and the resources to bring malaria vaccines to scale, so more children can live longer, healthier lives.”

“This is a significant advancement towards scaling up malaria vaccination in the region. The vaccine, which protects children from the severe forms of the disease, is a vital addition to the existing set of malaria prevention tools and will help bolster our efforts to reverse the rising trend in cases and further reduce deaths,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.