

King Charles was admitted to the prestigious London Clinic at 20 Devonshire Street

King Charles III

The British Royal family is in shock as doctors revealed 75-year-old King Charles III has cancer:



Nation in shock as the British Monarch starts treatment:

KING CHARLES III CANCER BOMBSHELL, DOCTORS ADVISE TO SUSPEND PUBLIC DUTIES

By: Shamlal Puri
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The British Royal family is in shock as doctors revealed 75-year-old King Charles III has cancer.

The news, on Monday February 5, sent shock waves to the British public at home and worldwide as doctors attending him advised the King to suspend all public appearances as he started his treatment. A statement from Buckingham Palace confirmed that the King was diagnosed with “a form of cancer”.

This statement was released with the express approval of King Charles and to quash any rumours that would be spread by the monarchy-crazy



The news of King Charles III's cancer has shocked many Britons, but he remains positive and upbeat about his recovery.

social media and the United Kingdom print and broadcast media, which pays special attention to Royal news. Additionally, the King felt that his diagnosis would create nationwide awareness of cancer.

The Palace statement said the King had gone through a recent hospital procedure “for benign prostate enlargement” when doctors treating him noted “a separate issue of concern.”

The statement added, “Subsequent diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer.” King Charles was admitted to the prestigious London Clinic at 20 Devonshire Street, Central London.

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Biden lashes out over criticism of failing memory

“My memory is fine”
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Did you know that Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death
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News Backpage
Texas border town becomes hotspot for US election year



In shock result, allies of jailed ex-leader Khan win most seats in Pakistan election

Independent candidates affiliated with jailed Pakistani political leader Imran Khan's party won the most National Assembly seats in Pakistan's general election, delivering a surprise victory in a vote marred by a slow count and rigging allegations. According to the Election Commis-

sion of Pakistan, independent candidates won 98 seats so far, with 22 seats still unclaimed. The majority of the independents are affiliated with Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz party (PMLN), which had been fa-

vored to sweep the polls, has so far won the second-most seats with 69. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has the third-most with 51 seats. The 22 remaining seats would not be enough to give PMLN, headed by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, or PPP the lead, even if they were

to win all of them. Still, none of the three major parties of the country will win the necessary 169 seats to have a majority in parlia-

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Export-led growth, the cure to Kenya's currency devaluation

By: KAM CEO Anthony Mwangi.
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- About 60 years ago, South Korea was one of the poorest countries of the world, with a GDP per capita of no more than US\$ 87. Comparatively, Kenya had a GDP per capita of US\$ 107 at the time, hence doing better than South Korea. In 2023, Kenya's nominal GDP is circa US\$ 110B while South Korea's GDP stands at US\$ 1.7trillion.
- On this background, Kenya can retrace the economic growth pathway and perhaps copy and paste South Korean development model and change our policy stance in favour of export-oriented policies and move on to the high growth trajectories. While advocating for export-oriented policies, it is important not to lose focus on import substitution.

Kenya finds itself at a crucial juncture in its economic trajectory. The Kenyan shilling (KES) has experienced significant depreciation against the United States Dollar (USD) and other major world currencies in recent months. For the first time, the KES has hit a record high of KES.160 to the USD. Equally, the KES has lost value against its East African sister nations' currencies, Ugandan Shilling (UGS) and Tanzanian Shilling (TZS).

This depreciation has brought economic challenges, driving up import costs of food, fuel, raw materials, and medicine, among many others. The resultant inflationary pressure for Kenya has had a huge impact on the overall cost of living. The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) firmly believes that embracing an export-led growth strategy holds the potential to reverse the situation and mitigate against the free fall of the local currency.

Export-led growth has proven to be an effective strategy for developing economies facing currency depreciation and trade imbalances. By harnessing the nation's manufacturing potential and diversifying export markets, Kenya can bolster its economy and restore the value of its weakening currency. In 2023, KAM undertook an extensive sectoral deep dive to evaluate the export potential for Kenya across 20 value chains. The textile and apparel, leather and footwear, pharmaceuticals, and building and construction sectors among many others, have great potential for growth and exports.

About 60 years ago, South Korea was one of the poorest countries of the world, with a GDP per capita of no more than US\$ 87. Comparatively, Kenya had a GDP per capita of US\$ 107 at the time, hence doing

better than South Korea. In 2023, Kenya's nominal GDP is circa US\$ 110B while South Korea's GDP stands at US\$ 1.7trillion. On this background, Kenya can retrace the economic growth pathway and perhaps copy and paste South Korean development model and change our policy stance in favour of export-oriented policies and move on to the high growth trajectories. While advocating for export-oriented policies, it is important not to lose focus on import substitution. In agriculture for example, KAM's analysis of several value chains, through the Agriculture for Industry (A4I) initiative, has identified enormous opportunities to save billions of dollars spent to import basic food items. Suffice to say that Kenya spent over US\$ 3B (circa KES 500B) in 2022 on the import of food, including maize, rice,

edible oil, peanut, and poultry products. Most of these food products are imported because Kenya has failed to organize the value chains and realize self-sufficiency. While the farmers are complaining about the lack of a market for their produce, agro-processors are equally unable to access quality raw materials from the country. It is unfathomable how Malawi, a country with a nominal GDP of US\$ 13B, supplies over 90% of peanuts for industrial production worth circa KES 5 billion to Kenya. Through KAM's A4I agenda, we are organizing value chains with a specific agenda of providing the aggregate demand data and linking agro-processors with farmers. By organizing our value chains and linking agriculture with industry, Kenya will immediately stop the hemorrhage of forex currently going to the import of food, raw

materials and intermediate raw materials for industrial processing. However, this requires fact-based, data-driven decision-making to have a managed transition and avoid the negative unintended consequences brought forth by the provisions of the Finance Act, 2023.

To achieve successful export-led growth, Kenya must enhance its competitiveness to be able to compete with other nations in the international marketplace. With increased market access through various trade agreements such as the EAC, COMESA, AfCFTA, EU-Kenya EPA, and AGOA, Kenya must up its game to fully maximize the opportunities and avoid losing out to other countries such as Egypt, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda. By enhancing our global competitiveness through world-class quality, pricing

and availability, Kenya's export growth will be beneficial to the economy.

The successful implementation of an export-led growth strategy necessitates strong partnerships between the government, private sector, and other stakeholders. Collaboration will ensure a coordinated approach towards realizing a common objective: revitalizing Kenya's currency.

Utilizing an export-led strategy will not only strengthen Kenya's manufacturing sector but also improve the welfare of its citizens. As a nation, we must seize this opportunity and work together to propel Kenya towards economic resilience, elevating our global standing and guaranteeing a brighter future for generations to come.



KAM CEO Anthony Mwangi.

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Poetry

Innovative technologies of poetry teaching in Uzbek national Pre-school educational institutions

By: Jumakulova Khumora Shodiyevna
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Initially, when choosing a poem for a student, its size should be taken into account. The volume of the poem should not be too large; it must divide according to the groups.
- That is to say, it is desirable that the poem should not exceed for 2 paragraphs in large groups.
- According to statistics, child memories an average of 1 or 2 poems (during training) in a month. Sometimes remember fairy tales or songs by the process at that time.



Jumakulova Khumora Shodiyevna

Abstract: This article talks about using new methods in teaching poetry to children of pre-school age, highlighting its advantages. Arousing their interest in poetry and literature, in a word, using new methods like teaching poetry.

Key words: Poetry, rhyming words, statistics, imagination, busyness, love of poetry.

Poems written for children of pre-school educational organizations are different in terms of content and essence. Khudoyberdi Tokhtabayev's book, Er-

katoy-erka-toy" contains short poems intended for children.

First of all, the pedagogue should be able to instill in the student a love for literature, that is, instill a desire to know it, in general, be able to explain in the essence of poems to some more complicated words and places, takes on several tasks, such teaching expressive reading.

Initially, when choosing a poem for a student, its size should be taken into account. The volume of the poem should not be too large; it must divide according to the groups. That is to say, it is desirable that the

poem should not exceed for 2 paragraphs in large groups. According to statistics, a child memorizes an average of 1 or 2 poems (during training) in a month. Sometimes remember fairy tales or songs by the process at that time.

It is permissible to teach rhyming words to children of a small group at first. The teachers should be able to enter the situation while reading the poems, namely they should be able to awaken the imagination of the child, he or she wants to sing and act like them. Before memorizing the poem, the pedagogue reads it to

the children the conducts a conversation, asks what the poem is about, what part of the poem the children liked she offers them to memorize the poem and repeats the parts that the children liked. Firstly, the educator should pay attention to children's expressive reading of poetry. The teacher should memorize the poem, the poem should not be memorized as a chorus, the children should learn it alone, etc.

The purpose of the training: to awaken feelings of love for literature and poetry in the students of all Uzbek national Pre-school educational institutions,

to introduce them to the meaning and essence of the poem, to help to understand and memorize its meaning. Teaching children to recite poetry in front of their peers.

The lesson should be completed by bringing out the child who reads expressively with a very bright performance, and bringing in the children's favorite toys that will sing new poem with them.

Name: Jumakulova Khumora Shodiyevna. She was born on October 26, 2004 in Pakhtachi district of Samarkand region. She is the author of the collection of poems, "Jannat hidi kelgan Vatanim". The second place winner of the regional stage of the, "Ijodkor bolalar" contest. The third place winner of the, "Oltin toj" competition. The winner of the third place in the essay competition on the topic, "Men sevgan adabiy qahramon" and she has taken pride of place several times in the regional stage of the, "Orasta qizlar, pageant". In addition, she is a regular participant and honorary owner of, "Zakovat" intellectual game. The quick - witted bookworm contests. She was not only a participant in a number of prestigious competitions such as, "Quvnoqlar va Zukkolar", "Mushoira", "Shaxmat", "Zukko kitobxon", "Bo'zatov FEST", which were held as part of the, "Five Initiatives" Olympiad, but also took pride of place. Her creative works were published in newspapers.

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US court sentences ex-DEA informant to life for role in Haiti assassination

By: Reuters
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A former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) informant was sentenced to life in prison and another man pleaded guilty on Friday in a U.S. court case over the 2021 assassination of Haiti's last president, Jovenel Moise. The two are among 11 defendants accused of participating in a plot to replace Moise by sending a team of Colombian mercenaries to kill him in his Port-au-Prince residence. Of four who have so far been sentenced in Miami, all have received life. Moise was shot down in his bedroom during a night-time raid, and his death left a political vacuum during which alliances of violent gangs have expanded their territories and are now estimated to control most of the capital. The ex-informant, Haitian-American Joseph Vincent had pleaded guilty to helping the plot by providing political advice and meetings with community leaders. According to a court document, he had masqueraded as a U.S. government official. The same day, Florida resident Frederick Joseph Bergmann Jr. also pleaded guilty to charges in the case, including submitting false or misleading export information.

Bergmann Jr. was arrested alongside three other Floridians a year ago, at which time U.S. authorities said he had helped fund the mercenaries' Haiti lodgings and helped ship bulletproof vests to Haiti by falsifying export documents. They had said he could face up to 20 years in prison. A separate investigation is being carried out in Haiti, with the judge calling to interview figures such as Prime Minister Ariel Henry, Moise's de facto but unelected successor, and his widow Martine Moise. In the years since Moise's death, violent gangs armed with guns believed to be largely trafficked from the U.S., have massively grown their power, their turf wars driving a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands from their homes. Earlier on Friday, the United Nations said January was Haiti's most violent month in over two years, with more than 1,100 people killed, injured or kidnapped. Anti-government protests broke out in the days leading up to Feb. 7, the day by which Henry had promised to step down, though he later backtracked saying security must be re-established for free and fair elections. Haiti's last elections took place in 2016 and its last senators' terms expired in January last year.



A man stands next to a portrait of slain Haitian President Jovenel Moise placed on a memorial at the city hall in Cap-Haitien, Haiti July 22, 2021. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo/File Photo

Climate

El Nino waning, La Nina to develop in second half of 2024

Reuters

The La Nina weather pattern characterized by unusually cold temperatures in the Pacific Ocean could emerge in the second half of 2024, following a strong El Nino year, a U.S. government weather forecaster said on Thursday. The pattern typically brings higher precipitation to Australia, Southeast Asia and India and drier weather to grain and oilseed-producing regions of the Americas. "Even though forecasts made through the spring season tend to be less reliable, there is a historical tendency for La Nina to follow strong El Nino events," the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) said. The current El Nino weather pattern, which caused hot and dry weather in Asia and heavier than usual rains in parts of

the Americas, is likely to give way to neutral conditions during April-June 2024, the CPC said. CPC said in its monthly forecast there is a 55% chance that La Niña conditions develop between June and August. "La Nina is likely to affect the production of wheat and corn in the US, and soybean and corn in Latin America including Brazil," Sabrin Chowdhury, head of commodities at BMI said. Last year India, the world's biggest rice supplier, restricted exports of the staple following a poor monsoon, while wheat output in No. 2 exporter Australia took a hit. Palm oil plantations and rice farms in Southeast Asia received less than normal rains. "The development of La Nina is beneficial for the Indian monsoon. Typically, the monsoon delivers abundant rain-



The skeleton of a fish is seen in the Navarro lagoon, which dried up due to the climate phenomenon La Nina, in Navarro, in Buenos Aires province, Argentina December 5, 2022. REUTERS/Agustin Marcarian/File Photo

fall during La Nina years," said an official with the India Meteorological Department. The June-September monsoon, which is vital for India's \$3 trillion economy, brings nearly 70% of the rain the country needs to water crops and replenish reservoirs and aquifers.



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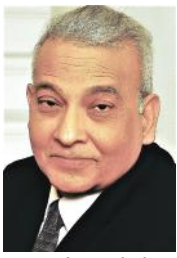
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Book Review:

Panjab, The Land Of Legends, Heroes, Maharajas, Rich History And Hard Working UK And Africa Diaspora



By: Shamlal Puri

Associate publisher
& Senior Editor – UK

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Title: 20th Century Talents & Legends of Panjab: A Humble Tribute
Author and Compiler: Harjinder Kanwal

Published by: Surjan Singh, 2023**Pages:** 300**Price:** £10

Panjab is a small 357,000 km square landlocked Indian State, the size of modern-day Germany.

Yet, it is known as the economic giant of the confederation of 28 Indian states and eight union territories.

Panjabis refer to their State as 'Pan-jnad' – 'Panj' five 'nad' rivers.

Panjab is the Land of Five Rivers, of which Beas, Ravi and Sutlej flow through the State. Jhelum and Chenab complete the five rivers.

Most of Panjab lies in a fertile alluvial plain with continuous rivers and an extensive irrigation system.

The bulk of Indian farmers are from Panjab.

The State is the breadbasket of India, a part of the country from where significant areas are supplied with wheat and fresh agricultural produce, including sugarcane, rice, pearl, and millet.

Panjab also has the bravest of the brave Sikh men and women who make a sizeable contribution to the Indian defence forces and the sports arena.

Harjinder Kanwal, a prominent East African Sikh diasporan researcher, compiler and composer living in the United Kingdom, has paid a humble tribute to Panjab's brave sons and daughters whose unique talents have turned them into icons and legends.

Mr Kanwal says the idea behind this book is to pay a collective homage to the vast number of Panjabis whose talents turned into legends.

"It took almost four months of research to find suitable people for inclusion in our book," he said.

More than 200 personalities are listed in this book.

"We have missed a few personalities we would like to add to the next edition, which will be coming out in about six months."

The book is not limited to Sikhs but is a Who's Who of Legends from all sections of society.

This book is a treasure trove of information packed with indispensable facts and figures covering significant aspects of the Panjab and those in the diaspora.

It opens with the legends of the Indian theatre and iconic Bollywood cinema. Top of the bill is the iconic Kapoor family, whose head, Prithviraj and family Raj, Shami, Shashi Kapoor and Randhir are the giants of Indian films, followed by the youngsters Rishi and Ranbir have added their credentials.

One cannot forget Dilip Kumar (Yusuf Khan), Rajesh Khanna, Dharmendra, Dev Anand, Sunil Dutt, Sanjay Dutt, Jeetendra, Manoj Kumar, Om Puri, screen villains Pran, Prem Nath Malhotra, Amrish, Madan and Chaman Puri among the stars whose performances on the silver screen have left an indelible mark.

Another legend, Vinod Khanna, born in Peshawar in 1946 in undivided India, is missed—one hopes he is included in the next edition. His connection as a politician in Panjab is worthy of note.

Among the famed Panjabi actresses are Madhubala, Nargis, Kamini Kaushal, Simi Garewal, Poonam Dhillon, and Kirron Kher.

Even those who played a tireless role behind the stage and screen are remembered Gulzar, the poet, B R Chopra, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Yash Chopra, Gurinder Chadha, Yash Johar, Balwant Gardi and Gursharan Singh.

The book lists 35 Kings (and Queens) of Melody including the unforgettable playback singer Mohamed Rafi, who is a global icon, iconic K.L. Sehgal, Mahendra Kapoor, ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh, Gurdas Mann, Ustad Ghulam Ali Khan, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Noor Jehan, Shamshad Begum, Surinder Kaur, Prakash Kaur, Zubeida Khanum, Hazara Singh Ramta, among others.

Music directors O P Nayyar, Madan Mohan, Husan Lal and Bhagat Ram, Khayyam, Roshan, and Uttam Singh are listed.

Panjab is famed for literary giants such as author Khushwant Singh (my mentor when he was the editor of the Illustrated Weekly of India), Shiv Kumar Batalvi, Sahir Ludhianvi, Faiz Ali Faiz, Amrita Pritam, Anand Bakshi, Shailendra, Rajinder Krishan, Kailash Puri, Dr Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Mulk Raj Anand, among 32 listed.

Artists, painters and architects include Kirpal Singh, Trilok Singh, Amrita Shergill, Arpana Kaur, Phulan Rani, and Jarnail Singh.

No book on Panjab is complete without icons of sports, particularly hockey, cricket and athletics.

A list of 24 names appears, including the iconic Dara Singh, who went to work in Bollywood, and the athlete Milkha Singh. London-based Fauja Singh, the oldest athlete in the world, Olympian Balbir Singh, hockey player Udham Singh, Surjit Singh Randhawa, women's hockey player Ajinder Kaur, Lala Amarnath, Kapil Dev, Bishen Singh Bedi, and not forgetting cricketer-turned-Prime Minister Imran Khan, now impris-

oned by the Pakistani authorities on trumped up charges.

Indian political scene in which men and women from Panjab have played a sterling role in the freedom struggle and construction of modern India are not forgotten.

Former Indian Prime Ministers Dr Manmohan Singh, Inder Kumar Gujral, and former President late Giani Zail Singh, are also listed.

The diaspora legends of East Africa are edged in the book's final pages. Their stories are recorded with the names of icons who have served their adopted countries and made Panjab proud of its pioneers, such as Gurdit Singh Nayar, Kenya Colony's first Asian diaspora Police Inspector Kapur Singh, Chief Insp. Satbachan Singh, Police Sgt. Harnam Singh.

Sikhs have played a sterling role in the development of modern-day Kenya.

Brave Sikhs served in the Kenya Police Force, working in remote areas of the country.

Entrepreneurs such as Inder Singh Gill, Kehar Singh Kalsi, Khushal Singh, Sardar Singh Vohra, and Hem Singh have left their mark on the business world.

Architects T.S. Nandhra and Harbans Singh are well-known names in the profession.

Panjabis also fought for the independence of Kenya; among them, Mohan Singh Jutla, Hakam Singh, Makhan Singh, Justucve Channan Singh, Barrister Nahar Singh Mangat, and Barrister Mota Singh are well-known names.

Among the sporting geniuses are the late Jasmer Singh Grewal (cricket), who was the regional Publisher of Drum magazine, where I spent many years writing; Safari Rally motor rallying legends brothers Joginder Singh and Jaswant Singh; Gurusaran Singh Channi, Hardial Singh, Avtar Singh Tari (hockey) are among the shining stars.

The East African media has benefited from the immense contribution of the Panjabi diaspora. Two legendary news cameramen come to mind, Mohamed Amin and Mohinder Dhillon.

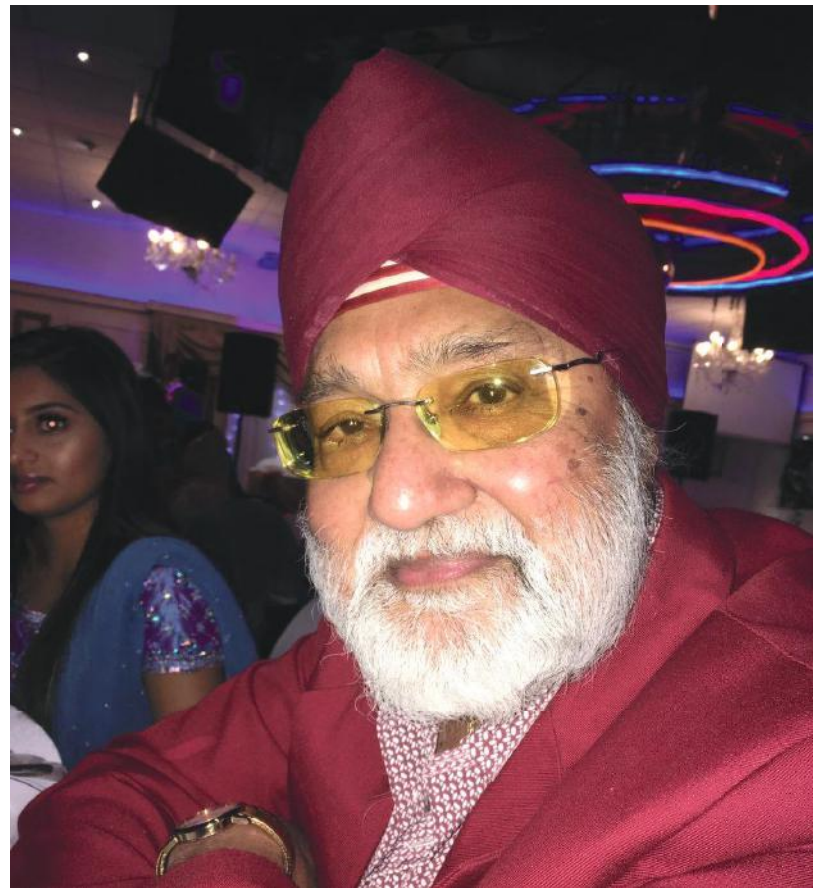
Broadcasters (and poet) Chaman Lal Chaman, Bikram Singh Bhamra, Raghubir Singh Rahi, stage shows genius Allaadin Qureishi, poet Sohan Singh Josh, playback singer Deedar Singh Pardesi.

Not to be forgotten is broadcaster Sudesh Chetan of the Voice of Kenya.

Journalist Narain Singh (of Sunday Post), legendary Kul Bhushan of Nation Media Group, and later of The Standard are names few can forget.

I am honoured to be listed among legendary journalists in this book.

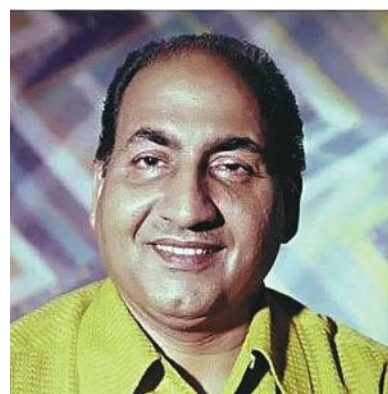
Gayatri Saggar, who now lives in the USA, is the first East African Asian woman journalist to work for the Nation Newspapers of Nairobi. She trained as a journalist at the International Press Institute of Zurich. She is yet to be recorded in the book.



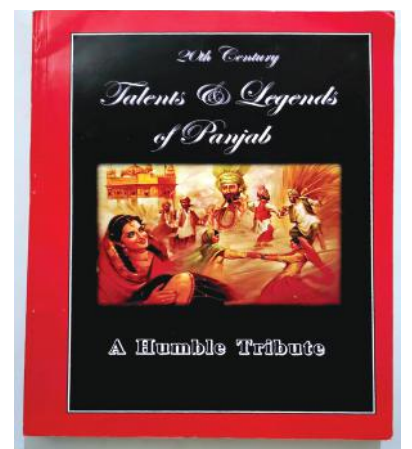
Author Harjinder Kanwal has done a marvellous job preparing this book



Famed Bollywood stars Dharmendra, Sunny Deol, and Bobby Deol (right) have entertained audiences for decades.



The world's famous son of Panjab, the King of Melody playback singer Mohamed Rafi, is a shining star of the State.



The history of Panjab's talents in India and abroad is a mine of information in this book on the 20th Century Legends.

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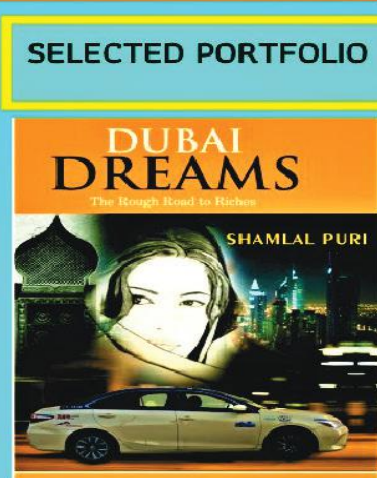
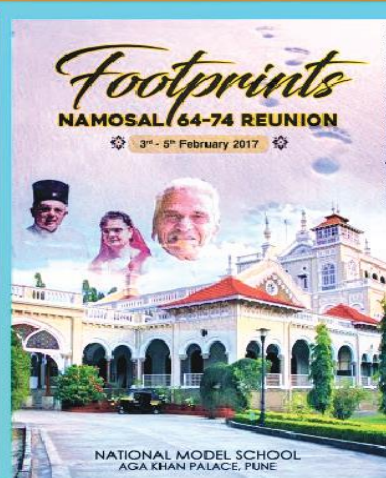
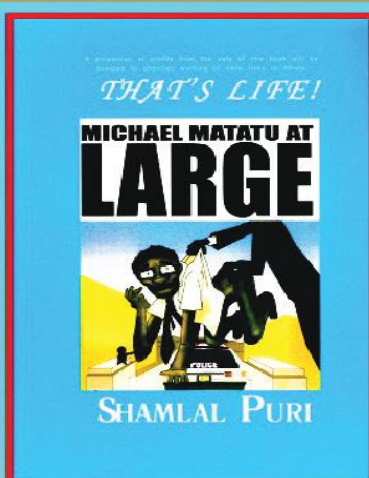
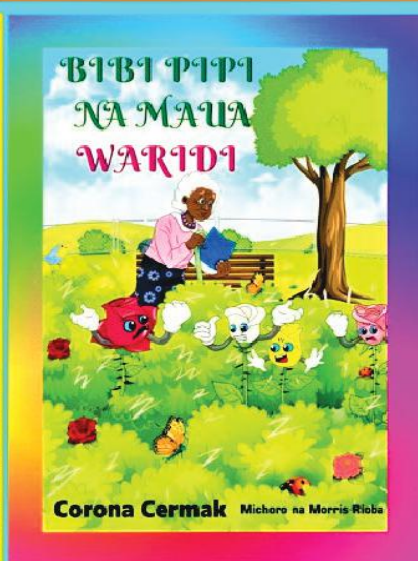
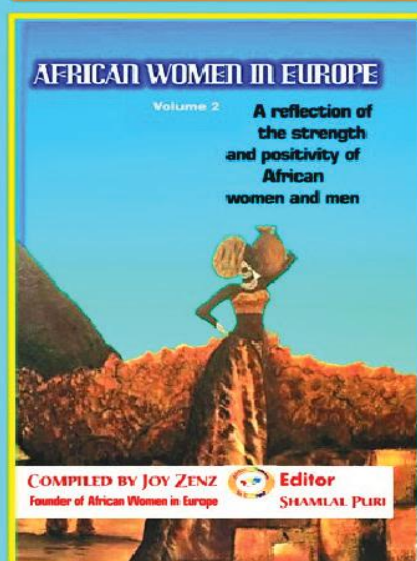
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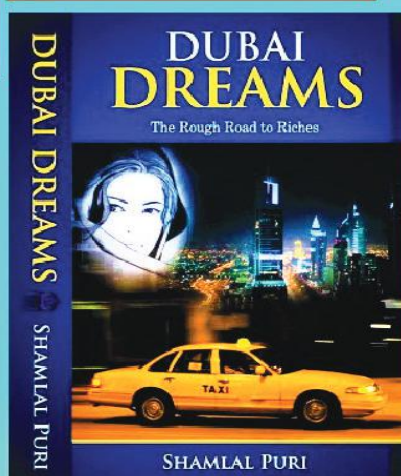
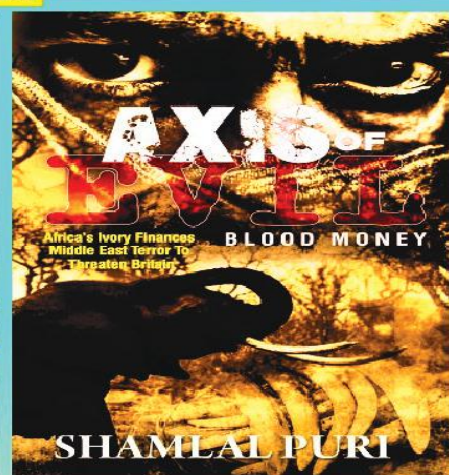
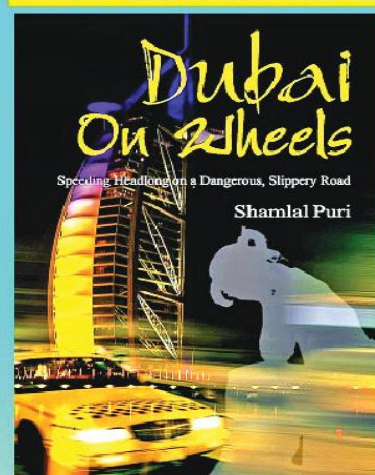
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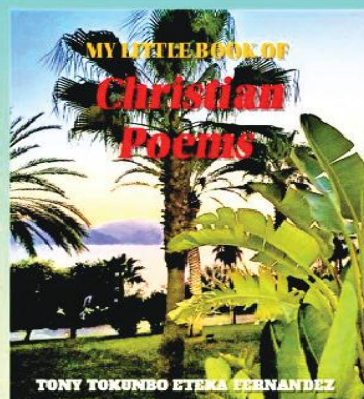
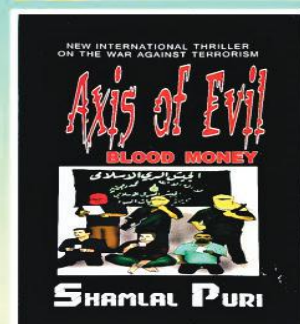
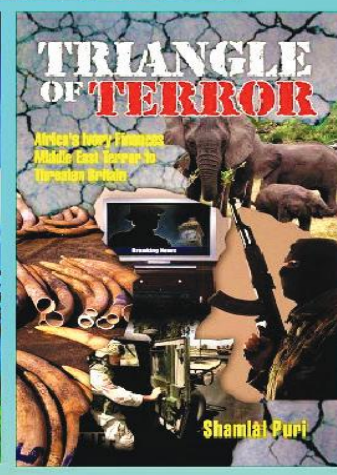
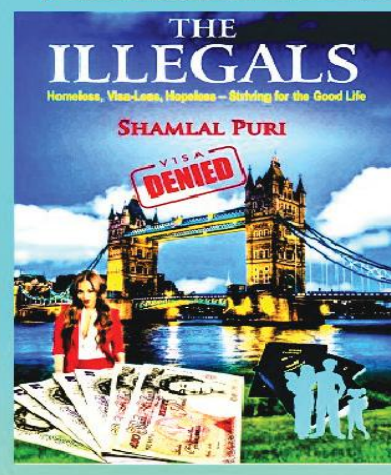
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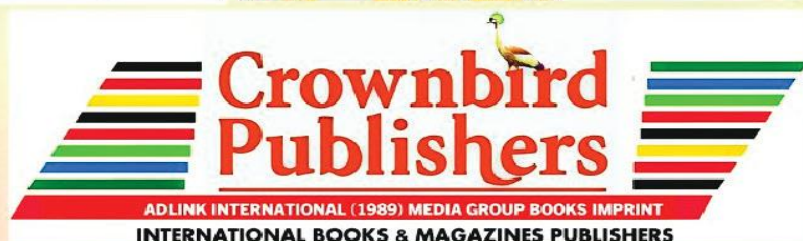


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UK News

Nation in shock as the British Monarch starts treatment: KING CHARLES III CANCER BOMBSHELL, DOCTORS ADVISE TO SUSPEND PUBLIC DUTIES



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Ironically, he waited so long to be crowned the King after the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, and now, this bombshell has arrived.
- The Queen was also reportedly suffering from cancer in the final stages of her life.
- The Palace statement continued that after the diagnosis, the King "commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time doctors have advised him to postpone public-facing duties."
- But, the statement added, "Throughout the period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual."
- The King paid tribute to his medical team "for their swift intervention, which was possible thanks to his recent hospital procedure."

The news of the monarch's health sparked off a media frenzy. Ironically, he waited so long to be crowned the King after the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, and now, this bombshell has arrived. The Queen was also reportedly suffering from cancer in the final stages of her life.

The Palace statement continued that after the diagnosis, the King "commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time doctors have advised him to postpone public-facing duties." But, the statement added, "Throughout the period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual." The King paid tribute to his medical team "for their swift intervention, which was possible thanks to his recent hospital procedure." The Palace statement reassured the British public that the King "remains wholly positive about his treatment

and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible." The statement concluded, "His Majesty has chosen to share his diagnosis to prevent speculation, and, in the hope, it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer. According to the Palace, the King and Queen Camilla have returned to Sandringham, where the monarch will stay most of the time while he recuperates. He may also stay at Highgrove. He will return to London once a week for further treatment and partial work duty but out of public limelight, avoiding receptions or walkabouts. Sources said the King would work from home, supported by the Queen and their close aides. The King personally notified his sons, the Prince of Wales, Prince William and the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, of his diagnosis. Prince Harry took a 10-hour trans-Atlantic flight and

dashed to London from Los Angeles, where he settled and was driven from the airport in London to Clarence House with a police escort to see the King. They met for the first time since Charles' Coronation on 6 May 2023. Harry took his return flight to the United States after the meeting with his father but did not meet his brother Prince William due to family disagreement - that's another story. William, the Prince of Wales, has taken over the King's duties while Charles recuperates. Young William's wife, the Princess of Wales, Catherine Middleton (fondly known as Kate), mother of three, was also hospitalised at the London Clinic at the same time as the King for an abdomen surgery. Kensington Palace, where the Wales family lives, did not disclose the nature of

Contd Page 11.



The late Queen Elizabeth, who died in 2022, confessed to the close relations that she had cancer.



The day Charles was crowned the King, the moment he waited for so long, now the news of his cancer has shocked Britain



ROYAL COMMUNICATIONS

A STATEMENT FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE

During The King's recent hospital procedure for benign prostate enlargement, a separate issue of concern was noted. Subsequent diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer.

His Majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties. Throughout this period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual.

The King is grateful to his medical team for their swift intervention, which was made possible thanks to his recent hospital procedure. He remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible.

His Majesty has chosen to share his diagnosis to prevent speculation and in the hope it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer.

ENDS

The statement from Buckingham Palace announcing the King has cancer is an unprecedented and bold step by a Royal to go public on a private health matter

UK News

Nation in shock as the British Monarch starts treatment: KING CHARLES III CANCER BOMBSHELL, DOCTORS ADVISE TO SUSPEND PUBLIC DUTIES



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

Contd from Page 10

Worth Noting:

- Prince Harry took a 10-hour trans-Atlantic flight and dashed to London from Los Angeles, where he settled and was driven from the airport in London to Clarence House with a police escort to see the King. They met for the first time since Charles' Coronation on 6 May 2023.
- Harry took his return flight to the United States after the meeting with his father but did not meet his brother Prince William due to family disagreement – that's another story.
- William, the Prince of Wales, has taken over the King's duties while Charles recuperates.
- Young William's wife, the Princess of Wales, Catherine Middleton (fondly known as Kate), mother of three, was also hospitalised at the London Clinic at the same time as the King for an abdomen surgery.

the surgery. She was admitted to the London Clinic on 16 January for a two-week stay. When it comes to the monarchy, speculation is always rife. Royal family loyalists were astonished by the sudden announcement about the Princess of Wales, and the speculation machine started.

What is a major surgery for the abdomen? They went to Google to check examples of common abdominal procedures. They found the answer: to remove the appendix (appendectomy), gall bladder and hernia repair. Surgeons also perform operations to remove malignant tumours, lesions, and benign growths, such as lipomas.

Part of their curiosity was satisfied, but most royalists agree that the Princess of Wales should not disclose her medical condition. Before his prostate procedure, King Charles visited his daughter-in-law in true family tradition.

Princess Catherine Middleton is back home in Kensington Palace, recuperating from her abdominal surgery. Like other family members, she is also concerned about King Charles' cancer diagnosis.

King Charles' medical team comes from the world-renowned London Clinic based in the famed Harley Street area, the hub of private paid-for medical care excellence.

Many people wonder what exactly the London Clinic is all about. They wonder why Harley Street is known worldwide for being the centre of World-Class Medical Excellence.

Their reputation stems from the volume of doctors worldwide drawn to the area due to its architectural Georgian housing designs, its large enough to be used for their housing, and its medical practices with rich pickings from wealthy patients.

From Winston Churchill's personal physician to Lionel Logue, the speech and language therapist to King George VI, Harley Street has seen many renowned doctors walk its pavement.

And whilst doctors no longer live in the same building as their medical practice, London Clinic consulting rooms are still based on Harley Street as part of their

ethos to provide medical excellence. It runs through The London Clinic's history, present and future.

This clinic offers various specialities and is internationally reputed for private Cancer care, delivering top-notch diagnostic treatment and supporting services in their state-of-the-art cancer centre.

It is the first hospital in the UK to offer people with prostate cancer a new treatment called SpaceOPAR, which causes fewer side effects.

The hospital has highly trained professionals using the latest technology, such as diagnostic tests, scans, and robotic surgery, with a team of world-leading experts.

They use the da Vinci robot system and Cyberknife to treat various cancers precisely.

The award-winning Duchess of Devonshire hospital wing is carefully designed to be a welcoming cancer centre.

The next question on everyone's mind is, what is the nature of the King's cancer diagnosis? Their curiosity is heightened because Buckingham Palace did not reveal the nature of the King's cancer.

It is now known that the King will not be hospitalised but will visit the hospital weekly for treatment.

Speculation on this question is also rife in the United Kingdom, whether the monarch will receive treatment at a State-run National Health Service hospital, where every Briton goes, or private healthcare, which is costly for the ordinary man, but the millionaire royals can afford.

Independent medical opinions say that while the King's diagnosis is not made public (and it is his right not to disclose), treatment options may include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or a course of target medicines.

The survival rate of King Charles's specific type of cancer, which Buckingham Palace has not explicitly disclosed, poses many questions.

What is known now is that the King remains upbeat about his treatment and looks forward to returning



Palace says Charles is 'wholly positive' • William to take on more commitments • Harry will fly back to see his father

Kate Manney Assistant Editor

The King was revealed last night to have cancer in a statement released by Buckingham Palace.

Concerns were raised when the King received treatment for an enlarged prostate, having experienced symptoms after Christmas.

It was thanks to this condition that doctors identified a second area of concern. Tests were carried out during his three-night stay in hospital and showed that the King had cancer.

The King, who learnt of his condition last week, is understood to have made calls to share the news with his two sons, the Prince of Wales and Duke of Sussex, and his siblings, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The prime minister was also informed, as were world leaders from the Commonwealth realms and heads of the King's charities.

A statement released at 6pm yesterday said: "During the King's recent hospital procedure for benign prostate enlargement, a separate issue of concern was noted. Subsequent diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer."

"His Majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties. Throughout this period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual."

"The King is grateful to his medical team for their swift intervention, which was made possible thanks to his recent hospital procedure. He remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible."

"His Majesty has chosen to share his diagnosis to prevent speculation and in the hope it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer."

The King returned to London from Sandringham yesterday to begin his cancer treatment as an out-patient. It is not known which type of cancer the King has, but palace aides confirmed that it was not prostate cancer.

Since his diagnosis he has stayed in touch with his medical team about "specialist" treatment. He is unlikely to return to public life for several months, but he has indicated that he will continue to attend to his daily red box of government documents.

The King is also expected to continue with his audiences with the prime minister, although depending on the advice of his doctors they might not always take place in person. The same will be true of privy council meetings. It is thought that, officially at least, there will be no need for other members of the family to step into the King's constitutional role.

Hours before the cancer diagnosis was revealed, however, Kensington Palace announced that the Prince of Wales would return to royal duties this week. William will undertake investigations tomorrow at Windsor Castle, and attend a charity gala in London in the evening.

Palace aides also indicated that



Buckingham Palace released this picture of the King yesterday, taken during his state visit to France in September last year

William would take on some of the King's other diary commitments.

The prince had been taking time off work to stay with his wife, the Princess of Wales, who is recovering after abdominal surgery. The princess is not expected to return to her own duties until Easter.

The King's younger son, Harry, who lives in California, has said that he is preparing to fly to Britain to see his father.

Last night good wishes for the King were sent from around the world. On Twitter/X, Rishi Sunak said: "Wishing His Majesty a full and speedy recovery. I have no doubt he'll be back to full strength in no time and I know the whole country will be wishing him well."

President Biden said he was preparing to call the King as soon as possible to relay his good wishes. Asked about the news during a visit to Las Vegas, Biden said: "I'm concerned about him. Just heard about his diagnosis. I'll be talking to him. God willing."

He later said on Twitter/X: "Navigating a cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship takes hope and absolute courage. Jill and I join the people of the United Kingdom in praying that His Majesty experiences a swift and full recovery."

On Truth Social, the former president Donald Trump said: "He is a wonderful man, who I got to know well during my presidency, and we all pray that he has a fast and full recovery!"

Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, sent his best wishes and hopes for a fast and full recovery.

The Archbishop of York, the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, said the news had been "a bit of a shock for all of us" and that his reaction was "one of prayerful concern and hopefulness that the cancer will be treatable".

The King was last seen on Sunday, when he walked to church on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk. Onlookers said he had walked at his usual brisk pace as he made the quarter of a mile journey to St Mary Magdalene Church with the Queen by his side. Privacy and security were said to be factors taken into consideration, before his return to London, in deciding where he would receive his specialist treatment.

Last week the Queen travelled around the country for a series of engagements that aides have said were planned before Christmas. She is now preparing to play an increasingly important role while her husband is required to stay away from public duties.

The Palace has indicated that at this stage there will be no need for the King to rely on other members of the family to fulfil his duties as head of state.

The present counsellors are the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, the Duke of Sussex and Princess Beatrice. The royal household has given a written undertaking that non-working royals – the Duke of Sussex, Prince Andrew and Princess Beatrice – will not be called upon to step into the role.

Reports, pages 2-5

The screaming headlines in the press shocked Britons. Photo Courtesy



Going alone... Queen Camilla (centre) is carrying out public duties on her own as King Charles recuperates at home. Photo Courtesy X

KENSINGTON PALACE

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales was admitted to hospital yesterday for planned abdominal surgery. The surgery was successful and it is expected that she will remain in hospital for ten to fourteen days, before returning home to continue her recovery. Based on the current medical advice, she is unlikely to return to public duties until after Easter.

The Princess of Wales appreciates the interest this statement will generate. She hopes that the public will understand her desire to maintain as much normality for her children as possible; and her wish that her personal medical information remains private.

Kensington Palace will, therefore, only provide updates on Her Royal Highness' progress when there is significant new information to share.

The Princess of Wales wishes to apologise to all those concerned for the fact that she has to postpone her upcoming engagements. She looks forward to reinstating as many as possible, as soon as possible.

Statement from Kensington Palace _ announcing Princess of Wales Catherine Middleton's admission to the London Clinic for her surgery on 16 January 2024

Contd Page 13

America

Biden lashes out over criticism of failing memory

“My memory is fine,” Biden

By:
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
.....

Worth Noting:

- Given Biden’s reduced mental acuity, Hur said, a jury would not in any case have found him guilty on documents charges.
- Asked about that comment by reporters in the White House after his formal remarks, Biden said: “I am well meaning, and I’m an elderly man, and I know what the hell I’m doing.”
- “I’m president and I put this country back on its feet,” he said. “Take a look at what I’ve done since I’ve become president.”
- Speaker Mike Johnson and other top Republican leaders of the House of Representatives called Hur’s report “deeply disturbing” and said it showed Biden was “unfit” for the presidency.
- “A man too incapable of being held accountable for mishandling classified information is certainly unfit for the Oval Office,” they said in a statement.



US President Joe Biden

An angry, emotional US President Joe Biden defended his mental competence Thursday in a rare evening address to Americans to respond to biting comments in a report released hours earlier on his mishandling of classified documents. Appearing on live television from the White House, Biden was furious over the report’s claim that he was unable to remember even the date of his son Beau’s death in 2015, as well as other key moments in his life. “My memory is fine,” he said. “There’s even reference that I don’t remember when my son died. How in the hell dare he raise that?” Biden said, visibly fighting to rein in his emotions. The report from special counsel Robert Hur should have been good news for Biden. It cleared him of any criminal wrongdoing in his storing of the classified documents, which he’d used while vice president under Barack Obama, at his private home and a former office. This stands in sharp contrast

with a separate criminal investigation into Biden’s likely November presidential rival Donald Trump, who is accused of taking vast quantities of top-secret documents after leaving the White House in 2021, then obstructing attempts to get them back. However, Hur unleashed a political bombshell, just nine months from the election, by saying the 81-year-old Democrat came across as a “well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory.” Given Biden’s reduced mental acuity, Hur said, a jury would not in any case have found him guilty on documents charges. Asked about that comment by reporters in the White House after his formal remarks, Biden said: “I am well meaning, and I’m an elderly man, and I know what the hell I’m doing.” “I’m president and I put this country back on its feet,” he said. “Take a look at what I’ve done since I’ve become president.” Speaker Mike Johnson and other top Republican leaders of the House of Represen-

tatives called Hur’s report “deeply disturbing” and said it showed Biden was “unfit” for the presidency. “A man too incapable of being held accountable for mishandling classified information is certainly unfit for the Oval Office,” they said in a statement. - Issue hard to dispel - Earlier Thursday, Biden had declared that his exoneration by Hur on any legal issues meant “this matter is now closed.” However, that clearly was not true -- as Biden’s highly unusual, last-minute scheduling of televised remarks showed. Biden has long been fighting attacks from the right and also some within his own party that he is too old to be president. As he gears up for the November election against Trump -- a man he says poses an existential threat to US democracy -- Biden is campaigning on his long experience and his stewardship of a fast-recovering, post-Covid economy. “I’m the most qualified person in the United States to

be president and finish the job,” he said in the late-evening remarks. But it will be hard to shake the impact of Hur’s stinging comments. Biden didn’t help himself either by momentarily mixing up Mexico with Egypt while answering a reporter’s question about Israel’s war in Gaza. - Not ‘accurate’ or ‘appropriate’ - Hur was appointed by Biden’s attorney general, Merrick Garland, last year after classified material was found at the president’s home in Delaware and in a former office. The 388-page report said Biden had “willfully retained and disclosed classified materials” in the period after he left the vice presidency -- well before he defeated Trump in 2020 to become president. Hur -- previously nominated by Trump to be the lead prosecutor for the state of Maryland -- said documents about military and foreign policy in Afghanistan and other matters were recov-

ered by FBI agents. However, “We conclude the evidence is not sufficient to convict, and we decline to recommend prosecution of Mr Biden for his retention of the classified Afghanistan documents,” Hur said. Hur then said that “It would be difficult to convince a jury that they should convict him -- by then a former president well into his eighties -- of a serious felony that requires a mental state of willfulness.” White House special counsel Richard Sauber and Biden’s personal lawyer Bob Bauer attacked the comments as neither “accurate or appropriate.” “The report uses highly prejudicial language to describe a commonplace occurrence among witnesses: a lack of recall of years-old events,” they said in a letter to Hur. “Such comments have no place in a Department of Justice report.” The president noted that he had granted five hours of interviews to the special counsel on October 8 and 9, right as he was handling the start of the Israel-Hamas crisis.

UK News

Nation in shock as the British Monarch starts treatment: KING CHARLES III CANCER BOMBSHELL, DOCTORS ADVISE TO SUSPEND PUBLIC DUTIES



By: Sham Lal Puri
Associate publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
shamlalpur4@gmail.com

Contd from Page 11

Worth Noting:

- King Charles' medical team comes from the world-renowned London Clinic based in the famed Harley Street area, the hub of private paid-for medical care excellence.
- Many people wonder what exactly the London Clinic is all about. They wonder why Harley Street is known worldwide for being the centre of World-Class Medical Excellence.
- Their reputation stems from the volume of doctors worldwide drawn to the area due to its architectural Georgian housing designs, its large enough to be used for their housing, and its medical practices with rich pickings from wealthy patients. From Winston Churchill's personal physician to Lionel Logue, the speech and language therapist to King George VI, Harley Street has seen many renowned doctors walk its pavement.

tion, better treatment, and research advances.

In the United Kingdom, half the people diagnosed with cancer service their disease for ten years or more.

According to the figures available, the overall incidence of cancer is high in the United Kingdom. Some 1,000 cases are diagnosed daily, bringing to over 400,000 patients annually.

About 36% of all cancer cases in the UK are diagnosed in people over 75.

The most common cases are prostate, lung, bowel, bladder, and melanoma skin cancer.

Several treatments are available, including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy, and target therapy using medicines, photodynamics, hyperthermia, and stem cell transplant.

It goes without saying that King Charles's medical team will carefully consider these options to ensure the best possible outcome during his treatment.

The King is one of the thousands of Britons diagnosed with cancer. As a monarch, he has been given immediate access to treatment in one of the world's top hospitals.

He is fortunate with this facility, but many ordinary Britons may not be as lucky as him to receive prompt treatment.

They are undergoing treatment like a lottery and, day by day, becoming victims of the National Health Service's (NHS) funding crisis and consequent delays in completing their treatment. As the interest of the British sparked with King Charles's diagnosis, the national TV network Sky ran a news item on Thursday highlighting the problems that many cancer patients under the NHS face.

In 2023, the state-run health system recorded the longest wait for cancer treatment – a blackspot to the frustration of many doctors.

The picture is grim as the hospitals have numerous problems, such as underfunding, shortage of doctors and continuous disputes with the Government, which has said it cannot afford to increase the funding for health services.

There were several strikes by doctors, nurses, and ambulance crews, resulting in the unnecessary deaths of patients under their care, including some cancer patients.

Doctors are being balloted for yet another strike soon. Can the Government continue to look the other way and starve the national healthcare system of funds? Remembering this is the election year, and the people's vote will make a lot of difference to the results, the ruling Conservative party-led Government must find the right amounts of money to beef up the budgets so the loved ones of voters can return home fully treated.

The Tories must remember that each vote counts to return them to Downing Street.

Sunak's sweet talk will not help his party return to power, only practical action.



Prince of Wales Prince William has taken over his father's royal duties while Princess of Wales Catherine Middleton recuperates at home after her abdominal surgery. Photo Courtesy



The prestigious London Clinic where King Charles is a patient undergoing cancer treatment. Photo Courtesy



Cancer care heroes at the London Clinic, part of the team caring for cancer patients. Photo Courtesy.

Pakistan

In shock result, allies of jailed ex-leader Khan win most seats in Pakistan election

By: CNN
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Still, none of the three major parties of the country will win the necessary 169 seats to have a majority in parliament and, therefore, will be unable to form government on their own, leaving it unclear who will be picked to be the country's next prime minister.
- In a speech released Friday, an AI-generated version of Khan claimed victory in the election and called on his supporters to "now show the strength of protecting your vote."
- Khan, who has been behind bars since August, has been using AI to get messages out to supporters. "You kept my trust, and your massive turnout has stunned everyone," the AI voice said in the video.
- Khan's opponent, former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, claimed that his PMLN party had emerged with the largest share.



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan pauses as he speaks with Reuters during an interview, in Lahore, Pakistan March 17, 2023. REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro/File Photo

ment and, therefore, will be unable to form government on their own, leaving it unclear who will be picked to be the country's next prime minister.

In a speech released Friday, an AI-generated version of Khan claimed victory in the election and called on his supporters to "now show the strength of protecting your vote."

Khan, who has been behind bars since August, has been using AI to get messages out to supporters. "You kept my trust, and your massive turnout has stunned everyone," the AI voice said in the video.

Khan's opponent, former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, claimed that his PMLN party had emerged with the largest share.

He admitted that his party did not have the "majority to form a government" and was looking for coalition partners.

Sharif, who once saw one of his terms end in a military coup, is considered by analysts to be favored by the country's military establishment. The military has previously denied backing Sharif.

Speaking on Saturday, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir said: "The nation needs stable hands and a healing touch to move on from the politics of anarchy and polarization which does not

suit a progressive country of 250 million people."

"Pakistan's diverse polity and pluralism will be well-represented by a unified government of all democratic forces imbued with national purpose," Munir added.

Violent protests had broken out on Friday over allegations of vote rigging and the slow vote count, amid warnings from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan that the "lack of transparency" surrounding the delay in announcing the election results was "deeply concerning."

At least two people were killed and 24 injured in Shangla in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during a confrontation between workers from Khan's political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and police officers.

A police officer in Shangla told CNN that two protesters had died when they were hit by stones thrown by their group at police.

However the PTI-affiliated local candidate, Syed Fareen, told CNN that they were having a peaceful demonstration when the police fired on the protesters, killing the two workers and injuring at least 24.

'Indicative of tampering'

Analysts attribute the widespread anger to efforts by the country's caretaker government and its powerful

military, a force that has long-dominated Pakistani politics, to suppress Khan and his supporters, including through "pre-poll rigging."

Khan has accused the military of orchestrating his removal from office in 2022, which saw thousands of his supporters throng the streets after that episode in defiance of the army.

Both the military and Pakistan's caretaker government have denied suppressing Khan or the PTI.

"This election was, among other things, a referendum on the military's dominant role in Pakistani politics," Michael Kugelman, the director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center, a think tank, told CNN.

"PTI voters came out in droves to telegraph a message of defiance, that they weren't going to let the military dictate the outcome of an election that it badly wanted them to lose."

Khan-backed candidate Meher Bano Qureshi, whose father is the jailed former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, told CNN she had been leading with a significant margin until the election commission "froze" results overnight and denied her access to the returning officer's office.

It was then announced Friday that she had lost in the Punjab constituency of Multan with what she said was a "historic" number of reject-

ed votes, adding that this was "in my opinion, clearly indicative of tampering."

Foreign governments have expressed concerns about interference in Pakistan's election.

On Friday, the US called for an investigation into "claims of interference or fraud" surrounding the vote, with a State Department spokesman agreeing with assessments that the elections "included undue restrictions on freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly."

But Pakistan's foreign ministry hit back on Saturday, saying that criticisms from overseas "ignore the undeniable fact that Pakistan has held general elections, peacefully and successfully."

These comments "neither take into account the complexity of the electoral process, nor acknowledge the free and enthusiastic exercise of the right to vote by tens of millions of Pakistanis," it added, calling those concerns "misplaced."

Thursday's vote, already delayed for months, comes as the country of 220 million faces mounting challenges – from economic uncertainty and frequent militant attacks, to climate catastrophes that are putting its most vulnerable at risk.

Former cricket star Khan, 71, who was ousted from power in a storm of controversy, remains imprisoned on multiple convictions and

banned from contesting the vote against his rivals.

The PTI has been prohibited from using its famous cricket bat symbol on ballots, dealing a blow to millions of illiterate people who might use it to cast their vote, and television stations are banned from running Khan's speeches.

His longtime foe, 74-year-old Sharif, a scion of the elite Sharif political dynasty, is seeking to make what would be a remarkable political comeback following years of self-exile overseas after he was sentenced to prison on corruption charges.

Even if PTI does come out on top after the vote count is finalized, holding on to power in a new government could prove challenging.

Court rulings ahead of the election had forced the party's candidates to run as independents.

"This means that PTI has to worry that some of its sponsored candidates could align with other parties. And the military will likely pressure them to do so," Kugelman said.

Sharif's PMLN may also be able to form a coalition with other parties and shut out the PTI, Kugelman added.

If Sharif's party forms the new government he would become prime minister for a historic fourth term. He took a conciliatory tone on Friday and stated that "all parties should sit together to heal a wounded Pakistan."

He also stated that his party respected the mandate of all parties, "including independents," referring to the candidates from jailed former Prime Minister Khan's party, who had been unable to run under their party name.

Sharif stressed that his party "did not want to fight" as "Pakistan could not afford conflict."

He also said his party "wanted to improve relations" with Pakistan's neighbors.

Also standing is Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the 35-year-old son of slain former leader Benazir Bhutto, hoping to reestablish his Pakistan People's Party as a major political force.

Former Tanzanian PM dies aged 70

By Joseph Muia

Former Tanzanian Prime Minister Edward Ngoyai Lowasa has passed away after a long battle with illness. Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango announced on Saturday that the 70-year-old Lowassa died while undergoing treatment at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam.

Dr. Mpango said the former premier was suffering from a myriad of conditions including lung issues, stomach ulcers, and hypertension.

“The former prime minister started to receive treatment at the JKCI on January 14, 2022. He was later referred to a South African hospital for specialised treatment and later returned to JKCI,” he said as quoted by the Citizen.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan mourned Lowassa as she condoled with the family, friends and the general public, further declaring five days of national mourning.

Dr. Mpango consequently directed that the Tanzanian national flag would fly at half-mast for the five-day mourning period noting that additional information regarding Lowassa’s death would be communicated later.

The deceased had served as Prime Minister from 2005 to 2008 under

President Jakaya Kikwete. He stepped down following scandals at the time, after which President Kikwete dissolved his Cabinet, replacing him with a new Prime Minister, Mizengo Pinda.

Lowassa defected from Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) to the main opposition camp in 2015 where he joined the presidential race but was floored by the late and former President John Magufuli.

On March 1, 2019, Lowassa left Chadema and rejoined CCM.

Former Tanzanian Prime Minister Edward Ngoyai Lowasa addressing the U.N. General Assembly in 2006.
PHOTO | REUTERS



China

China’s most-watched Spring Festival TV gala ready to air

By: CGTN

China’s most-watched TV program, the annual Spring Festival gala by China Media Group (CMG), is ready to be staged, as the fifth and last rehearsal of the gala concluded on Wednesday.

People from different walks of life, including noodle masters, retired technicians, police officers, athletes, astronauts and giant panda breeders, all showed up, ready to celebrate both the most important traditional festival in the country and ordinary people’s life in the past year.

Music, dance, comedy, martial arts and acrobatics performers also went on stage to practice one more time before the live show on Friday night, the Chinese New Year’s Eve.

This year’s show will also be blended with a touch of the latest technology, including extended reality and immersive stage interaction technologies.

Beginning in 1983, the gala has become a must-see family show during the Spring Festival celebrations.

The show will be broadcast live on CMG’s TV and radio channels as well as social media platforms, besides more than 1,000 public screens in over 100 Chinese cities and on more than 3,000 public screens in 90 cities across 49 other countries.



A view of the fifth rehearsal of China Media Group (CMG)’s annual Spring Festival gala. /CMG

America

Top court to consider if Trump can run for President

By: BBC
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Worth Noting:

- The challenge has been expedited by the US Supreme Court, and there is pressure for a decision before 5 March, when voters in 15 states – including Colorado – cast their ballots in Republican primaries.
- Mr Trump’s name so far remains on the Colorado ballot, pending the court’s ruling. Maine also has excluded Mr Trump from its ballot, a decision on hold, too, while the justices consider the matter.
- The legal challenge hinges on a Civil War-era constitutional amendment that bans anyone who has “engaged in insurrection or rebellion” from holding federal office.
- This prohibition has never been used to disqualify a candidate for president.
- In December’s ruling, the Colorado Supreme Court wrote that it was aware of the magnitude of its decision.



Donald Trump

The US Supreme Court will wade into uncharted legal waters on Thursday as it considers if Donald Trump should be barred from running for president. The justices will weigh if Colorado can strike Mr Trump off its ballot after finding he engaged in insurrection over the US Capitol riot. Their decision will also determine if similar bids to keep Mr Trump off the ballot in other states are valid. He is the definitive front-runner to be the Republican party’s candidate. Unless the justices rule against Mr Trump, he looks likely to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden in November.

It is the most consequential such case to reach the court since it halted the Florida vote recount in 2000, handing the White House to Republican George W Bush over Democrat Al Gore. The challenge has been expedited by the US Supreme Court, and there is pressure for a decision before 5 March, when voters in 15 states – including Colorado – cast their ballots in Republican primaries. Mr Trump’s name so far remains on the Colorado ballot, pending the court’s ruling. Maine also has excluded Mr Trump from its ballot, a decision on hold, too, while the justices consider the matter. The legal challenge hinges

on a Civil War-era constitutional amendment that bans anyone who has “engaged in insurrection or rebellion” from holding federal office. This prohibition has never been used to disqualify a candidate for president. In December’s ruling, the Colorado Supreme Court wrote that it was aware of the magnitude of its decision. “We are likewise mindful of our solemn duty to apply the law, without fear or favor, and without being swayed by public reaction to the decisions that the law mandates we reach,” the justices wrote. In turn, Mr Trump’s lawyers argued that the Colorado ruling had “unconstitution-

ally disenfranchised millions of voters in Colorado” and could be used to further disenfranchise millions more across the country. His argument has been supported by the chief legal officers of 27 states, who filed a brief saying the Colorado ruling would sow “widespread chaos”. “Most obviously, it casts confusion into an election cycle that is just weeks away,” the attorneys general wrote. “Beyond that, it upsets the respective roles of the Congress, the States, and the courts.” Courts in Minnesota and Michigan have dismissed parallel efforts to remove Mr Trump from their ballots, while other cases, including in Oregon, are pending. The US Supreme Court’s decision in this case is expected to turn on how a majority of the justices interpret the provision of the 14th Amendment, which includes the insurrection clause. Lawyers for the former president have provided several reasons to the court for why he should not be removed from the ballot. In one, they argue that the 14th Amendment does not apply to presidential candidates. In another, they contend that Mr Trump’s conduct at the time of the US Capitol riot on 6 January 2021 did not amount to insurrection. The case lands with a thud

before a Supreme Court that is already facing near all-time lows in terms of public approval. No matter the ruling by the nine justices – three of whom were nominated by Mr Trump – it is likely to prove hugely divisive. The top court has a history of finding ways to extricate itself from politically charged legal issues by sticking to the narrowest of legal grounds, which could turn out to be the case here. Mr Trump, who is in the midst of his third presidential campaign, is not expected to attend Thursday’s hearing. He is facing a number of legal challenges. Last month, he was ordered to pay \$83.3m (\$65m) for defaming columnist E Jean Carroll, who he was found to have sexually assaulted in a separate case. The Supreme Court itself – which holds a 6-3 conservative majority – may soon be asked to weigh in on another case involving Mr Trump. Earlier this week, a federal appeals court in Washington DC rejected his claims of presidential immunity, ruling he could be prosecuted on charges of plotting to overturn the 2020 election. Mr Trump has until Monday to ask the Supreme Court to pause this ruling.



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Diaspora

Sexual desire dropped for many women after the pandemic hit. Here’s what you can do

And women — even more so than men — struggled when it came to desire.

By: CNN

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Worth Noting:

- Why would COVID-19 create such an ongoing issue for sexual desire? Stress, said Dr. Justin Lehmiller, a research fellow at the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University.
- “It makes sense that people experienced a lot of difficulties during this time because you had these major life disruptions that didn’t necessarily go away when the world reopened,” said Lehmiller, who is also host of the “Sex and Psychology Podcast.”
- It’s difficult for people’s bodies to find space for sex when under stress, Marin said.
- “For the vast majority of people, if you’re under a lot of stress, your body shuts down any pathway to arousal and desire,” she said.
- On top of concerns about the state of the world and your family’s health, transitioning to a COVID-19 world of no childcare, working from home and fewer social outlets meant increased stress for many people — but especially women in particular.



There are ways to address a decline in desire as well as pain during sex and lack of pleasure, said marriage and family therapist Vanessa Marin of Santa Barbara, California. PHOTO/COURTESY: CNN

It has been almost four years since the world went into lockdown from the COVID-19 pandemic — but don’t be surprised if you haven’t brought sexy back yet. Sexual function — which includes factors like desire, arousal, and pleasure — in men and women decreased significantly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a January 2022 meta-analysis of 21 studies published in the journal BMC Public Health. And women — even more so than men — struggled when it came to desire. “I’ve been hearing about this since the first couple of months of the pandemic and it’s a trend that has continued,” said Vanessa Marin, a licensed marriage and family therapist based in Santa Barbara, California. If you and your partner have found yourself in a bit of a rut, there are ways to break out of it, she said. “Being in a relationship is like working together as a team to figure out, ‘Hey, what is it that we’re both wanting and how do we work together to get it?’” added Marin, coauthor of “Sex Talks: The Five Conversations That Will Transform Your Love Life.”

Stress kills sex
Why would COVID-19 create such an ongoing issue for sexual desire? Stress, said Dr. Justin Lehmiller, a research fellow at the Kinsey Institute

at Indiana University. “It makes sense that people experienced a lot of difficulties during this time because you had these major life disruptions that didn’t necessarily go away when the world reopened,” said Lehmiller, who is also host of the “Sex and Psychology Podcast.” It’s difficult for people’s bodies to find space for sex when under stress, Marin said. “For the vast majority of people, if you’re under a lot of stress, your body shuts down any pathway to arousal and desire,” she said. On top of concerns about the state of the world and your family’s health, transitioning to a COVID-19 world of no childcare, working from home and fewer social outlets meant increased stress for many people — but especially women in particular. “The pandemic brought issues of mental load and mental labor really to the forefront in a way that it never has been before,” Marin said. Mental load refers to tasks that take planning, preparation, and keeping track to maintain a household. It makes sense that women who took on a greater share of domestic labor — all while working from home — would start to feel like intimacy with their partner was another item on the list of things for other people, she added. And even though things

went back to something closer to normal after the lockdown lifted, people may have gotten used to how things were. That means many people likely haven’t found ways to reinvigorate their relationships, said Deborah Fox, a licensed sex therapist and clinical social worker based in Washington, DC. Spontaneous vs. Responsive That feeling at the beginning of a relationship when the desire is on fire all the time is an anomaly in the world of sexuality, and it’s OK if you have to change your approach as a relationship goes on, Fox said. Many people, particularly women, tend to experience what is called responsive arousal as opposed to spontaneous arousal, she said. Whereas someone who is aroused spontaneously can be interested in sex in many circumstances, people who are more responsive in their desire require a less stressful context and contact with their partner that initiates their arousal, Fox added. “If you want to have sex on Saturday, start foreplay on Wednesday,” she said. And it doesn’t have to be explicit. Foreplay could be spending time with your partner watching your favorite show, going on a fun date or even taking a hot bath, Fox said. To get back into a space where desire is more regu-

lar, Fox recommends setting aside time when you and your partner will be physically connected. Importantly, that doesn’t necessarily mean that’s when you will be having sex, and it really shouldn’t be pressure for it to lead there, she said. Instead, cuddle, kiss or hold hands at that designated time and be open to where it might go. And don’t forget to have fun with it, Fox said. “That regular sort of rhythm of activity is, is what’s required because otherwise, drift takes over,” she added. “And if you’re already drifting from the pandemic, it feels awkward to get back into it.” How to get the spark back With an issue as multifaceted as sexual desire, there are many steps you can take if you want to get back in the groove. First, take inventory of your emotional connection with your partner: Are you feeling disconnected or resentful? Working on those elements of the relationship together or with a therapist could address physical issues, Marin said. Then look at the quality of the sex that you are having. “The vast majority of people describe their sex as boring, routine, predictable, and that there’s nothing in it for them,” she added. You might not know exactly what it is that would bring

some spice back, but start by asking yourself and talking with your partner about what you do enjoy in your sex life — following that guidance may improve the experience for you, Marin said. Lastly, women have to start speaking up about pain. “The research has shown that 30% of women experienced pain the last time they had sex, which is a mind-boggling number,” Marin said. “If you’re experiencing pain during sex, it makes zero sense to crave it, so addressing sexual pain is another great starting point for a lot of people.” She recommends talking with your doctor or gynecologist and perhaps a sex therapist to address any pain you are feeling. We mustn’t respond to sexual difficulties by avoiding them, Lehmiller said. In his research, there were “a lot of people who dealt with our sexual difficulties just by avoiding sex, because sometimes it’s easier to just not do it and not talk about it than it is to have those difficult conversations,” Lehmiller said. And the data showed that men were more likely than women to seek professional help for the sexual problems they experienced, he said. “Unfortunately, I think we’ve sort of normalized sexual difficulties for women,” he added.



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Have you had your cervical cancer test yet? Here are options

By: Dr Patricia Muthaura
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Worth Noting:

- Screening tests are advised in all women, even those who have been vaccinated from age 25 to 65. It is important to understand that the main purpose of a screening test is to detect abnormal cells and treat them BEFORE they progress to cancer. Treatment of these abnormal cells is simple and lifesaving. After treatment, women will still have periods, have a normal sexual life, carry pregnancies, and can have normal vaginal deliveries. There are 4 main ways of screening for cervical cancer in Kenya
- HPV testing is now advocated as the primary (most advised) method by the Kenya Ministry of Health as well as most international bodies such as the World Health Organization among others. HPV testing tests for high risk HPV strains.



Dr. Patricia Muthaura, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi.

Did you know that Cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women in Kenya? The saddest thing about cervical cancer is that it robs the lives of women who are in their prime. Most cervical cancer patients are diagnosed between age 35 to 45. A time when they are busy raising their children, and likely approaching peak performance in their careers. Cervical cancer robs children of the mothers, husbands of their wives, and women in the prime of their careers.

Did you know that compared to other cancers, cervical cancer is almost 100% preventable? In today's world and with modern science no woman should die from cervical cancer. Please do not be a victim. Do not wait for symptoms of pain and abnormal bleeding because by then cervical cancer is at an advanced stage. Take charge of your life and health in the following ways

Vaccination

Did you know that cervical cancer can be prevented by vaccination? Yes, just as the hepatitis B vaccine can prevent liver cancer, the HPV vaccine can prevent Cervical cancer. HPV, Human papilloma virus is responsible for almost 100% of cer-

vical cancers. The vaccine provides immunity against the most common high risk strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer.

Like any other vaccine, it works best for women who have not been exposed to HPV. HPV is a virus that is spread by intimate activities and is highly contagious during sexual activities. Transmission is also not completely prevented with condoms as it affects skin surfaces. Thus the HPV vaccine is primarily recommended for girls and teenagers aged 10 to 15. It is available at most government clinics for this age group. There are also many older women who may not have been sexually active or exposed, thus women are eligible for this vaccine up to age 45.

Screening tests

Screening tests are advised in all women, even those who have been vaccinated from age 25 to 65. It is important to understand that the main purpose of a screening test is to detect abnormal cells and treat them BEFORE they progress to cancer. Treatment of these abnormal cells is simple and lifesaving. After treatment, women will still have peri-

ods, have a normal sexual life, carry pregnancies, and can have normal vaginal deliveries. There are 4 main ways of screening for cervical cancer in Kenya

HPV testing

HPV testing is now advocated as the primary (most advised) method by the Kenya Ministry of Health as well as most international bodies such as the World Health Organization among others. HPV testing tests for high risk HPV strains. The advantage to the HPV test is that it is the most sensitive (accurate). Also if your test is negative, you can have your next test in 5 years. Another great advantage is that you do not necessarily have to undergo an invasive speculum examination by a doctor or health care provider. Patients can swab themselves in the privacy of their home or in a restroom at the lab/clinic. This has been shown to be as accurate as an invasive test by a health care provider. So please do not avoid HPV testing because of fear of an intimate exam. HPV testing is advised for women above 30 years of age

Pap smear test

A pap smear is probably the

most known of all the methods. Pap smear was first reported in 1928 and came into widespread use in 1941. In those countries where the routine pap smears were advocated for and supported by public health financing and infrastructure, cervical cancer is almost unheard off. Pap smears should be done at least every 3 years as they are not as accurate as the HPV test. Pap smears alone are the recommended test for women aged 25-30.

Pap smear and HPV Co test

The HPV and pap smear co test is recommended for women between age 30 to 65. If both are negative, then testing can be done every 5 years. The advantage of the test is that the pap smear will advise if there are any abnormal cells and the HPV test will advise if there is any high risk infection.

VIA/VILI testing

Visual inspection with acetic acid and/or Lugols commonly known as VIA/VILI testing. In this procedure, a health care worker examines the cervix with a speculum using acetic acid commonly known as vinegar. This is the primary screening modality in low resource areas as it is

cheap and does not require a laboratory. Also any abnormality can be visualized immediately and treatment offered at the same clinic visit. It has been shown to be as sensitive as pap smears. The main drawback is that it is user dependent. Some women may undergo unnecessary treatment. However, it is very accurate for identifying abnormal lesions.

Please note that women whose immunity may be compromised such as those living with HIV, Lupus, Kidney failure are advised to do screening tests every year. Women who have had a hysterectomy where their cervix was removed do not need cervical cancer screening unless they have a history of highly abnormal pap smears or cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer screening may be stopped at age 65 if all previous regular screening have been normal. However, it may continue past age 65 for those who may have had a previous abnormal pap smear or may have a new sexual partner. So there are many ways of preventing this terrible disease. Please get your daughters and young sisters vaccinated. Engage in regular screening and save your life.

THE EL-TABLAZ ANNUAL READING CONTEST 2024

Attention, High School Students!

The El-Tablaz Books, in partnership with Read-Us Africa and Literature & English Forum – Uganda, invite you to enter their 1st annual reading contest.

What is The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest?

Starting this year, 2024, a reading and writing contest known as The El-Tablaz Annual Reading Contest shall be held nation-wide for high school students in Forms 1-6. Students are asked to READ and REVIEW a given book, clearly explaining how the text affected them personally. Reviews shall be judged on national level.

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- * Take a photo clearly showing you in your school uniform reading the given novel
- * Clearly indicate your full name and school

ENTRY LEVELS

Submissions are accepted starting 1st March, 2024. Prizes will be awarded in April, 2024, in each of the three competition levels:

- Level 1: Form 1 – 2 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 2: Form 3 – 4 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)
- Level 3: Form 5 – 6 (Submission deadline: Mar. 15, 2024)

Judges :

Judges will include teachers and teacher-consultants of the Literature & English Forum – Uganda from across the nation.

Are married people happier than those who are not? A new poll has answers

By: CNN
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Worth Noting:

- From 2009 to 2023, more than 2.5 million adults in the United States were asked how they would rate their current life, with zero being the worst possible rating and 10 being the highest. Then the researchers asked respondents what they anticipated their happiness level would be in five years.
- To be considered thriving, a person had to rank their current life as a seven or higher and their anticipated future as an eight or higher, according to the survey.
- Over the survey period, married people consistently reported their happiness levels higher than their unmarried counterparts, ranging from 12% to 24% higher depending on the year, according to the data.
- The gap was there even when researchers adjusted for factors such as age, race, ethnicity, gender and education, the survey said.



A happier life after getting married may not just be in fairy tales. It's in the data, too. Adults who are married report being far happier than those in any other relationship status, according to a Gallup Poll published Friday. "Any way you analyze those data, we see a fairly large and notable advantage to being married in terms of how people evaluate their life," said poll author Jonathan Rothwell, principal economist at Gallup. From 2009 to 2023, more than 2.5 million adults in the United States were asked how they would rate their current life, with zero being the worst possible rating and 10 being the highest. Then the researchers asked respondents what they anticipated their happiness level would be in five years. To be considered thriving, a person had to rank their current life as a seven or higher and their anticipated future as an eight or higher, according to the survey. Over the survey period, married people consistently reported their happiness levels higher than their unmarried counterparts, ranging from 12% to 24% higher depending on the year, according to the data. The gap was there even when researchers adjusted for factors such as age, race, ethnicity, gender and education, the survey said. Education is a strong predictor of happiness, but the data showed that married adults who did not attend high school evaluate their lives more favorably than unmarried adults with a graduate degree. "Things like race and age and gender and education matter. But marriage seems to matter more than those things when it comes to something like this measure of kind of living your best life," said Bradford Wilcox, professor of sociology and director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. Wilcox reviewed and edited the Gallup Poll research. "We're social animals. And as Aristotle said, we are hardwired to connect," he added. A difference in how we are picking partners

Maybe the happiness tied to marriage has something to do with what people expect from it, said Ian Kerner, a licensed marriage and family therapist and CNN relationships contributor. "In my practice over the last decade I've noticed a gradual shift from the 'romantic marriage' to the 'companionate marriage,' meaning that people are increasingly choosing spouses at the outset who are more like best friends than passion-partners," Kerner said via email. While doing so may lead to problems with attraction, it also means those people are choosing partners based on qualities likely to promote long-term stability and satisfaction, he said. "At its bare minimum, the concept of commitment implies the experience of being bonded with another. At its very best, it means being bonded with someone who is a consistent safe and secure home base that will be there for you in the face of any adversities," said Dr. Monica O'Neal, a Boston psychologist. Do I need to get married to be happier?

There is a lot that we can learn from the data, but it is difficult to say whether marriage is the reason for higher levels of happiness, Rothwell said. It could be that people who have qualities that tend to lead to more consistent happiness are also those who would seek out marriage, the survey said. "There's also famously, for men anyway, a premium associated with being married in terms of earning higher income," Rothwell said. "There's lots of debate in the literature about whether that's because more successful, charming, intelligent men who have attributes that would lead them to earn more in the labor market are more likely to get married." Not asking the right questions while making life-changing decisions can lead to leaping before you're ready. The quality of marriages, however, can vary based on individual circumstances, societal changes and the cultural outlook on marriage, he added. For example, in communities where marriage is often

a practical necessity, the data shows a smaller effect on happiness than in those where individuals feel more able to choose their status and partner, Rothwell said. And O'Neal doesn't imagine being in an unhappy marriage will leave you feeling better in life overall. "I still believe that those who have unhappy marriages, are probably less happy than those who are single," she said. Whether married or dating, you can optimize your chances for a happy relationship by communicating well on what your commitment to one another entails, O'Neal said. "I don't think we're ever going to get to a point in social science where we can say whether or not and with any precision whether marriage causes happiness," Rothwell said.

China, Malta agree to jointly promote China-EU cooperation

With strong political mutual trust and solid public support, the two countries have maintained a momentum of healthy and stable development, Wang said.

Xinhua

VALLETTA - Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, and Maltese Foreign Minister Ian Borg agreed here on Saturday that the two sides will work together to promote China-European Union (EU) cooperation.

Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said that China and Malta have always respected and treated each other as equals, which has set an example of friendly cooperation between countries of different sizes. With strong political mutual trust and solid public support, the two countries have maintained a momentum of healthy and stable development, Wang said.

Noting that China appreciates Malta's repeated affirmation of its firm adherence to the one-China principle, Wang said that China, as a friend and partner, also firmly supports Malta in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests.

China welcomes Malta's serving as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2023-2024 term, and is willing to

strengthen multilateral cooperation, jointly uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core, and defend international fairness and justice, Wang said.

China-EU cooperation outweighs differences and the two sides are partners instead of rivals, he emphasized, adding that they can fully appreciate and learn from each other. China has consistently supported the EU's strategic independence and European integration, he noted. Since China and the EU established a comprehensive strategic partnership 20 years ago, the scope and depth of cooperation have been continuously expanded, Wang said, adding that both sides should continue to maintain an open attitude, firmly support free trade, reject protectionism, and achieve the positive effects of China-EU cooperation.

Wang said he hopes Malta would continue to play a positive role in the development of China-EU relations.

Borg noted that Malta-China relationship is strong and enduring. Malta cherishes its friendship with China and consistently adheres to the one-China principle, which is a firm and clear position, he added.

He said that Malta looks forward to



Wang Yi (R), director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee, shakes hands with Maltese President George Vella at the presidential palace in Valletta, Malta, September 17, 2023. /Chinese Foreign Ministry

attending the China International Import Expo (CIIE) to be held in Shanghai, seizing opportunities in the Chinese market and further ex-

panding Malta-China cooperation. Malta agrees that the EU and China are partners, not rivals, and is willing to work together to promote

EU-China cooperation and jointly address global challenges, said Borg.

RUSSIA

Russia repeatedly sought peaceful solution to problems in Ukraine: Putin

Meanwhile, the development of this territory by NATO military structures took place under the guise of various training and retraining centers for personnel, said Putin

Xinhua

Russia has repeatedly sought a peaceful solution to the problems in Ukraine since 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with US media personality Tucker Carlson published Friday.

"We repeatedly, repeatedly offered to seek a solution to the problems that arose in Ukraine after the coup in 2014 by peaceful means. But no one listened to us. And what's more, the Ukrainian leadership, which was under full control of the United States, suddenly declared that it would not fulfill the Minsk agreements, they did not like anything there, and continued military activity in this territory," Putin said.

Meanwhile, the development of this territory by NATO military structures took place under the guise of various training and retraining centers for personnel, said Putin, adding that they had actually built bases there.

He recalled that the Ukrainian authorities adopted laws that restricted

the rights of Russians. "In Ukraine, they declared that Russians are -- they passed a law -- a non-titular nation, and at the same time they adopted laws that restrict the rights of non-titular nations."

"This all together caused the decision to end the war that was started by neo-Nazis in Ukraine in 2014 by armed means," the Russian president said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during an interview with US television host Tucker Carlson in Moscow, Russia Feb 6, 2024. [Photo/Agencies]



Texas border town becomes hotspot for US election year

The GOP governor thus successfully made national headlines, as his feud with the Biden administration is heating up over the state’s right to border control.

By: Xinhua
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Worth Noting:

- The Supreme Court ordered last month that Texas cannot block Border Patrol agents from cutting wire to reach the river and aid migrants in distress. In response, Abbott asked state troops to install more razor wires and barriers along the border river.
- The GOP governor thus successfully made national headlines, as his feud with the Biden administration is heating up over the state’s right to border control.
- Last month, 25 of the 26 other Republican governors issued a joint statement supporting Texas’ constitutional right to self-defense. Former President Donald Trump, a leading Republican presidential candidate in 2024, has also supported Abbott.



A group of migrants stand on the edge of Rio Grande as the National Guard officers pass by on boats, in Eagle Pass, Texas, US February 3, 2024. [Photo/Agencies]

Large coils of concertina wire gleam silver in the sun, rusty shipping containers sit in a long row, and orange-red buoys are stacked on an open field, waiting to be installed as water barriers in the Rio Grande bordering the United States and Mexico.

At the closed gate between barbed wire fences, armed Texas National Guardsmen with armored vehicles are on duty, making Shelby Park, a municipal park in Eagle Pass, Texas, resemble a militarized zone.

The park, which stretches along the 2.5-mile-long Rio Grande river bank with four soccer fields for local residents to enjoy, has recently become a focal point in the national drama over immigration as partisan fights are unfolding in the US general election year.

WORSENING STANDOFF

The Texas National Guard seized Shelby Park on Jan. 12 and restricted federal access under the order of the state’s governor, Greg Abbott, who called the illegal border crossing “an invasion” and claimed the state has the right to defend itself because US President Joe Biden has failed to fulfill his duty to secure the US border.

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Last month, 25 of the 26 other Republican governors issued a joint statement supporting Texas’ constitutional right to self-defense. Former President Donald Trump, a leading Republican presidential candidate in 2024, has also supported Abbott.

The standoff between the state and the federal government led to a convoy of protesters, mostly Trump supporters, to head from the East Coast to Eagle Pass and



President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. Getty Images

two other border towns each in California and Arizona in an attempt to “take the border back.”

Rallies were scheduled there on Saturday, though the convoy seems much smaller than anticipated, according to local media reports. Many protesters have described themselves as part of “God’s army” taking actions against “globalists.”

“The border has to be controlled and it’s not ... And I think we need to do something,” Jim Helms, a 68-year-old man from Alaska, told Xinhua. He changed his travel plans with “no hesitation” upon hearing of the convoy and came to Eagle Pass to join the rally.

Along with the support of 14 other Republican governors, Abbott is scheduled to conduct a press conference on Sunday, according to NBC News.

“Abbott and his supporters are creating a media circus for political gain and to raise money,” Domingo Garcia, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said in an earlier statement, associating the convoy with the standoff between Texas and the White House over border security measures.