

Once inside the A&E, a notice warning patients waiting for the delays was displayed

## British National Health Service EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION

Undoubtedly, many patients in pain understandably get nervous when told of the waiting times:



## Have the insensitive Tories killed the British National Health Service:

### TORMENT OF PAIN, 20-HOUR WAITS, SCREAMING PATIENTS, CHAOS IN UK HOSPITAL ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY

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



Unacceptable waiting times that distressed many patients at this hospital in London. Some had to wait longer than the times on these notices

Once feted as the world's best State-run chain of hospitals and the envy of the world, the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) is in the throes of death unless it is resuscitated immediately with a desperately needed financial lifeline and staff recruitment. Aneurin Bevan, the Labour Party Health Minister in the 1940s, who is popularly credited as the founder of this unique health system, would be turning in his grave at how the Government runs the service so incompetently today. Today, the NHS, which runs 930 of the UK's 1,148 hospitals, is starved of funds, de-

priving people of the best services and patient care for which it was initially established in 1948.

That is the general feeling of the people I met at the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Unit of a hospital in London, where I spent torturous waking hours in the night last week, not as a patient, but to observe the flow of those seeking treatment and their pre-admission sufferings. What I saw in this hospital happens in most British hospitals undergoing severe crises in 2024.

Once upon a time, patients at NHS hospitals were seen within four hours, but now, the stories of the good old

Contd Page 10

Senegal president pledges to hold election 'as soon as possible'

Senegalese President Macky Sall Africa



Page 12

New York governor apologizes after implying Israel is justified to destroy Gaza

America



Page 16

Asia

Page 18

Food Acids And Their Effect On Product Quality Economic and social policy Food



Page 20

## Putin foe Alexei Navalny dies in jail, West holds Russia responsible

..... Alexei Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's most formidable domestic opponent, fell unconscious and died on Friday after a walk at the "Polar Wolf" Arctic penal colony where he was serving a three-decade sentence, authorities said.

The death of Navalny, a 47-year-old former lawyer, robs the disparate Russian opposition of its most courageous leader as Putin prepares for an election that will keep the former KGB spy in power until at least 2030. There are now no opposition leaders of such prominence left in Rus-

sia. For some young urban Russians, Navalny offered hope of an alternative future to Putin, who has served as Russia's paramount leader longer than anyone since Josef Stalin. Navalny rose to prominence more than a decade ago by documenting and speaking publicly about what

he said was the vast corruption and opulence among the "crooks and thieves" running Putin's Russia. The Federal Penitentiary Service

Contd Page 14

Festival Gala P 4

News Page 8  
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# BPOs accelerate national competitiveness through service-sector exports

By: Annepeace Alwala and Hussein Adan  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



From left: Mr Hussein Adan, MBS, the Acting CEO, EPZA and Ms Annepeace Alwala the Vice President, SAMA

## Worth Noting:

• The impact of the BPO sector on job creation in Kenya has already been remarkable. In a nation grappling with the challenge of providing meaningful employment opportunities, BPOs have emerged as instruments of change.

• An example is one of our EPZ operator, Sama, which has become a significant employer, providing over 4,000 individuals with a source of income and a platform to nurture the skills and expertise necessary for the demands of a rapidly evolving global economy. Such a company has allowed Kenya to establish a place in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain by exporting critical data annotation and curation services to companies worldwide.

The global economic landscape is evolving rapidly. To better evaluate institutions, policies, and other factors affecting a country's productivity, more countries are adopting national competitiveness goals to ensure that they can keep up. That includes Kenya, which highlighted national competitiveness as a key priority in the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The services sector will undoubtedly play a vital role as a labour productivity driver. This can either be through locally consumed services or, better still, through exported services, which can leverage the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) infrastructure of countrywide offices meant to encourage business process outsourcing companies to operate in Kenya.

Indeed, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) companies will play a significant role in accomplishing the goals of Kenya's Vision 2030. With only six years left in the timeline laid out by this transformative national development blueprint designed to elevate the nation into a newly indus-

trialized, middle-income country, BPOs have the potential to reshape the nation's economic landscape and usher in an era of unparalleled progress.

In recent years, the growth of the BPO sector has been nothing short of revolutionary. The global BPO market is currently valued at over USD 262 billion, according to Statista, with African countries continuing to gain market share. Projections indicate that the sector is on track to attract revenues totalling USD 2 trillion by 2030.

Recognizing the immense potential of this growing industry, Kenya strategically identified BPO as a priority sector within Vision 2030's economic pillar, which envisions creating over 200,000 jobs and contributing a substantial 10 per cent to the nation's GDP, aiming to capitalize on the massive influx of foreign direct investments anticipated in the BPO sector.

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ments of change.

An example is one of our EPZ operator, Sama, which has become a significant employer, providing over 4,000 individuals with a source of income and a platform to nurture the skills and expertise necessary for the demands of a rapidly evolving global economy. Such a company has allowed Kenya to establish a place in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) value chain by exporting critical data annotation and curation services to companies worldwide.

The BPO sector has also emerged as an economic powerhouse, providing opportunities for both local and international businesses in Kenya.

The Kenyan Government has put substantial resources and focus into creating an environment where BPOs can grow and proliferate. In particular, the Government has invested heavily in high-quality internet infrastructure, a necessity for BPOs, and it has paid off: Since 2016, Kenya's ICT sector has grown by 10% year-on-year. The Government also started the Ajira training program targeting young people and capitalizing on better communica-

tions infrastructure, aiming to help Kenyans access digital jobs and promote Kenya as a destination for online workers.

Moreover, by establishing their operations at Export Processing Zones, BPOs have a specialized environment conducive to thriving, including tax incentives, infrastructure support, and simplified administrative procedures. The Government's commitment to creating an investor-friendly atmosphere has played a pivotal role in positioning Kenya as an attractive destination for BPO investments.

However, despite the commendable progress, challenges still need to be addressed on the path to fully realizing the potential of the BPO sector in Kenya. Infrastructure improvements, continuous investment in education and training, and addressing regulatory bottlenecks all require attention. To sustain the progress made in the BPO sector, all stakeholders must collaborate to address these challenges, including the government, businesses, and educational institutions.

Conscious of the need for regulatory adherence and ethical practice, the BPO

sector is actively pursuing self-regulation and active public affairs through the Business Process Outsourcing Association of Kenya (BPOAK), which is a Business Membership Organization (BMO) affiliated with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA). The Association sustains self-regulation commitments for its members, including leading BPO service providers. The goal is to deliver quality inbound and outbound services for sales and other contact centres alongside support, data curation, annotation, and model validation for businesses, back office processing services related to finance, accounting, debt collection and HR administration, software development, creative services and data science among other services.

As Kenya races against time to achieve its Vision 2030 goals and BETA Agenda, the BPO sector is crucial in realizing economic growth, creating employment opportunities, and positioning the nation on the global map of competitive outsourcing destinations. The transformative power of BPOs is not merely economic; it extends to shaping a skilled workforce and contributes to Kenya's overall transformation into the country described in Vision 2030.

The next six years will undoubtedly be crucial in attaining the Vision 2030 goals, and the continued commitment to nurturing and expanding the BPO sector to accelerate service exports will be instrumental in propelling Kenya towards a future of sustainable prosperity and boosting our national competitiveness.

*Mr Hussein Adan, MBS, is the Acting CEO, EPZA. Email: [Info@epzakkenya.com](mailto:Info@epzakkenya.com) and Ms Alwala is the Vice President, SAMA. Email: [press@samasource.org](mailto:press@samasource.org)*

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China

# The Splendor of CMG Spring Festival Gala

By: ZHAO QIAN  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

With over 2,300 media outlets in 200+ countries and regions broadcasting the gala synchronously, the event reached audiences worldwide. Public screens in 49 countries and 90 cities, including Nairobi, Kenya, featured live broadcasts, spreading the festive atmosphere globally.

In Nairobi, residents had the opportunity to enjoy the gala at various locations across the city, including Sarit Center, where live screenings were featured.

As the UN General Assembly adopted Lunar New Year as a floating holiday, CMG's Spring Festival Gala has played a significant role in showcasing Chinese culture and technological innovation on the global stage. With each passing year, the gala continues to attract more people worldwide to celebrate the festival alongside the Chinese people.



The Chinese New Year Gala was held at Two Rivers Mall in Nairobi in February 2024.

On the eve of the Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year, families across China and beyond gather to partake in the cherished tradition of watching the Spring Festival Gala, a televised event by China Media Group (CMG). Since its inception in 1983, the gala has become a staple of Chinese culture, uniting families in anticipation of the new year. The 2024 Spring Festival Gala captured the hearts of a staggering 14.2 billion viewers worldwide, with over 2,300 media outlets in 200+ countries and regions broadcasting and reporting on the event simultaneously. This year's gala attracted global attention for several reasons:

**Nationwide Spectacle:**  
The main venue in Beijing, along with parallel venues in

Xi'an, Changsha, Shenyang, and Kashgar, hosted simultaneous performances, offering viewers a captivating nationwide spectacle.

**International Flavor:**  
Embracing an increasingly international approach, the gala featured mesmerizing performances such as a French musical excerpt "Belle" and a cross-border interactive song "Share," reflecting the festive spirit on a global scale.

**Fusion of Tradition and Technology:**  
Xi'an showcased traditional Chinese elements through a fusion of real and virtual, with animated historical figures reciting ancient poetry. Advanced technologies like AI and real-time AR rendering created visually stunning virtual spaces.

**Technological Innovation:**  
Advanced technologies, including 5G and cutting-edge robot arms, were utilized to ensure stable, high-definition broadcasts across all venues. Robots performed alongside actors and singers, showcasing a seamless blend of technology and artistry.

**People-Centric Approach:**  
The gala celebrated ordinary individuals as protagonists, highlighting their remarkable stories and talents. From a construction worker who plays piano on the street to a 7-year-old girl from Chongqing, the gala underscored the achieve-



ments of everyday people.

**Global Reach:**  
With over 2,300 media outlets in 200+ countries and regions broadcasting the gala synchronously, the event reached audiences worldwide. Public screens in 49 countries and 90 cities, including Nairobi, Kenya, featured live broadcasts, spreading the festive atmosphere globally. In Nairobi, residents had the opportunity to enjoy the gala at various locations across the city, including Sarit Center, where live screenings were featured. As the UN General Assembly adopted Lunar New Year as a floating holiday, CMG's Spring Festival Gala has played a significant role in showcasing Chinese culture and technological innovation on the global stage. With each passing year, the gala continues to attract more people worldwide to celebrate the festival alongside the Chinese people. Zhao Qian, a Chinese journalist with China Media Group based in Nairobi, contributed to this report.

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# Trump launches sneaker line a day after judge's order to pay nearly Ksh.47 billion

By: CNN  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Former President Donald Trump on Saturday launched a sneaker line, a day after he and his companies were ordered by a judge to pay nearly \$355 million (Ksh.47 billion) in his New York civil fraud trial.

The former president unveiled "Trump Sneakers" at Sneaker Con in Philadelphia. He placed a pair of gold sneakers, which a new website has listed for \$399 and named the "NEVER SURRENDER HIGH-TOP SNEAKER," on the podium as he spoke.

"This is something I've been talking about for 12 years, 13 years, and I think it's going to be a big success," said Trump, who is marching closer toward the 2024 Republican nomination and a potential rematch with President Joe Biden.

By Saturday night, the \$399 sneakers were listed as sold out on the website. There had been 1,000 pairs of the sneakers available for purchase, according to the site.

The former president is also selling two versions of sneakers that have "T" and "45" on the sides for \$199, according to the website. Cologne and perfume are for sale at \$99 each.

According to the website, the products are "trademarks of CIC Ventures LLC. Trump Sneakers are not designed, manufactured, distributed or sold by Donald J. Trump, The Trump Organization or any of their respective affiliates or principals. 45Footwear, LLC uses the Trump name, image and likeness under a license agreement."

Biden campaign spokesperson Michael Tyler slammed Trump's appearance at Sneaker Con. "Donald Trump showing up to hawk bootleg Off-Whites is the closest he'll get to any Air Force Ones ever again for the rest of his life," he said, referring to popular sneakers from brands Off-White and Nike.

Following his appearance at Sneaker Con, Trump is expected to head to Michigan to address supporters for the first time since the rulings in separate New York cases thrust into the spotlight the legal peril he faces on multiple fronts.

On Thursday, a New York state judge confirmed that the former president's criminal trial in a hush-money case will begin March 25. A day later, Trump and his companies were ordered to pay nearly \$355 million for fraudulently inflating the values of his properties. Combined with the \$83 million judgment issued against Trump for defaming E.



Former President Donald Trump

Jean Carroll, the 2024 Republican front-runner has been fined roughly \$438 million over the past four weeks.

Trump's Michigan visit is timed for 10 days before the state holds its Republican primary. The Wolverine State is the final February contest

before the GOP nominating fight expands to more than two dozen states in March.

## DR Congo

# DR Congo army accuses Rwanda of 'drone attack' after airport bombing

By: AFP  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

DR Congo's army on Saturday accused Rwanda of staging a "drone attack" at night that damaged civilian aircraft at the airport in the strategic eastern city of Goma.

Fighting has flared in recent days around the town of Sake, 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Goma, between M23 rebels -- which Kinshasa says is backed by Kigali -- and Congolese government forces.

The drones "targeted aircraft of DRC Armed Forces", in the early hours, said Lieutenant-Colonel Guillaume Ndjike, army spokesman for restive North Kivu province.

"FARDC aircraft were not hit", he said, but "civilian aircraft were damaged", in a video broadcast by the governorate.

Security and government sources had told AFP of the bombing but had no details about where it came from or any damage caused.

A security source spoke of "two bombs" at the facility in Goma, the provincial Kivu capital and home to one million people.

"Two experts are on site to check where the bombs were fired from,"

the source said.

An AFP correspondent and Goma residents reported hearing two loud explosions.

Despite the bomb reports, national and international traffic was normal, sources at the airport said. Several commercial, military and humanitarian flights took off or landed during the morning, according to Flight Radar website.

### - Escalating violence -

The UN Security Council voiced concern this week at "escalating violence" in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, condemning an offensive launched by the mainly Tutsi-led M23 rebels near Goma.

Dozens of soldiers and civilians have reportedly been killed or wounded in the fighting over the last 10 days.

The DRC, the UN and Western countries say Rwanda is supporting the rebels in a bid to control vast mineral resources, an allegation Kigali denies.

The rebels have conquered vast swathes of North Kivu in the last two years.

The latest fight has pushed tens of thousands of civilians to flee towards Goma, which stands between Lake Kivu and the Rwandan border and is practically cut off from the country's interior.



President of Rwanda Paul Kagame delivers remarks during the Space Forum at the U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit on December 13, 2022 in Washington, DC. | Getty Images via AFP

According to a confidential UN document seen by AFP earlier this week, the Rwandan army is using sophisticated weapons such as surface-to-air missiles to support M23. A "suspected Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM)" was fired at a UN observation drone last Wednesday without hitting it, the report said. UN forces have been in DRC for

nearly 25 years, but stand accused of failing to protect civilians from armed groups.

The UN Security Council voted in December to accede to Kinshasa's demand for a pullout despite the volatile situation.

With multiple diplomatic efforts failing to quell the violence in the Congo, African leaders meeting for a summit in the Ethiopian capital

Addis Ababa discussed the DRC situation on the sidelines late Friday and were due to convene again on Saturday.

DRC President Felix Tshisekedi, who is in Addis was sworn in for a second five-year term in January after sweeping elections the opposition branded a sham.

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## African Union

# Somalia president accuses Ethiopia of trying to annex part of its territory

## Worth Noting:

- Mogadishu regards any international recognition of Somaliland as an attack on Somalia's sovereignty, and the Somali government has called the port deal with Addis Ababa "outrageous" and "unauthorised".
- "Ethiopia is misleading the world by claiming that they need an access to the sea," Mohamud said on Saturday. "The question is not an access to the sea. The question is how Ethiopia wants access to the sea."
- He claimed senior officers from Ethiopia's military were in Somaliland "preparing the ground" for the territory's annexation. It was not possible to verify his allegation.
- Somalia has suggested it would be prepared to go to war to stop Ethiopia from building a port in Somaliland. But Ethiopia's Abiy has played down fears of an armed conflict over the Somaliland deal, telling lawmakers earlier this month that he had "no intention" of going to war with Somalia.



President of Somalia Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, centre, attends the 37th African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa [Michele Spatari/AFP]

President Mohamud 'categorically objects' to Ethiopia's Red Sea port deal with Somaliland, territory Somalia claims as its own.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has accused Ethiopia of trying to annex part of his country's territory by signing a sea access deal with the breakaway region of Somaliland. Speaking at the African Union summit in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa on Saturday, Mohamud also said Ethiopian security forces tried to block his access to the summit amid a dispute between the two countries. The agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland signed on January 1 "is nothing more than annexing part of Somalia to Ethiopia, and changing the borders of Somalia," Mohamud told reporters. "Somalia categorically objects to that." As part of the deal, signed by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland's leader Muse Bihi Abdi, Somaliland grants Ethiopia

a 50-year lease on a naval base with access to Somaliland's Berbera port for commercial marine operations. Neither side has made the terms of the deal public, but it appears to give Ethiopia the right to build a port in Somaliland in exchange for recognition. Somaliland has enjoyed de facto independence for three decades, but Somalia considers the self-governing region and its four million people to be a part of its northern territory. Mogadishu regards any international recognition of Somaliland as an attack on Somalia's sovereignty, and the Somali government has called the port deal with Addis Ababa "outrageous" and "unauthorised". "Ethiopia is misleading the world by claiming that they need an access to the sea," Mohamud said on Saturday. "The question is not an access to the sea. The question is how Ethiopia wants access to the sea." He claimed senior officers

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### 'Provocation'

Reporting from Addis Ababa on Saturday, Al Jazeera's Mohamed Vall noted that Somalia's president had been very outspoken in his remarks at the AU Summit. "[Mohamud] accused Ethiopia not just looking for access to the sea in a normal way, because Ethiopia has lots of other neighbours who have access to the sea, who have sea shores ... The real purpose, he said, of Ethiopia's [deal] is to annex

Somaliland, which is a part of the sovereign republic of Somalia," Vall said. "The Somali president condemned the behaviour of the Ethiopian government, saying that they have even tried to block his access to the venue of the summit today," our correspondent added. "He wondered how can this happen in a country that hosts the AU, an organisation based on equality between African states and the freedom of the leaders coming here to access the summit." Mohamud, attending the 37th summit of the AU, said that Ethiopian security services tried to block him from leaving his hotel in Addis Ababa on Saturday morning, forcing him to travel in the convoy of Djibouti's president. When the pair arrived at the AU headquarters, armed guards tried to prevent them from entering the building, Mohamud said, describing the alleged action as "provocation".

Ethiopia however said it had "warmly welcomed" Mohamud and accorded him the full honours of visiting heads of state and governments to the summit. Prime Minister Abiy's spokesperson Billene Seyoum told the AFP news agency that the Somalia delegation was blocked when its security detail tried to enter a venue with weapons. "The Somali delegation security attempted to enter the AUC premises with weapons which was blocked off by AUC security," she said. As African leaders convene in Ethiopia for the AU summit, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh also attended the two-day gathering and raised the issue of Israel's war in Gaza with leaders of the AU who remain divided over their support for Palestine.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

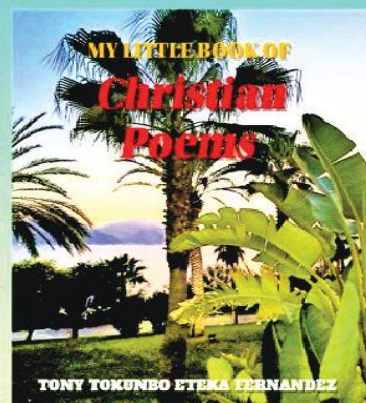
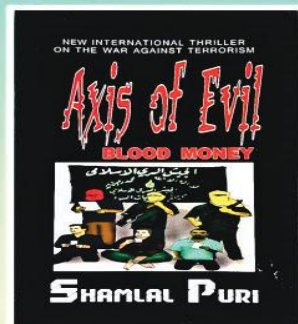
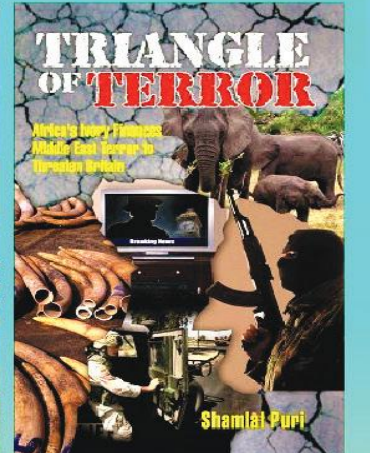
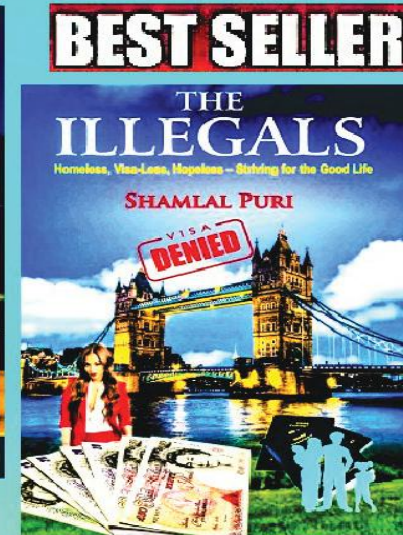
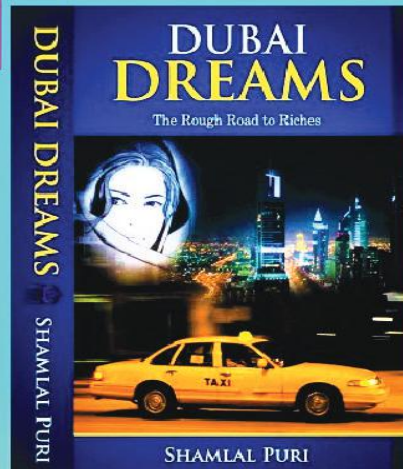
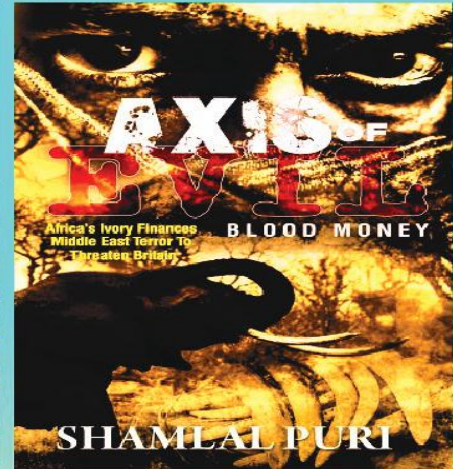
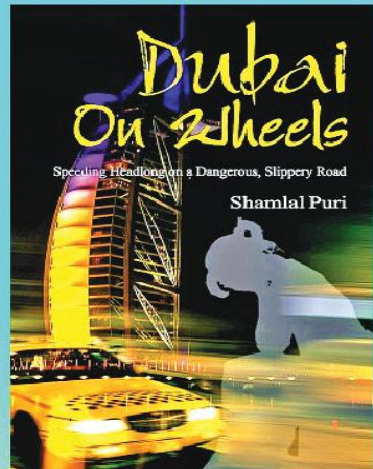
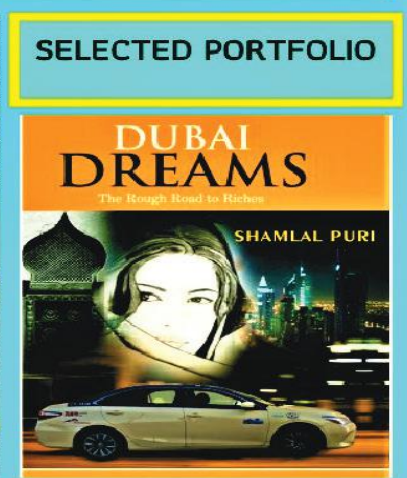
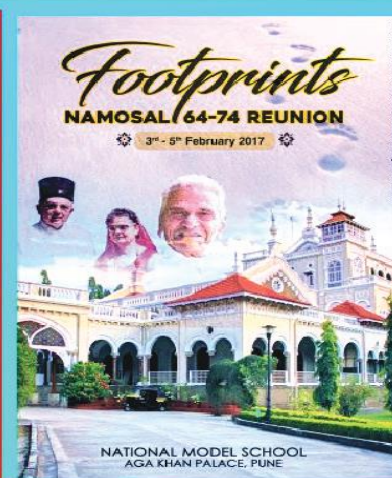
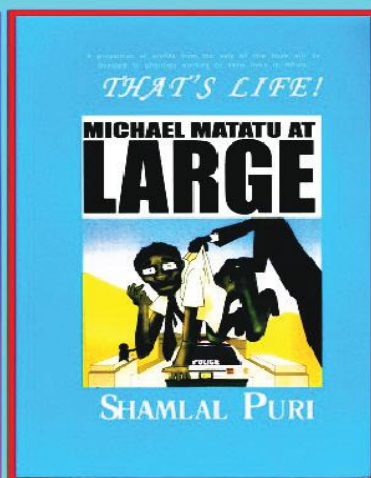
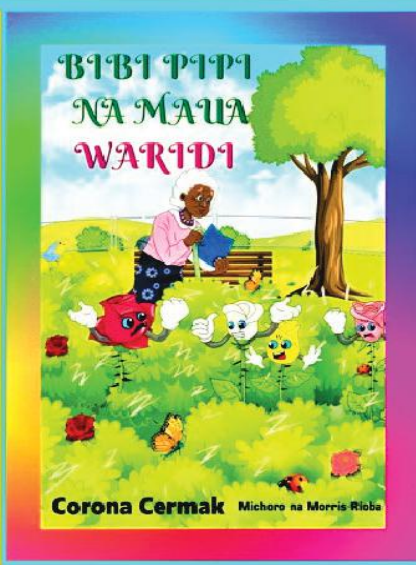
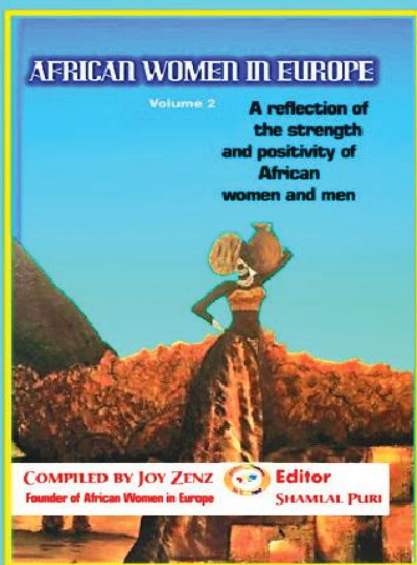
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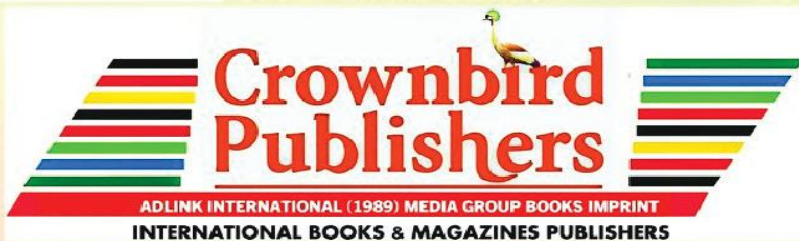
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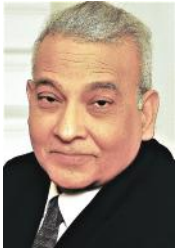
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## EXCLUSIVE INVESTIGATION

# Have the insensitive Tories killed the British National Health Service:

## TORMENT OF PAIN, 20-HOUR WAITS, SCREAMING PATIENTS, CHAOS IN UK HOSPITAL ACCIDENT

### & EMERGENCY



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

## Worth Noting:

- Walking into the A&E, I saw five emergency ambulances parked outside. They whizzed in and out of the hospital with their flashing emergency blue beacon lights turned on to warn pedestrians of the emergency vehicle to respond to medical emergencies and bring back seriously ill patients.

- There is a separate entrance for those ferried by ambulances. These patients, mostly in life-and-death situations, were categorised as major emergencies with top priority for immediate treatment.

- Once inside the A&E, a notice warning patients waiting for the delays was displayed. Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) patients were asked to wait 15 hours before seeing a clinician. These are primarily for less urgent cases.

health system can only be narrated to the grandchildren as folklore.

My assignment started around midday on a wintery day. I left that unit 20 hours later, profoundly sympathising with the plight of those I spent the night huddled with patients waiting to be seen by doctors in the Accident and Emergency Unit. Walking into the A&E, I saw five emergency ambulances parked outside. They whizzed in and out of the hospital with their flashing emergency blue beacon lights turned on to warn pedestrians of the emergency vehicle to respond to medical emergencies and bring back seriously ill patients.

There is a separate entrance for those ferried by ambulances. These patients, mostly in life-and-death situations, were categorised as major emergencies with top priority for immediate treatment.

Once inside the A&E, a notice warning patients waiting for the delays was displayed. Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) patients were asked to wait 15 hours before seeing a clinician. These are primarily for less urgent cases.

They were assessed, diagnosed, treated and sent home on the same day without having to stay in the hospital overnight.

The second category of patients, who were seen comparatively faster, were in the Rapid Assessments and First Treatment (RAFT) category. They, too, had to wait about 14 hours to be seen by a doctor.

The waiting period was later extended to 17.5 hours for SDEC and 15 hours for RAFT.

Undoubtedly, many patients in pain understandably get nervous when told of the waiting times.

I asked someone in authority if this was normal waiting time. Assuming I was a patient, he said waiting 14 to 17 hours was normal these days.

Staff do not bat an eye when one complains of lengthy delays. They are almost programmed to keep a straight face.

After all, they had not come to a pub waiting to be served their favourite pint. They were in the A&E.

There were eight pre-admission check-in procedures before a consultant could see the patient and weed out

those pretending to be ill.

The patient's name, address, next of kin, and illness details were taken and passed to the medical team to compare with previous medical history.

Then, they are told to wait for health assessments such as blood pressure and diabetic sugar levels carried out by nurses.

After this, the real ordeal started – the long wait for the clinician or the doctor to see the patient. This is where most of the waiting time was wasted.

At any given time, there were over 50 people in the A&E. I observed most of these walk-in patients wearing trainers for comfort, but I did not miss seeing two ladies wearing high heels waiting for the doctors. Perhaps they were in the wrong place or were making a fashion statement!

I anonymously spoke to some of them, and they agreed that the NHS had gone appallingly downhill. Some patients were in the A&E with their children. I saw two mothers with their toddlers sitting it out in the night.

Undoubtedly, waits of some 15 to 20 hours can have catastrophic consequences for people's health, particularly the vulnerable and elderly.

All was quiet, and patients were instructed to wait until they were called. The nurses and staff called out only a few names between time gaps. They were the lucky ones treated and discharged. As they left, I saw them joyfully smiling as if they won the National Lottery.

I was in the A&E for nine hours by now. They had no time for me. No one had come to ask me if I was a patient waiting to be seen!

I would have been thrown out if they found I was a journalist.

The night was not short of accidental drama for those still waiting to be seen.

Suddenly, there was a commotion at around 9 pm.

A middle-aged African-Caribbean man who sat in a wheelchair nearby was visibly in pain, shaking his head aggressively. He was ignored.

He suddenly fell off his wheelchair, landing on the



Midnight... The long wait is not yet over. A patient sleeps in the A&E



The case of the missing disabled wheelchair-bound patient whose absence confused his nurse after he had stepped out to buy his dinner



Only coffee and cake for dinner at this hospital which had no hot food or sandwiches for sale to patients and visitors

Contd Page 11.

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- The night was not short of accidental drama for those still waiting to be seen.

floor with a thud, writhing and howling with his hoarse throat.

His wheelchair vanished – an action that I could not understand.

The security men were alerted, and the front desk of the A&E called for help.

It took about 15 minutes for an emergency doctor on duty to arrive with a couple of helpers and security staff to lend a hand.

They stretched the confused man into the treatment room.

Surprisingly, none of the patients in the packed A&E stepped forward to his aid.

It was dinner time, and those who could move stepped out a few doors away to buy sandwiches, a staple of the British.

I heard someone sitting beside me moan that the hospital had no sandwiches.

I checked out this claim out of curiosity and hunger and, by now, in need of fresh air.

His complaint was not an exaggeration as I found none of the hospital's several canteens had any sandwiches – they had not been delivered that day.

Three gastronomic adventurers among the patients ordered three pizzas from the High Street Pizza joint, which were delivered.

Other patients gorged on biscuits, chocolates, sweets, soft drinks, coffee, and tea from the hospital canteen to get by the night.

That must have had a telling effect on the sugar levels of diabetic or heart patients waiting for treatment.

It was just past dinner time. The complimentary coffee trolley, courtesy of the hospital, came out for one of its four rounds during the night.

One patient's relative, waiting to be seen, got a cup of coffee for the elderly lady. She snoozed while drinking and loosened her grip on the beverage cup, sending it on the floor.

The embarrassed relative who had brought the elderly patient the drink quickly darted to the nearby washroom, brought some tissues, and wiped out the spillage from the floor.

Then something peculiar happened. An elderly patient, who was earlier brought in a wheelchair into the A&E and who was in pain, mysteriously vanished—leaving behind his wheelchair.

The nurse assigned to care

for him came looking out and was confused. She went into the washroom area, repeatedly calling his name. She gave up and went to look after the next patient under her care.

Then, just the way he had vanished, he reappeared and returned to his wheelchair with chocolates, a bottle of Coca Cola and crisps – his dinner.

The shocking bit of staying for some 20 hours in the A&E was that there were only two doctors on duty – one was allocated for the ambulance admissions, and the other looked after those walking wounded in the A&E where I sat.

This does not imply that no patients were seen; only a few were seen and discharged after treatment, while new ones kept coming in.

By 3 am, the waiting patients were exhausted, and tempers started getting frayed.

Then, one of the male nurses called the roll call of those patients he wanted to see for blood pressure repeats and asked them to return to the waiting room. They were slowly inching towards the doctor's long-anticipated consultation.

There was no response when the names were called for a second checkup. I thought they were sleeping soundly on the benches, thinking they were in a two-star hotel instead of the A&E.

I counted 12 patients who went AWOL. Frustrated, they had given up on waiting and gone home. They did not have the patience to wait. One of them I spoke with while he was still in the A&E complained that he had been there for the past 13 hours without being seen by the doctors.

I left the A&E 20 hours later at 9.15 the following morning, exhausted by the assignment but ready to face the day at work again!!

I consciously did not take photos of the patients in the A&E as they had the right to have their privacy protected. The NHS is in the doldrums. There are many such hospitals, like the one I visited, where waiting times are horrendously long, people die in the A&E waiting to be seen, and overworked doctors make serious and fatal



Another patient, tired of waiting in the A&E, decided to sleep at around 2 am, hoping the doctor would see her soon



Anxiously waiting to be called by the doctor, these senior citizens were brave enough to wait in the A&E at 3 am in the morning



One more daytime emergency call was just completed, and the patient was brought to the hospital

Contd Page 13

Senegal

# Senegal president pledges to hold election 'as soon as possible'

*Sall's last-minute move to postpone the February 25 poll until December triggered Senegal's worst crisis in decades.*

By: AFP.  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Senegal's President Macky Sall as he departs after meeting with France's President at the Elysee Palace, amid the New Global Financial Pact Summit in Paris on June 23, 2023. LUDOVIC MARIN/GETTY IMAGES

## Worth Noting:

- The Constitutional Council's ruling late on Thursday to annul the vote delay plunged the country into further uncertainty.
- "The president of the republic intends to fully implement the decision of the Constitutional Council," the presidency said in a statement.
- "To this end, the head of state will without delay carry out the consultations necessary to organise the presidential election as soon as possible."
- Sall, who has been in power since 2012, said he called off the vote over disputes about the disqualification of potential candidates and concern about a return to unrest seen in 2021 and 2023.
- Parliament later approved the delay until December 15, but only after security forces entered the building and removed some opposition lawmakers who opposed the bill.

Senegalese President Macky Sall, who faces mounting pressure at home and abroad, vowed on Friday to organize presidential elections "as soon as possible" after the top constitutional body overruled his decision to delay this month's vote. Sall's last-minute move to postpone the February 25 poll until December triggered Senegal's worst crisis in decades. The decision sparked a widespread outcry and deadly protests in what is often seen as a bastion of stability in coup-hit West Africa. The Constitutional Council's ruling late on Thursday to annul the vote delay plunged the country into further uncertainty. "The president of the republic intends to fully implement the decision of the Constitutional Council," the presidency said in a statement. "To this end, the head of state will without delay carry out the consultations necessary to organise the presidential election as soon as possible." Sall, who has been in power since 2012, said he called off the vote over disputes about the disqualification of po-

tential candidates and concern about a return to unrest seen in 2021 and 2023. Parliament later approved the delay until December 15, but only after security forces entered the building and removed some opposition lawmakers who opposed the bill. The vote paved the way for Sall -- whose second term is due to expire in April -- to remain in office until a successor was installed.

### - Easing tensions -

Three people have been killed during demonstrations against the vote delay, with security forces repressing attempts to mobilize. Few people responded to calls for protests in the capital Dakar on Friday, AFP journalists saw, with the few dozen who turned up dispersed by police with tear gas. The ruling by the Constitutional Council was widely welcomed for easing tensions. "It's a decision that the Senegalese people had been waiting for," said Babou Cisse, a 40-year-old lawyer, adding he felt the situation had calmed somewhat.

The opposition had decried Sall's move as a "constitutional coup", saying his party feared defeat at the ballot box for its candidate Prime Minister Amadou Ba. Sall's term in office officially expires on April 2 and the head of state has repeatedly said he will not stand for a third term. The Constitutional Council reiterated the fixed nature of the five-year presidential term.

### - 'Historic' -

Senegal faced growing calls from major international partners to swiftly organize the vote. The West African regional bloc, ECOWAS, the European Union, France, and Britain all called on the authorities to comply with the Council's ruling. The UN also urged all parties to "ensure the holding of an inclusive and transparent presidential election within the framework of the constitution of Senegal." People interviewed by AFP in the streets of Dakar expressed relief at the move. "It's good that the Constitutional Council made the decision it did, at least we're halfway to the right

solution," said 55-year-old Mamadou Caba. Babacar Gueye, a constitutional expert and coordinator of a civil society collective which opposed the vote delay, described the Council's decision as "historic". "The Council did not set a deadline, it simply said 'as soon as possible'. This means both quickly and under the right conditions," said Gueye, one of the organizers of the Aar Sunu Election (Let's Protect our election) collective. The Constitutional Council in January approved 20 candidates to run in the presidential election. It remains to be seen whether the same list of candidates will be put forward again and when the vote will take place.

### - Discussions -

Government spokesman Abdou Karim Fofana said that he foresaw discussions between the president and political players "which will enable things to be organized". The president "must make arrangements for us to discuss and see how to implement the Council's decision," Khalifa Sall, one of

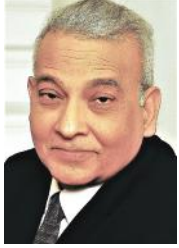
the principal presidential candidates who is unrelated to the current president, told journalists. He did not say whether the election should take place before or after President Sall's departure. But he added that when the president's mandate ends on April 2, Sall "must go". Amadou Ba, the representative of detained opposition figure Bassirou Diomaye Faye, said that "Macky (Sall) must organise the presidential election before the end of his mandate," the Walf daily reported. Faye is the second-in-command of the dissolved PASTEF party, which has been involved in a bitter stand-off with the state since 2021, sparking sometimes deadly unrest. Hundreds of party supporters and civil society members have been arrested. More than 130 of them have been released from prison since Thursday and around 90 more were due to be freed on Friday, according to the justice ministry.

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- The embarrassed relative who had brought the elderly patient the drink quickly darted to the nearby washroom, brought some tissues, and wiped out the spillage from the floor.
- Then something peculiar happened. An elderly patient, who was earlier brought in a wheelchair into the A&E and who was in pain, mysteriously vanished—leaving behind his wheelchair.
- The nurse assigned to care for him came looking out and was confused. She went into the washroom area, repeatedly calling his name. She gave up and went to look after the next patient under her care.

clinical errors.

The staff, no doubt, work hard at all hospitals. Observers blame the Government for the current neglect of the NHS.

One man asked, "Why is this government handing out billions of Pounds to Ukraine when this country needs that cash to revive the NHS and public services?" The warning signs of the collapse of the NHS are there. The Government and its ministers should start taking the NHS seriously.

The NHS crisis is so severe that more than 1.5 million people in the UK have to wait in the A&E for at least 12 hours before being admitted.

Figures released by the opposition Liberal Democrats show that 1,540,945 people waited at least 12 hours before being treated.

The Blackpool Teaching Hospital ranked among the worst in January, where the delays were 12 hours. Others named and shamed were Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital, The delays are getting severe daily throughout the country. The wait I witnessed at this hospital in London during my assignment now extended to around 20 hours.

An 89-year-old mother with dementia spent three days in January at the Medway Maritime Hospital foyer in Gillingham, Kent, waiting for a bed. Those dehumanising hours in the bitterly chilly winter must have been tormenting for her. She was finally admitted and treated for sepsis, acute kidney failure and osteoarthritis in her knee.

The hospital apologised for this elderly woman's treatment, blaming the delay on a terribly busy period that saw many patients needing admission for treatment.

In another incident in Nottingham, a mother of three aged 39 went to Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham in January about a headache, but when her name was called to see a doctor, she was found collapsed under her winter coat.

Nurses observed her three times, but they failed to spot the severity of her condition. When a nurse called her name after a while, there was no response.

The staff assumed she had left the A&E, but she was then found collapsed under



Think twice before you come to the hospital... the wait can be excruciatingly long



The Blackpool Teaching Hospital had the worst record for 12 hours plus waiting times for admissions. Photo Courtesy.

her winter coat. She was rushed into intensive care but lost her fight for life.

Seeing just one at its worst proves that the health service is at the lowest rung of the ladder with a shambolic service.

How is the NHS funded? Most public NHS funding comes from general taxation and National Insurance contributions (NICs).

Health experts say a small proportion of funding 1% of the total Department of Health and Social Care budget in 2021/22) comes from patient charges for services such as prescriptions and dental treatment.

What is the NHS budget? The Department of Health and Social Care's budget spending in 2022/23 was £181.7 billion.

Most of this spending (94.6 per cent, or £171.8 billion) was on day-to-day items such as staff salaries and medicines. The remainder was primarily capital expenditure on long-term fixed assets such as new buildings or equipment.

Of the day-to-day spending, most (£155.1 billion in 2022/23) was allocated to NHS England for spending on health services. The remainder was allocated to central budgets of the Department of Health and Social Care and its other arms-length bodies, such as the UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

The NHS is underfunded by more than £10 billion. Some even put this figure to £30 billion. Overworked doctors and nurses are leaving for

better opportunities abroad, where they receive improved benefits and salaries.

Some nurses are paid so poorly that their poverty forces them to turn to food banks to provide meals for their families.

NHS doctors plan to strike again soon as their professional body, the British Medical Association (BMA), is balloting their members for further strike actions. The consequences of this will be severe.

The Sunak government and the Tory governments before him have proved they cannot run the NHS efficiently.

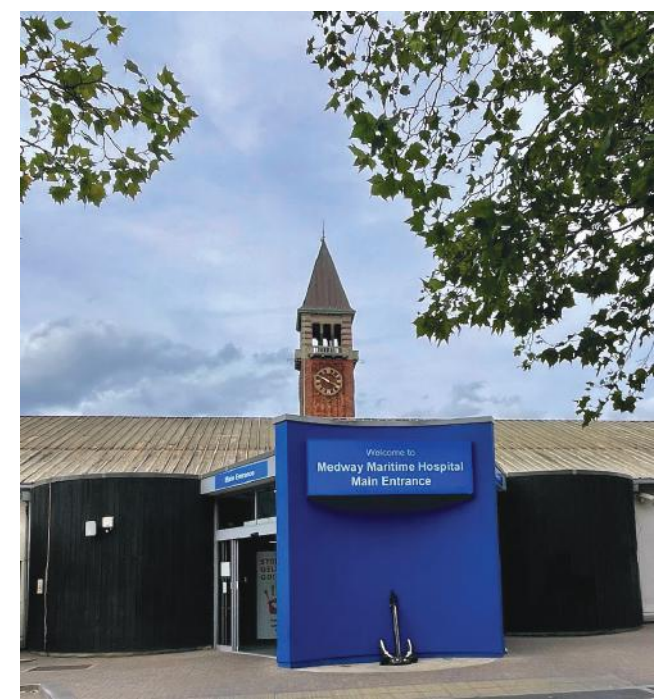
Instead of improving the health services, the ruling Conservatives and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak are working tirelessly to promote themselves for the forthcoming general election.

If things continue as they are now, the UK, once known for medical tourism, will lose overseas private patients seeking treatment.

Years ago, one Middle East patient seeking private treatment from a private hospital in London was charged £180 for a paracetamol tablet. He produced a copy of the hospital's bill to prove this.



The Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, where a 39-year-old patient died waiting to be seen; she had gone to the hospital to seek treatment for a headache. Photo Courtesy



The Medway Maritime Hospital where a seriously ill woman aged 89 was kept in the foyer for three days in bitterly cold January before a bed was found for her. Photo Courtesy.



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Desperate for new staff...the NHS is losing its experienced nurses. Many seniors are turning their backs on the profession because they do not see nursing as attractive

Russia

# Putin foe Alexei Navalny dies in jail, West holds Russia responsible

By: Reuters  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

## Worth Noting:

- The Federal Penitentiary Service of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District said in a statement that Navalny felt unwell after a walk at the IK-3 penal colony in Kharp, about 1,900 km (1,200 miles) northeast of Moscow.

- He lost consciousness almost immediately and died shortly after despite efforts by the prison's medical team and ambulance staff, it said, adding that resuscitation attempts failed.

- Navalny's wife, Yulia, told the Munich Security Conference she could not be sure her husband was dead because "Putin and his government... lie incessantly".

- "But if this is true, I want Putin, his entire entourage, Putin's friends, his government to know that they will bear responsibility for what they did to our country, to my family, to my husband," she said.



Flowers and portraits of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny are placed at the monument to the victims of political repressions following his death, in Saint Petersburg, Russia February 16, 2024. The placard reads: "Love is stronger than fear." REUTERS/Stringer

of the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous District said in a statement that Navalny felt unwell after a walk at the IK-3 penal colony in Kharp, about 1,900 km (1,200 miles) northeast of Moscow. He lost consciousness almost immediately and died shortly after despite efforts by the prison's medical team and ambulance staff, it said, adding that resuscitation attempts failed.

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"This regime and Vladimir Putin must bear personal responsibility for all the terrible things they have been doing to my country, to our country, Russia, in recent years."

The Kremlin said Putin had been informed. The 71-year-old former KGB spy was shown meeting workers at a factory in Chelyabinsk, in the Ural mountains.

Western leaders paid tribute to Navalny's courage as

a fighter for freedom. Some, without citing evidence, accused the Kremlin of murder and said Putin should be held accountable.

"His death in a Russian prison and the fixation and fear of one man only underscores the weakness and rot at the heart of the system that Putin has built," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said shortly before meeting Navalny's wife in Munich.

### MURDER ACCUSATION

Navalny's movement is outlawed and most of his senior allies now live in exile in Europe. His team said it had no confirmation of his death but cast the prison service's statement as a murder confession.

"We have no reason to believe state propaganda," Leonid Volkov, Navalny's chief of staff, said. "If this is true, then it's not 'Navalny died,' but 'Putin killed Navalny.'"

Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said that even if Navalny was dead, his movement and aims would live on.

"We are convinced that we will be victorious in the end," Yarmysh said. "Russia is our country, it belongs to us and we need to return it to us."

Navalny's lawyer was on his way to the tough penal colo-

ny where Navalny was serving sentences that would have kept him in prison beyond the age of 70.

Russian state television showed a press conference by the central bank chief as the news broke.

To supporters, Navalny was a future leader of Russia who would eventually walk free to take the presidency, though many opposition activists had expressed fears that he was in grave danger in the Russian prison system.

Navalny earned admiration from Russia's opposition for voluntarily returning to Russia in 2021 from Germany, where he had been treated for what Western laboratory tests showed was an attempt to poison him with a nerve agent.

Navalny said at the time that he was poisoned in Siberia in August 2020. The Kremlin denied trying to kill him and said there was no evidence he was poisoned with a nerve agent.

There are no opposition leaders of such prominence left in Russia. Grigory Yavlinsky, a veteran liberal, called Navalny's death a tragedy that showed the need for reform and said he feared for the health of other opposition activists in jail.

In Moscow, at a memorial to

the victims of Soviet political repression in the shadow of the former KGB headquarters, some people laid roses and carnations. Police looked on.

One note read: "Alexei Navalny - we remember you." Russian prosecutors warned people not to take part in any mass meetings in Moscow. Supporters planned meetings to honor Navalny in London, Paris, Oslo, Rome, Brussels, Berlin, Geneva, Prague, Yerevan, Tbilisi and Vilnius.

### RUSSIA'S FUTURE

Navalny long forecast Russia could face seismic political turmoil because he said Putin built a brittle system of personal rule reliant on corruption.

Navalny vented his anger at the entire Russian elite for its venality in a stinging essay in 2023, expressing hatred for those who squandered a historic opportunity to reform after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

"I can't stop myself from fiercely, wildly hating those who sold, pissed away, and squandered the historical chance that our country had in the early nineties," he said. "I know that Russia will have another chance. This is a historical process."

The Kremlin dismissed Na-

valny's accusations of vast corruption and about Putin's personal wealth.

Russian officials cast Navalny as an extremist who was a puppet of the CIA, which they say is intent on sowing chaos and turning Russia into a client state of the West.

A day before his death, Navalny peered through a barred window, laughing and cracking jokes about his depleting funds and the judge's salary.

"Your Honour, I will send you my personal account number so that you can use your huge salary as a federal judge to 'warm up' my personal account because I am running out of money," he said via video link.

When demonstrations against Putin flared in December 2011, after an election tainted by fraud accusations, he was one of the first protest leaders arrested.

In an interview in Moscow in 2011, Navalny was asked by Reuters if he was afraid of challenging Putin's system.

"That's the difference between me and you: you are afraid and I am not afraid," he said. "I realize there is danger, but why should I be afraid?"

## Teaching

# Innovative Approaches To Teaching Foreign Languages: Revolutionizing Language



By: Jaloldinov Muhammadsayid  
Sardorbek  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

Immersive experiences, both virtual and physical, offer learners the opportunity to immerse themselves in the target language and culture. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies allow students to explore foreign environments, interact with native speakers, and practice their language skills in realistic scenarios. Additionally, study abroad programs and language immersion camps provide students with authentic cultural experiences, enabling them to develop language proficiency through real-life interactions.

With the rise of technology, online language learning platforms have gained popularity as a flexible and convenient way to learn a foreign language. These platforms offer a wide range of interactive resources, including video lessons, interactive exercises, language exchange forums, and personalized feedback. Learners can access these platforms anytime, anywhere, and at their own pace, making language learning more accessible and adaptable to individual needs and schedules.



Learning a foreign language has always been a valuable skill, providing individuals with opportunities for personal growth, professional advancement, and cultural enrichment. However, traditional language teaching methods have often been criticized for their limited effectiveness and lack of student engagement. In recent years, there has been a surge in innovative approaches to language education that aim to revolutionize the way languages are taught and learned.

This article explores some of the ground-breaking techniques and technologies that are reshaping the landscape of foreign language instruction. From gamification and immersive experiences to online platforms and artificial intelligence, these innovative approaches are designed to make language learning more interactive, engaging, and accessible to learners of all ages and backgrounds.

One of the most exciting developments in language education is the integration of gamification techniques. By incorporating elements of gaming, such as rewards, challenges, and competition, into language learning activities, educators can create a more enjoyable and motivating learning envi-

ronment. Gamification not only enhances student engagement but also encourages autonomous learning and fosters a sense of accomplishment as learners progress through levels and unlock new challenges.

Immersive experiences, both virtual and physical, offer learners the opportunity to immerse themselves in the target language and culture. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies allow students to explore foreign environments, interact with native speakers, and practice their language skills in realistic scenarios. Additionally, study abroad programs and language immersion camps provide students with authentic cultural experiences, enabling them to develop language proficiency through real-life interactions.

With the rise of technology, online language learning platforms have gained popularity as a flexible and convenient way to learn a foreign language. These platforms offer a wide range of interactive resources, including video lessons, interactive exercises, language exchange forums, and personalized feedback. Learners can access these platforms anytime, anywhere, and at their own pace, making language

learning more accessible and adaptable to individual needs and schedules.

Moreover, learning a foreign language is no longer limited to traditional classroom settings and memorization exercises. With the advancement of technology and the evolution of teaching methodologies, innovative approaches to teaching foreign languages have emerged, revolutionizing the way language learning takes place. These approaches not only make the process more engaging and interactive but also help learners develop practical language skills that can be applied in real-life situations.

One of the innovative approaches to teaching foreign languages is the use of immersive technologies. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) have transformed language learning by creating immersive environments where learners can practice their language skills in realistic scenarios. For example, learners can explore a virtual city and interact with native speakers, enhancing their speaking and listening abilities. This approach allows learners to experience the language in a more authentic and dynamic way, making the learning process more enjoyable and effec-

tive.

Another innovative approach is gamification. By incorporating game elements into language learning, educators can motivate and engage learners in a fun and interactive manner. Language learning apps and platforms have successfully utilized gamification techniques such as rewards, challenges, and leaderboards to incentivize learners to actively participate and progress in their language learning journey. This approach not only makes the learning experience enjoyable but also enhances learners' motivation and retention of language skills.

Furthermore, personalized learning has gained popularity as an innovative approach to teaching foreign languages. With the help of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, language learning platforms can customize learning materials and activities based on individual learners' needs and preferences. Learners can receive personalized feedback and recommendations, allowing them to focus on areas that require improvement and progress at their own pace. This approach empowers learners to take ownership of their learning and ensures that their language learning experience is tailored to

their specific goals and abilities.

Jaloldinov Muhammadsayid son of Sardorbek was born on February 15, 2005 in Andijan district of Andijan region. His nationality is Uzbek, and he knows German and English languages. He finished from the 28th general secondary school with merit and medal. He graduated from school in 2023 and in Andijan region this year. He became a student of Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Romano-Germanic and Slavic Languages. He started writing articles at the age of 18, that is, from the first course in University. The first article is "Usage of accent in Uzbek and German". To date, several scientific and journalistic articles have participated in international scientific conferences. There are currently B1 National (Multi-Level) and international Onset B1 certificates in German. He was also awarded with the commemorative medal "For the best services" of the international scientific and practical examination competition organized on the scale of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

# New York governor apologizes after implying Israel is justified to destroy Gaza

By: Reuters  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

New York Governor Kathy Hochul on Friday apologized for remarks she made at a Jewish philanthropy event in New York City that went viral on social media and which suggested Israel had justification to destroy Gaza following the Oct. 7 Hamas attack.

"If Canada someday ever attacked Buffalo, I'm sorry, my friends, there would be no Canada the next day," Hochul said in a portion of her speech on Thursday at an event for the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York.

"That is a natural reaction. You have a right to defend yourself and to make sure that it never happens again. And that is Israel's right."

In a statement on Friday night, she said she regretted "using an inappropriate analogy that I now realize could be hurtful to members of our community," and apologized for her "poor choice of words."

"While I have been clear in my support of Israel's right to self-defence, I have also repeatedly said and con-

tinued to believe that Palestinian civilian casualties should be avoided and that more humanitarian aid must go to the people of Gaza," the governor added.

Israel launched its offensive in Hamas-governed Gaza following the Palestinian Islamist group's Oct. 7 attack on Israel that killed 1,200, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent military action and strikes have flattened much of the densely populated enclave and displaced nearly all its population.

The humanitarian crisis has left Gaza's population of more than 2 million people on the brink of starvation. Nearly 29,000 have died in Israel's offensive, according to the Gaza health ministry.

The United Nations has called for a humanitarian ceasefire, which the U.S. has opposed, saying it would let Hamas regroup.

American society has also had to deal with the impact of the war. Rights advocates have noted a rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia and anti-Arab bias, opening new tabs in the U.S. since the start of the war and protests demanding a ceasefire, opens a new tab in Gaza have occurred in many cities.



New York Governor Kathy Hochul speaks during a campaign rally with other New York Democrats, in Yonkers, New York, U.S., November 6, 2022. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque/File Photo

## Delta Air Lines

# Flight turned back after maggots fall onto passenger

By: CNN  
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Wary airline passengers already on guard for unruly passengers and even real-life snakes on planes might have one more thing – however improbable – to add to their slate of possible in-flight disruptions. And it's an icky one: Maggots.

Yep, those creepy creatures that thrive on fetid foods and waste have joined the pantheon of things that can cause a flight to change course and ruin travel plans.

On Tuesday, Delta Air Lines Flight 133 departed Amsterdam, Netherlands, bound for Detroit, Michigan. But one hour into the flight, the Airbus A330-300 had to turn back to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport after maggots reportedly fell onto a passenger from an overhead bin, according to Detroit TV station FOX 2 (WJBK).

The station interviewed passenger Philip Schotte, a Netherlands native now living in Iowa, who said he saw about a dozen of the creatures on a woman sitting next to him.

"She was freaking out. She was just trying to fight off these maggots. ... I don't really know what was going through my mind. I was trying to process it – disgust is one thing of course. We had to wait there for help to actually come," Schotte

told the station.

Schotte said the flight crew eventually traced the maggots to a passenger's bag, which contained rotten fish wrapped in newspaper. He told the station that the bag was moved to the back of the plane, and it was announced the plane was going back to Amsterdam.

Schotte told FOX 2 that he took another flight to the US a few hours later.

CNN has not independently verified the details of Schotte's account.

Data from the flight tracking website FlightAware shows Flight 133 spent just one hour and 49 minutes in the air.

Delta Air Lines confirmed to CNN that the flight had to turn around but did not address questions specifically about the maggots.

"We apologize to the customers of Flight 133 AMS-DTW as their trip was interrupted due to an improperly packed carry-on bag," Delta Airlines said in a statement sent to CNN Travel. "The aircraft returned to the gate and passengers were placed on the next available flight. The aircraft was removed from service for cleaning."

Delta has no prohibitions on bringing aboard perishable food items, including fish, as long as there is "no violation of agricultural restrictions for the destination country," according to its website.



Delta Air Lines planes at Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam are shown in this file photo. Marcel Antonisse/EPA/Shutterstock/File

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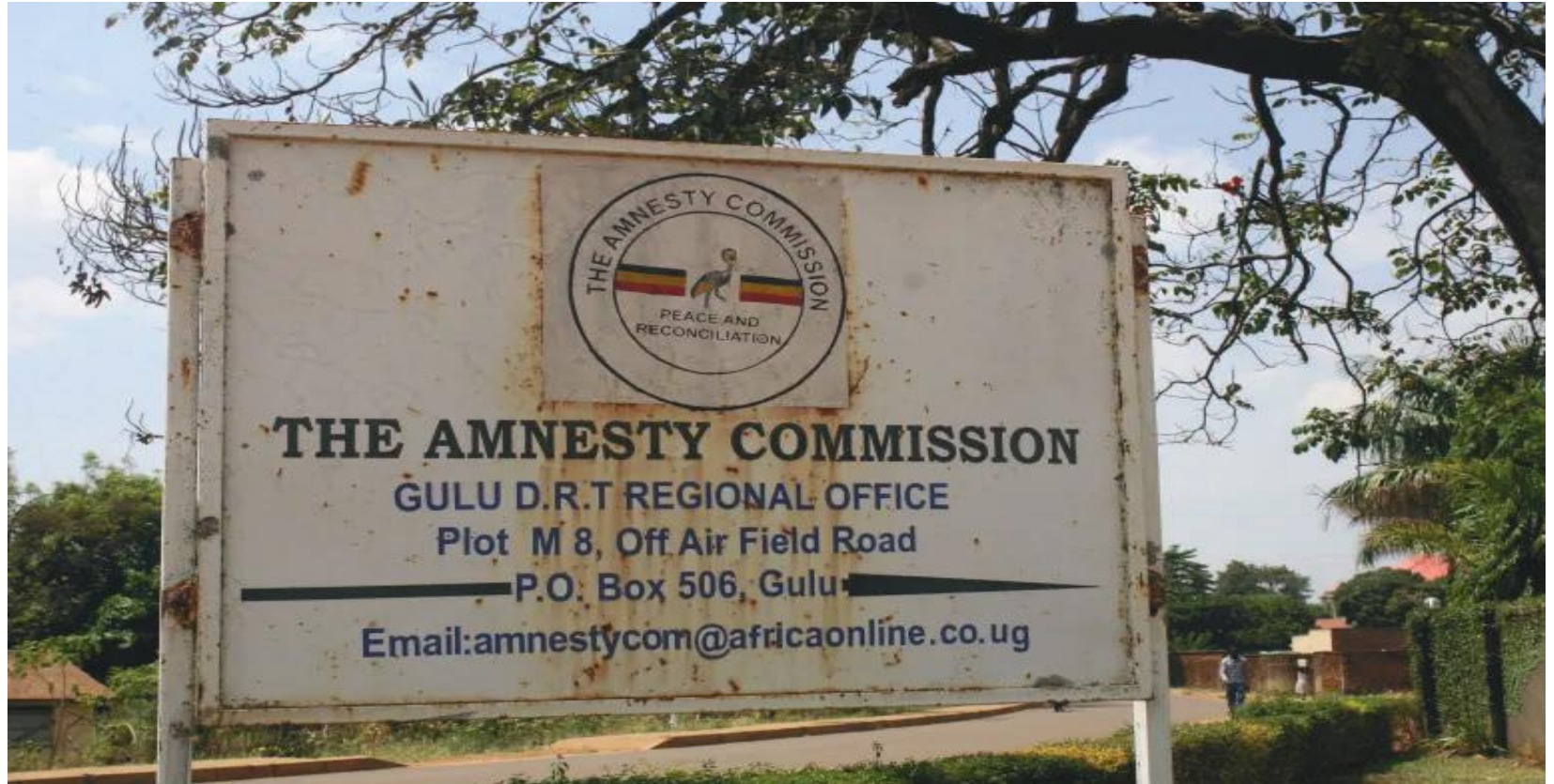
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# The trial of Kwoyelo: Fate of LRA rebel commander divides northern Uganda

*Kwoyelo, the only LRA commander to be tried for his crimes in Uganda, has been in detention since 2009.*

By: Sophie Neiman.

xxxxxxxxxxxx



A rusty and faded sign for the Amnesty Commission, which once helped facilitate the return of former members of the LRA is seen in Gulu, northern Uganda [Sophie Neiman/Al Jazeera]

## Worth Noting:

- In April 2023, more than a decade after he was jailed, the prosecution wrapped up its argument against Kwoyelo, with the defence now gearing up to make its case.
- But his controversial trial has raised alarm among human rights and monitoring organisations, who say his lengthy detention has made it impossible for him to get justice.
- Meanwhile, survivors of the conflict in northern Uganda assert that Kwoyelo, the first person from the armed group to be tried in the country, should not be on trial at all. They want him forgiven and allowed to come home as other LRA captives, and commanders who allegedly held higher ranks, were allowed to do so.
- Kony, a former altar boy, crafted his fighting force from the remnants of another rebel group, hoping to topple President Yoweri Museveni and rule the country according to the Ten Commandments.

At a market in Gulu, northern Uganda, women spread tropical fruit on plastic sheets, calling out to passing customers. The sun is blinding, and the air is thick with the chatter of bargaining shoppers.

Distant are the days when children used to sleep under the same market stall awnings, after marching grimly from the surrounding villages to this small city each night to avoid capture by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Fearsome rebels commanded by Joseph Kony, the LRA dominated the region, capturing young children to serve as soldiers and sex slaves, between 1987 and 2006 before being pushed out of Uganda and into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR).

Not far from this lively market is Gulu's High Court, which will soon play host to the trial of Thomas Kwoyelo, now in his 50s, the first LRA commander to be tried for his crimes in Uganda.

Kwoyelo was abducted as a teenager walking to school in the early years of conflict. He went on to serve in the LRA for some 20 years. Taking on the alias Latooni, the boy soldier became a senior commander and was responsible for treating wounded fighters.

He was captured during a battle in DRC in 2009. Brought home nursing a bullet wound in his stomach and without shoes, he spent

the next 14 years in detention as attempts to try him dragged on.

In April 2023, more than a decade after he was jailed, the prosecution wrapped up its argument against Kwoyelo, with the defence now gearing up to make its case. But his controversial trial has raised alarm among human rights and monitoring organisations, who say his lengthy detention has made it impossible for him to get justice.

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### Rebel uprising

Kony, a former altar boy, crafted his fighting force from the remnants of another rebel group, hoping to topple President Yoweri Museveni and rule the country according to the Ten Commandments.

Clashes between the rebels and the Ugandan army killed some 10,000 people, with the LRA often turning their weapons on civilians and forcing children to become fighters.

Among them was Margret, who spoke to Al Jazeera using only her first name. Before the war, she enjoyed going to school, helping out on the family farm, and fishing

in a nearby river.

In 1991, she was taken along with 15 girls from her village in an attack that killed her father and the men of their village. The new recruits were tied together with ropes and forced to carry looted goods. Margret, only 12 years old at the time, was immediately made the wife of an LRA commander.

The girl was taught to handle a weapon and transformed into a fighter. After two years with the rebels, she tried to escape, only to be taken again.

"There were terrible beatings and no one to turn to," Margret said of her time in captivity.

These mass abductions pushed leaders from northern Uganda's Acholi ethnic group to advocate for an amnesty policy that would allow LRA fighters who gave up their weapons to return home, free from repercussions. This policy was signed into law in 2000.

"Our children are innocent because they were forcefully conscripted into combat," said Okello Okuna, a spokesperson for Ker Kwaro Acholi, a traditional kingdom for northern Uganda, headquartered in Gulu.

"A number of them returned home and they're living now peacefully amidst us without any reprisal, without any reprimand [and] without any arrest," he added.

On the local radio station Mega FM, John "Lacambel" Oryema spent the war interviewing repatriated LRA fighters and playing peace

songs, urging the remaining rebels to lay down their weapons and come home again.

"I used to say, brothers, sisters, let us all unite and make sure we forgive and forget," Oryema told Al Jazeera.

This approach ran in contrast to international interest in seeing LRA leaders tried for their crimes.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights decried Uganda's Amnesty Act as a violation of international law, standing in the way of accountability for war crimes.

In 2003, a year after the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague was founded, Uganda referred the cases of five high-ranking LRA commanders to the court, making them the first people it indicted.

Kony, the LRA leader, has remained at large. Cases against another of his top three commanders at the ICC have been closed down, with the accused presumed dead. But in 2021, Domonic Ongwen, another boy soldier, was convicted by the court in the Hague and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

### Tenuous peace

Margret gave birth to two children while in LRA captivity, and rose to the rank of sergeant. But when Uganda launched an operation against the rebels in 2004, she took her chances, fleeing into the hills with other women. In Gulu, she received amnesty and began, slowly, to rebuild her life.

Senior commanders also benefitted from the same law, renouncing rebellion, and returning home.

Charles, who like other ex-LRA recruits spoke using only his first name, was captured at a young age.

He gave few details about his time in the LRA, other than confirming he held a high rank and pointing to visible marks of conflict on his body, including an amputated leg.

"I have undergone all categories of military training," Charles, who once hoped to become a lawyer, said bluntly. "That is how my dream was diverted and all of a sudden, I became a soldier." Like Margret, he received amnesty and was able to return home after 17 years of war.

Kwoyelo tried and failed to benefit from the same amnesty policy after being captured in 2009. It was originally granted by the constitutional court, but an appeal went all the way up to Uganda's Supreme Court, which denied Kwoyelo's request for clemency and sent his case back to the International Crimes Division (ICD) of Uganda's High Court.

The ICD was established in 2006 as a condition of peace talks held with the LRA in Juba with the intent of trying the rebel's top brass in Uganda. So far, Kwoyelo is

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xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 22



Charles served as a high-ranking officer in the LRA. He was wounded in battle many times, including losing his leg [Sophie Neiman/Al Jazeera]

## Worth Noting:

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the only one to face charges. Former abductees have contended he shouldn't be on trial at all.

“There are so many people I know that have done serious bad things that are here at home that have never been tried,” Margret told Al Jazeera. “Kwoyelo should be given amnesty so that he can be reintegrated with his family, so he has a normal life just like any of us who came back.

Agnes, who also spoke using her first name, agreed. She was abducted by the LRA as a girl and forced to marry a commander in captivity. She recalled Kwoyelo nursing the gunshots she sustained in battle and working to gather food for the sick.

Seeing him on trial is unfair and he looked old and depressed, she told Al Jazeera. “After all the good things that Kwoyelo did to support us ... he's not in a position to support his family or go back to his mother and his siblings,” she said.

Charles, the ex-LRA officer, was reluctant to give an opinion about a case currently before court, but eager to paint Kwoyelo – whom he referred to as his junior – in a neutral light. “He is a normal person,” Charles said simply. He hasn't bothered to attend trial sessions as Agnes has, but tunes his radio to listen for news of Kwoyelo.

Others who returned from captivity or lived through the war told a different story, describing Kwoyelo as a cru-

el man who must answer for his crimes.

“He was a rude person and a fighter,” said Jackline, who is also being identified by only her first name. She was born in LRA captivity and accused Kwoyelo of killing her father as punishment for failing to follow orders.

Even Oryema, who spoke about forgiveness on the radio, told Al Jazeera that Kwoyelo should suffer some retribution for his crimes.

“He had very little peace in his mind,” Oryema said of a visit he made to Kwoyelo, while trying to persuade LRA recruits to return home. “He was full of revenge.”

### Child soldier in court

It is amid these tensions over peace, and accountability that the Kwoyelo trial is taking place.

After 14 years, judges confirmed 78 (PDF) of the prosecution's charges against Kwoyelo in December, including rape, murder, and the forcible recruitment of other child soldiers.

The defence plans to argue his innocence, asserting he was a victim of the war himself.

“He was abducted as a child and trained,” said Charles Dalton Opwonya, one of Kwoyelo's lawyers. “The government failed to protect him.”

Long delays in the case – including the closure of the courts during COVID-19 – have caused funding shortages, with the court only putting on sessions when

there is money to hold them, observers said.

The International Crimes Division of the High Court, where Kwoyelo is being tried, is intended to act as an equivalent to the ICC under the court's doctrine of complementarity, which declares cases should be sent to the ICC only when the national court system is lacking.

Building that capacity is difficult and the wait is particularly hard on victims, who have spent more than a decade in limbo.

“People are tired. People are fatigued. People are anxious. People are even giving up,” said Henry Komakech Kilama. He acts as a lawyer for the victims, in a position modelled after the ICC.

The next session in Kwoyelo's case is expected to take place on February 19, and lawyers like Kilama hope the case will be wrapped up before the end of the year.

But prior postponements have also raised concerns from human rights experts, who worry about the accused as much as his alleged victims.

“If you look at it objectively, justice delayed is justice denied. When you put someone on trial for over a decade, whatever the outcome of that trial is, it doesn't [have] meaning,” said Irene Anying, director of Avocats Sans Frontières in Uganda, which has monitored the trial since it began.

In a January statement, Human Rights Watch also urged Uganda to bring the trial to a speedy conclusion.

### Hunting Kony

With the defence now preparing its arguments in the Kwoyelo case in Uganda, the ICC has simultaneously moved forward with a separate confirmation of charges against Kony in absentia in the Hague.

“It brings confidence to the victims who have been waiting for justice, which Joseph Kony has evaded for over 18 years,” Maria Kamara, an outreach coordinator for the ICC, said from the Ugandan capital of Kampala.

Karim Khan, the ICC prosecutor, has also asserted that confirming the charges against Kony will make it easier and quicker to hold a trial in the Hague should he be caught.

The United States Department of State has offered a five million dollar reward for information that might lead to Kony's arrest. But past attempts to hunt him down have failed.

The administration of Barack Obama funnelled eight million dollars into efforts to capture Kony between 2011 and 2017, providing logistical support to Ugandan troops, before Donald Trump shut down the mission shortly after entering office.

The LRA is now weakened and divided, expected to number about 100 to 2,000 soldiers, hiding out in jungles between the DRC and the CAR, struggling to survive.

### Starting over

In Gulu, and across northern Uganda, life in once war-torn areas continues.

Coming back from the LRA was difficult, Margret said. Most of her family had died and she was not sure how to make a life for herself.

“There [was] no one to go to, no source of livelihood or income whatsoever,” she told Al Jazeera.

Despite receiving amnesty, many former LRA members face discrimination.

Margret has since joined support groups comprising other women who survived LRA captivity, but she said it is difficult to make enough money to send her children to school.

Charles also scrapes by operating a village savings organisation whose membership includes former rebels and civilians, in the hopes of fighting stigma and poverty at once.

Uganda's parliament passed a transitional justice policy to support survivors of the war in 2019, but has yet to implement its key tenets.

Kilima, the victims' lawyer, hoped that both a court process and more traditional methods could help bring permanent peace and stability to Uganda.

“We must look for more than one solution – not the ICC alone, not amnesty alone, not transitional justice alone,” he said. “We must look at different options. Everyone must try to contribute to the dialogue about peace.”

Source: Al Jazeera

# Food Acids And Their Effect On Product Quality



By: Sultonova Husnidakhan  
Hasanjon  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



## Worth Noting:

- **Orthophosphorus and phosphorus.** Without these acids, it is impossible to produce carbonated drinks, sausages, ready-made baking mixes and processed cheese. They are used as an acidity regulator (additive E338) in all listed foods and beverages.
- **Lemon and apple.** These are popular acidity regulators (additives E330—e333), which are often used in the production of carbonated soft drinks and fruit flavors, many confectionery products, alcoholic beverages and wines.
- **Oxalate and wine.** These acids are also used as acidity regulators (additive e-334), which are added to concentrated fruit syrups and essences For the preparation of soft drinks, wine, biscuits and other confectionery products.

### ABSTRACT

This article discusses food acids and their effect on product quality; substances that change the structure and physico-chemical properties of food products. This group of food additives may include the following substances that change the rheological properties (consistency) of food products: thickeners, jelly-forming and jelly-forming substances, nutrient surfactants, stabilizers of the physical condition of food products, dispensers. The chemical nature of the food additives included in this group is diverse. These include products created by nature and obtained artificially, including through chemical synthesis. These also include connections and individual connections.

**Keywords:** food additives, food structure, jelly, starch, modified starches, pectin substances, honey.

One of the main directions of economic and social policy is the stabilization of the country's food market. An integral part of this work is to increase the volume of food production, the production of which, as a rule, is based on the use of modern technologies. In most cases, such technologies involve the use of food additives that perform various technological functions that form the consumer and organoleptic properties of products. Food additives allow you to obtain products of a certain composition, create the desired taste, color, aroma, consistency and ensure the safety of finished products. All this is one of the qualitative characteristics of the food product in the complex.

In the last decade, the field of production and application of food additives has

been rapidly developing. It should be noted that in recent years, the Institute's research has gone beyond the limits indicated in the name of the institute and covered almost all functional classes of food additives. Nevertheless, the biggest work is related to the creation of new technologies for flavorings and aromatic additives and their application in the food industry.

When solving technological problems of regulating the level of food systems, priority for a number of reasons, including in connection with polyfunction, is given to food acids obtained by microbiological method - citric and lactic acids.

The sour taste of food is determined by hydrogen ions formed as a result of dissociation of the acids and acid salts contained in it. The activity of hydrogen ions (active acidity) is characterized by a pH value (negative decimal logarithm of the concentration of hydrogen ions).

Almost all food acids are weak and slightly dissociate in aqueous solutions. Therefore, food acids, together with salts, often form buffer systems that ensure a stable level (active acidity) of hydrogen ions in food. An example of such a system is milk, in which proteins and some mineral salts have pronounced buffering properties.

To reliably reflect the concentration of acidic substances in food, an indicator of total or titrated acidity is determined. For different products, this value is expressed in terms of different indicators. For example, in juices, the total acidity is determined in g per 1 liter, in milk - titrated acidity at the Turner level, in fat - titrated acidity at the Ketstopher level, etc. Acids are involved in the

formation of taste and aroma, being one of the main indicators of food quality. The main taste sensation caused by the presence of acids in the product is an acidic taste, which is usually proportional to the concentration of H<sup>+</sup> ions. Since food acids have different degrees of dissociation, the maximum concentration (the minimum concentration of the taste substance perceived by the senses), which allows them to feel an acidic taste, is different for them and is, for example, 0.017% for citric acid and 0.030% for acetic acid. This applies to fruits, berries, vegetables and greens. They are also useful for the human body—they improve digestion, accelerate metabolism and "accelerate" metabolism.

### Which acids are most common?

The most popular acids in the food industry:

Orthophosphorus and phosphorus. Without these acids, it is impossible to produce carbonated drinks, sausages, ready-made baking mixes and processed cheese. They are used as an acidity regulator (additive E338) in all listed foods and beverages.

Lemon and apple. These are popular acidity regulators (additives E330—e333), which are often used in the production of carbonated soft drinks and fruit flavors, many confectionery products, alcoholic beverages and wines.

Oxalate and wine. These acids are also used as acidity regulators (additive e-334), which are added to concentrated fruit syrups and essences For the preparation of soft drinks, wine, biscuits and other confectionery products.

Salt, sulfur and boron. Hydrochloric acid e507

is listed as a food additive. It is used in the production of soda water. Sulfur is a food additive E513 (emulsifier). And boric acid is an e284 additive. They are widely used in the food industry in the production of various products.

Pirovinograd. Most often, this acid is used in the production of wine, liqueurs, vodka and other alcoholic products. In the process of acid fermentation, finished products are formed from ethyl alcohol or lactic acid. It is most often used as a fat-burning supplement with anabolic properties.

Sulfamine. This acid is used in the food industry for washing and thorough processing of equipment, fast cleaning and removal of milk stones. It is most often used for dishes and stainless steel appliances. Sulfamic acid does not cause corrosion of this metal. Milk. With the help of this acid, it is possible to increase the shelf life of finished products and beverages by 3-4 times, as well as to save them from darkening during deep freezing, canning and packaging. In combination with ascorbic acid, it reduces the content of nitrates and nitrites in meat products by a third.

Vinegar. Another popular and safe preservative in the food industry. It is used in the production of various types of products, carbonated drinks, alcoholic beverages and confectionery. It allows you to preserve the taste, aroma and color of products, prolongs their shelf life.

The most common acids Where is the best place to order acids?

It is important not only to use acids carefully in the food industry, but also to order them from trusted suppliers so as not to spoil or

damage products.

The Belchimservice Group of companies, BELCHIMPEX LLC and Chemical Alliance LLC have been operating on the Belarusian market for 25 years. We offer various chemical products (solvents, trace elements, nutritional vitamins and premixes), including acids, for the food industry and other industries.

Nima uchun kislotalar bizdan sotib olinadi?

Over 25 years of work, we have gained our place in the market, we have a large list of partners in the production of acids and other chemical products that work without intermediaries. What does this give our customers? First of all, affordable prices. And there are other advantages:

You can order acids in any quantity -we have our own warehouse with a large number of products in the center of Minsk. You don't have to wait-we will deliver your order quickly and directly to production.

There is no doubt about the quality of the products-we provide and guarantee all the necessary quality certificates. We understand that this is important when working with chemical products.

You can order special chemical products that are difficult to get. We work with special orders and are ready to quickly find the right acids.

It is not difficult to verify the quality of our chemical products - order a trial batch. If everything goes well, we will be able to arrange regular supplies of acids to your company on attractive terms.

Sultanova Husnidakhan Hasanjon's daughter  
2nd year student of Gulistan State University. Fergana region, Republic of Uzbekistan.

# 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.

**READ,  
REVIEW &  
WIN BIG**

### Winners

Ugx.200,000,  
+ Gift hamper

### 1st Runner-up

Ugx.150,000,  
+ Gift hamper

### 2nd Runner-up

Ugx.100,000,  
+ Gift hamper

**All participants**  
Certificates of participation  
at each level.

### How to submit:

Send your typed review and photo to  
theeltablazannualreadingcontes@gmail.com  
or WhatsApp +256 772 674 093.

### How to enter the contest:

- \* Buy and read the novel, *The Spirit Whisperer* by Nassur Tab'an El-Tablaz.
- \* Write a review of the given novel (at least 2 pages, typed; Times New Roman, font 12, 1.15 line spacing)
- \* 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.

# Mirzo Ulugbek Scientific and Literary Legacy

*In 1405, following the death of a great conqueror who created a vast empire stretching from Central Asia to the Middle East, all his legacy passed to his sons and grandsons*



By: Yusupova Zarina Rustamovna.  
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Mirzo Muhammad ibn Shohruh ibn Temur Ulugbek Qoragoni (1394-1449)

## Worth Noting:

• The main tool used in the observatory was a sextant, a device used to measure angles between celestial objects, especially used for determining the positions of stars. Besides the main instrument, the observatory also housed other astronomical instruments.

• It is likely that the accuracy and convenience of the sextant played a significant role in carrying out precise astronomical observations, which contributed to Ulugbek's knowledge and his legacy. Under the leadership and participation of the great astronomer Ulugbek, the main work of the observatory, "Zidjiy Ko'rag'oniy" and "Ulug'bek's star table," was carried out. In this book, the positions of 1018 stars observed from the Samarqand observatory were recorded with remarkable accuracy, surpassing the data from the Almagest and the Alfonsine Tables, which were considered the standard astronomical works at that time.

Annotation: This article discusses the activities of Ulugbek, his scientific works, as well as his contribution to the field of knowledge, the investigation of his scientific achievements, and the astonishment of European scholars at his discoveries. Key words: Ulugbek, Shohruh, Jamshid Koshiy, Qozizoda Rumi, Ali Qushchi, Bukhara, Peter I, L.A.Sedio, Samarkand, J.N.Delil, Petersburg, Jon Grivs, England, Yan Geveliy. Mirzo Muhammad ibn Shohruh ibn Temur Ulugbek Qoragoni (1394-1449) - a great astronomer and mathematician, a prominent figure of his time, a state ruler, who governed Movarounnahr from 1441 to 1449, a famous ruler and conqueror, the grandson of Amir Temur. Ulugbek (Muhammad Taragay) was born on March 22, 1394, in the city of Sultaniya, present-day Azerbaijan.

In 1405, following the death of a great conqueror who created a vast empire stretching from Central Asia to the Middle East, all his legacy passed to his sons and grandsons. Shohruh, the grandson of Temur, was placed at the head of the Timurid Empire in the capital of Herat. Shohruh, the only son of the ruler of Mavarannahr, was assigned to Ulugbek. In 1409, Ulugbek was appointed

as the governor of Samarkand, and after the death of his father, he became the ruler, and in 1447, he became the head of the Timurid dynasty.

From a young age, Ulugbek showed great interest in various fields of knowledge and arts, especially mathematics and astronomy. His intellectual curiosity led to the establishment of a large library where he spent a lot of time. Despite being busy with state affairs, Ulugbek devoted much time to learning. He had an exceptional memory, mastered Arabic and Persian languages, had a good knowledge of Turkish jurisprudence, and participated in literary discussions. He also wrote poetry himself. Ulugbek's mentor was the famous mathematician and astronomer Qozizoda Rumi, who showed Ulugbek the famous observatories in Maragha when he was nine years old. These memories from his childhood might have shaped Ulugbek's future as an astronomer. During Ulugbek's time, Samarkand became one of the centers of scientific and cultural development in the Middle Ages. In Samarkand, in the first half of the 15th century, a scientific school was formed under the leadership of Ghiyath al-Din Jamshid al-Kashi, Qozizoda Rumi, Ali Qushchi, and other famous astronomers

and mathematicians. They were accompanied by historians such as Hofiz Abru, the famous physician Mavlon Nefis, and poets like Sirojiddin Samarqandiy, Sakkokiy, Lutfiy, Badakhshiy, and others. They became prominent figures in the intellectual world of their time.

In 1417-1420, Ulugbek founded a madrasa in Samarkand, which became the first memorial ensemble included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This madrasa offered education in various branches of Islamic sciences, with a particular emphasis on astronomy and mathematics. The remaining two madrasas were built in Gijduvan and Bukhara. The madrasas established by Ulugbek served the function of a university. The madrasa founded by Ulugbek in Bukhara had the inscription "Learning is a duty for every Muslim" above its entrance. According to the opinions of researchers, the construction of the observatory was completed in 1428-1429. The observatory was a rare architectural masterpiece of its time. To withstand seismic activity, the building was constructed with a stone foundation on the hill of Kohik.

The main tool used in the observatory was a sextant, a device used to measure angles between celestial objects, especially used for

determining the positions of stars. Besides the main instrument, the observatory also housed other astronomical instruments.

It is likely that the accuracy and convenience of the sextant played a significant role in carrying out precise astronomical observations, which contributed to Ulugbek's knowledge and his legacy. Under the leadership and participation of the great astronomer Ulugbek, the main work of the observatory, "Zidjiy Ko'rag'oniy" and "Ulug'bek's star table," was carried out. In this book, the positions of 1018 stars observed from the Samarqand observatory were recorded with remarkable accuracy, surpassing the data from the Almagest and the Alfonsine Tables, which were considered the standard astronomical works at that time.

In addition to this, the observatory also conducted works related to determining the inclination of the ecliptic to the equator and calculating the length of the stellar year, as well as the significance of sine at a certain angle for important astronomical regularities, calculated up to the eighteenth decimal place after the comma.

Ulugbek verified his data several times, and it was concluded that his calculations were accurate. In 1437, he determined the length of

the astronomical year: 365 days, 6 hours, 10 minutes, and 8 seconds. Later revisions showed a difference of only 58 seconds. If we consider the astronomical year to be 365,258,150 seconds, it can be assumed that Ulugbek's measurements were remarkably precise.

In addition to being a great scientist, Ulugbek was a humble ruler. He spent most of his time in the observatory and devoted less time to state affairs. His son Abdulatif, influenced by spiritual leaders, declared war against his father. His son suggested his father visit Mecca, which Ulugbek accepted according to Sharia law and set off on a journey to Mecca in 1449. However, he was assassinated on his way to Mecca.

Even after the great Ulugbek's death, his bright star did not fade. His loyal disciple Ali Qushchi, under the pressure of the ruler, left Samarkand and took Ulugbek's book "Zidjiy Ko'rag'oniy" to Europe. Later, the book became the property of many scholars of the subsequent generations. Ulugbek's name and efforts became famous among European and Asian scholars. In the 17th century, Ulugbek was depicted among the greatest world as-

# Mirzo Ulugbek Scientific and Literary Legacy

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Contd from Page 22

## Worth Noting:

- Ulugbek's main scientific work is considered to be "Zidjiy jadidi Ko'rag'oniy" or "The New Astronomical Tables of Gurkhon." The author completed this work in 1444, after thirty years of tireless astronomical observations and calculations. This astronomical almanac, together with the "Almagest" by Ptolemy and the astronomical tables of Alfonso X, which were recognized as standard works in all European observatories, formed the basis for this work.
- The accuracy of these tables was confirmed earlier in the East and later in Europe. By the 17th century, Ticho Brahe was able to achieve accuracy equivalent to the observations made in Samarkand, and later, even greater precision was achieved. Ulugbek's "Zidji" was recognized not only in the East but also attracted the attention of European astronomers.



Mirzo Muhammad ibn Shohruh ibn Temur Ulugbek Qoragoni (1394-1449)

tronomers in "Starry Sky" by Yan Geveliy, where various astronomers from different times and places were depicted. They were depicted as stars shining in the sky of Urania, contributing to the treasury of world astronomy. Ulugbek's main scientific work is considered to be "Zidjiy jadidi Ko'rag'oniy" or "The New Astronomical Tables of Gurkhon." The author completed this work in 1444, after thirty years of tireless astronomical observations and calculations. This astronomical almanac, together with the "Almagest" by Ptolemy and the astronomical tables of Alfonso X, which were recognized as standard works in all European observatories, formed the basis for this work. The accuracy of these tables was confirmed earlier in the East and later in Europe. By the 17th century, Ticho Brahe was able to achieve accuracy equivalent to the observations made in Samarkand, and later, even greater precision was achieved. Ulugbek's "Zidji" was recognized not only in the East but also attracted the attention of European astronomers. The "Zidji" consists of four major sections. The first part, named chronology, presents various chronological methods accepted by different Eastern peoples. The second part deals with

practical astronomical issues, the third is devoted to the movement of fixed stars relative to the Earth's geocentric system, and the fourth part is dedicated to astrology, focusing on the fate of humanity according to medieval astronomy. During the time of Peter I, Ulugbek's "Zij" was published in Russia, which is a historical fact. This was accomplished by a young German scientist, a member of the Russian Foreign Affairs Committee, G. Ya. Ker. He translated Ulugbek's "Zij" from Farsi to Latin and published it. This task was assigned to him based on the proposal of Peter I and under the patronage of Joseph Nikola Delisle, an astronomer who came to St. Petersburg. J.N. Delisle had developed a special program to develop Russian astronomy before his arrival in St. Petersburg. Recognizing the need to study the achievements of Eastern astronomy in this program, G. Ya. Ker, and Vakhtang VI, a Georgian prince living in St. Petersburg who was proficient in foreign languages, proposed this task. Before Vakhtang VI came to Russia, he started translating "Ulugbek's astronomical tables" from Persian into Georgian with his secretary M. Kavkasidze. Later, this translation was completed in St. Petersburg.

The astronomical tables calculated by Ulugbek, which provide insight into ancient chronology, serve as a compass for astronomers and historians. Ulugbek's star tables confirm the accuracy of Ptolemy's star map presented in "Almagest." In 1648, in Oxford, England, the first major work on the main work carried out at Ulugbek's famous observatory in Samarkand was partially published internationally. The work was prepared for publication and accompanied by comments by John Stevens, a professor of astronomy at Oxford University. Later, the celestial maps were published several times in England. Seventeen years after the first Oxford publication, an Oxford librarian, an orientalist, and translator, Thomas Hyde, prepared and partially published a new edition of the famous observatory's work in Persian and Latin titled "Tabulae Long, as Lat. Stellarum Fixarum, ex observatione Ulugh Beighi," in Oxford in 1665. The publication of Ulugbek's tables in Europe, therefore, attracted considerable attention from scholars and astronomers. The tables' calculations required extensive and expensive research and mathematical work, which greatly appreciated the scholars' evaluation. Twenty-five years after Hyde's

Oxford publication, the data from Ulugbek's tables found a place in the pages of the "Prodromus Astronomiae" by the Polish astronomer Jan Heweliusz (1611-1687) published in Gdansk. In his work, Jan Heweliusz compared the data from Ulugbek's tables with those from other sources: Ptolemy, Tycho Brahe, Riccioli, the Ottoman Prince Kaş, and Heweliusz himself. In 1839, the French orientalist L.A. Sédillot (1808-1876) partially published Ulugbek's tables under the title "Tables astronomiques d'Ouloug Beg, commentees et publiees avec le texte en regard," I vol., 1st part, Paris, 1839. Finally, a more detailed analysis of Ulugbek's tables preserved in British libraries was published in the United States in 1917 by E. B. Knobel under the title "Ulugh Beg's Catalogue of Stars. Revised from all Persian Manuscripts Existing in Great Britain." It is worth mentioning that numerous manuscripts of "Zij" are preserved in European and Asian book repositories. Ulugbek's star tables became the last word in medieval astronomy before the invention of the telescope, representing the highest achievement of medieval astronomical science. Ulugbek's vast scientific legacy proves that he was not just a great Muslim ruler, but also

contributed significantly to the advancement of human knowledge and civilization. Therefore, for centuries, and even today, Ulugbek's name remains a symbol of unity between Eastern and Western peoples, serving noble purposes. Mirzo Ulugbek's high intellectual and spiritual legacy continues to be studied in leading educational institutions and scientific centers around the world. With the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan National University was named after this outstanding scientist. In 1994, the 600th anniversary of the scientist's birth was celebrated internationally, and a series of events were held with the participation of foreign scholars, experts, and public figures. In 2009, an international scientific conference was held in Paris dedicated to the 615th anniversary of Mirzo Ulugbek's birth. The conference was attended by more than 130 scholars and representatives of various international organizations. The ongoing interest in Mirzo Ulugbek's scientific and spiritual heritage around the world demonstrates its immense significance.

## Psychological Characteristics Of Virtual Communication

*In modern society, there are many forms of communication, most of which are somehow related to technical progress, in particular, the use of the Internet.*



By: Shodiboyeva Dinora Doniyorovna  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Virtual Communication

### Worth Noting:

- Complete or partial absence of non-verbal signals, as a result of which interpersonal perception is difficult and impaired. In online correspondence, we can never understand the feelings and experiences of the interlocutor, the nuances of his sarcasm, sarcasm. We can only guess, guess, clarify. We lose the ability to read experiences. Mimics, gestures, shades of voice, intonation, pauses. All this is missing in online communication.
- Idealize the interlocutor (or fill in the picture). Since a number of characteristics of the communication partner are hidden from us, we tend to attribute to him the necessary characteristics that are not always present in reality.
- Difficulty expressing emotional reactions and responses. Emotions are replaced by feelings and likes, but they do not reflect the whole range of emotional reactions. Also, everyone interprets them differently.

**ANNOTATION.** In modern society, there are many forms of communication, most of which are somehow related to technical progress, in particular, the use of the Internet. This is primarily related to the development of society in the technical field. According to statistics, the number of Internet users is constantly growing. For some people, communication in a virtual environment has become the main substitute for "virtual" communication.

**Key words:** Development of virtualization, addiction, psychological characteristics, modern society, virtual communication, activity in social networks.

**INTRODUCTION:** In the current environment, where the development of virtualization of society in the third millennium is extremely accelerating, the influence of the virtual environment on the individual and his existence is connected with the scientific understanding of the phenomenology and the need to determine the laws of its orientation to the formation and strengthening of the individual. In this rapidly developing globalization era, the Virtual environment is becoming a real field of activity, an important part of a person's life, in this environment, a person himself changes many things - style, lifestyle, habits, range of interests and communication processes. In fact, the main task of the Internet is to present the space of everyday life to you in a spatial form, because the Internet is not only able to perform the task of socialization, but also to give a certain status, importance, and prestige to events and processes in the life of society. The Internet environment becomes one of the most important mega-

factors in modern socialization and is considered one of the most important modern types of socialization in the form of cybersocialization.

**MAIN PART** Communication in the virtual space allows a person to play any chosen social role, which, for example, can compensate for failures in real interactions. However, social networks satisfy the human need not only for communication and information, but also for self-awareness and social status.

Currently, more research is being conducted to determine the characteristics of individuals with a high level of activity in the virtual social network. Thus, N.L. Sungurov and D.A. Mikhailova, firstly, emphasizes that there are specific features of cognitive-personal regulation of young people with different strategies of online behavior, and secondly, they emphasize that participants of virtual communication use the Internet as a means to achieve goals, which is allows.

In addition, research shows that young people actively use social networks and continue to be online despite the fear of losing something important in the real world [6]. These data are consistent with the results of studies that found that subjects prone to Internet addiction have less control over their lives and the situations that arise.

Thus, we can identify several problems that are considered in the study of the characteristics of communication in a virtual social network. First, the problem of communication on the Internet. In this information reality, all three aspects of communication are affected: social perception (often a virtual partner), communication, interaction with

participants. Second, the problem of Internet addiction. Thirdly, the issue of organizing the information environment taking into account the age-related characteristics of perception. The fourth is the aspect of analyzing the social and individual psychological characteristics of the subject of the information environment, for example, the structure of personal qualities, value sphere, personal abilities, etc. Virtual communication is a type of communication that is carried out with the help of computers and telecommunication systems. Virtual communication refers to communication without the presence of a living person as an interlocutor, but is presented on his behalf in the form of certain signs and symbols, numbers and even images. In the information society, virtual communication serves as a basis for the formation of human language and thinking that works with important information flows and the preferred place of residence of the person where his main activity is carried out.

Features of virtual communication. The Internet is not only a source of information, but also a means of communication, which has firmly entered people's lives. Computer communication has a number of characteristics compared to real communication. We can highlight a number of features of virtual communication:

- Complete or partial absence of non-verbal signals, as a result of which interpersonal perception is difficult and impaired. In online correspondence, we can never understand the feelings and experiences of the interlocutor, the nuances of his sarcasm, sarcasm. We can only guess, guess, clarify. We lose

the ability to read experiences. Mimics, gestures, shades of voice, intonation, pauses. All this is missing in online communication.

- Idealize the interlocutor (or fill in the picture). Since a number of characteristics of the communication partner are hidden from us, we tend to attribute to him the necessary characteristics that are not always present in reality.

- Difficulty expressing emotional reactions and responses. Emotions are replaced by feelings and likes, but they do not reflect the whole range of emotional reactions. Also, everyone interprets them differently.

- Realization of various personal qualities, role playing, which is not always possible in reality. A person can invent and embody the image he wants.

- The illusion of control. Another advantage of virtual communication is that the technology is predictable and manageable, allowing for secure relationships. We can edit messages and publications, dosage information. And most of us seek comfort, peace and security, so we often tend to choose virtual communication to the detriment of real communication.

- Willingness to hear. The need for communication is one of the basic needs because we live in society. There are few people around us who listen to us sincerely and with interest. And the public space of the network creates the feeling that we are heard by many people.

It should be noted that each previous function of virtual communication is a part of any subsequent one and takes its proper place in functions. Thus, all functions of virtual communication are performed not in person, but through computer technology. The functions of real communication are set according to the content of the communication process. When studying the functional aspect of communication, it should be remembered that all the considered functions are interrelated and are expressed at different levels of interpersonal communication, for example: social-role, business and individual level.

Thus, the psychological analysis of the phenomenon of virtual communication showed that:

1. With the help of virtual communication, not only the needs of storing and transferring information, its quick and convenient use, but also the main personal needs are met - establishing relationships, developing communication skills, creative and professional identity).

2. Features of virtual communication have specific features of real space, they consist of functions implemented in the form of information transfer and digital technologies.

3. Virtual communication has a significant impact on the thinking and worldview of individuals in the Internet space. These changes are also positive (opportunity to travel, gain new knowledge about different cultures and their characteristics). **CONCLUSION** In short, the invisibility of the interlocutor in the virtual communication leads to the fact that the image of the other in the virtual communication is determined not by the characteristics of the other, but by the characteristics of the perceiving subject, and the other begins to be built in his own image. That is, the image of another person is completed on the basis of the experience of the perceiver, provided with the characteristics of the subject of perception or idealized. This may explain the emergence of sympathy during virtual dating and frequent disappointment during meetings.

In addition, on the Internet, a person becomes an object of perception by an anonymous stranger. This leads to the search for social norms in the situation and the desire to conform to them or contradict them. This refers to the use of common cultural standards in Internet communication, as well as conflicts, arguments, etc. on the Internet.

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