

Hundreds of crooked businesspeople in the United Kingdom who swindled more than £4 billion

UK Covid Billionaires

three main COVID-19 loan schemes - Bounce Back Loan (BBL), CBILS and scheme, and CLBILS for corporates handed out some £80 billion to businesses :



Businesses abused Britain's generosity during the pandemic pay the price: CRIMINALS 'STOLE' BILLIONS IN COVID BOUNCE BACK BUSINESS LOANS MEGA-FRAUD EXPOSED IN BRITISH COURTS

By: Shamlal Puri
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Hundreds of crooked businesspeople in the United Kingdom who swindled more than £4 billion from the British Government during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns in a massive fraud that has shocked the nation have finally been exposed. The British Government, then under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, established one of the most controversial of the Government's pandemic rescue schemes - the Bounce-Back Loan (BBL) to cushion the losses small businesses were suffering during the



Company directors took out Covid Bounce Back Loans - announced by then-Chancellor Rishi Sunak to help businesses through the pandemic

lockdowns.

Within one year and three months from March 2020, three main COVID-19 loan schemes - Bounce Back Loan (BBL), CBILS and scheme, and CLBILS for corporates handed out some £80 billion to businesses.

BBL was the largest scheme that distributed £47 billion to 1.6 million recipients who could borrow up to £50,000 each.

On the surface, the scheme was set with the best intentions of serving the business community, but fraudsters, thinking it was free money, wiggled in pocketing millions of pounds, tarnishing the image of a country traditionally

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Ghana's Akufo-Addo Endorses Kenya's AUC Candidature

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The Pathway of Water: Promoting Peaceful Ties, fostering Harmony and Prosperity



"The Diaspora Times Global"

Drinking from China's new regulatory guidelines on water conservation

The annual United Nations World Water Day was celebrated last week on March 22. The theme of the 2024 event was 'Water for Peace'. The importance of water to humanity cannot be gainsaid. According to the UN, water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or

polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can rise. By co-operating on water, we can balance everyone's water needs and help stabilize the world.

In addition, prosperity and peace rely on water. As nations manage climate change, mass migration, and

political unrest, they must put water cooperation at the heart of their plans. Water can also lead us out of crisis. We can foster harmony between communities and countries by uniting around the fair and sustainable use of water – from UN conventions at the international level, to

actions at the local level.

On the eve of World Water Day, China unveiled its first national water conservation regulations. Starting

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Prevalence of hate speech, incitement threat to global peace: Rwanda

By: Capital News
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- “Particularly troubling is the current widespread proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence,” he explained, adding hate speech and incitement “were very clearly present in Rwanda immediately before the genocide”.
- Ambassador Ngoga was addressing a gathering at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi.
- Reflecting on the genocide against the Tutsi, Ambassador Ngoga characterized it as one of the “most disturbing chapters in human history.”
- While emphasizing the importance of honoring the memories of the victims, the Rwanda High Commissioner to Kenya called on the world to do whatever to prevent such atrocities from recurring.
- Further, Ambassador Ngoga underscored the significance of understanding the root causes of genocide and addressing systemic failures to prevent future violence.



Rwanda's High Commissioner to Kenya Martin Ngoga/Rwanda in Kenya

Rwanda's High Commissioner to Kenya Martin Ngoga has expressed concern over what he describes as worrying trends of hate speech and incitement to violence across the globe amid heightened geopolitical tensions. Speaking Thursday during the Conference on the 30th Commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, Ambassador Ngoga warned that these phenomena pose significant threats to stability and the future of humanity. He implored global leaders and citizens to draw lessons from the tragic events of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which resulted in the loss of approximately a million lives, and embrace peace. He stressed that the widespread proliferation of hate speech and incitement to

violence echoes the dangerous rhetoric observed before the Rwandan genocide. “As we renew our resolve to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again, we are seeing dangerous trends of rising hate speech and intolerance in many parts of the world,” Ngoga observed. “Particularly troubling is the current widespread proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence,” he explained, adding hate speech and incitement “were very clearly present in Rwanda immediately before the genocide”. Ambassador Ngoga was addressing a gathering at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi. Reflecting on the genocide against the Tutsi, Ambassador Ngoga characterized it as one of the “most disturbing chapters in human

history.” While emphasizing the importance of honoring the memories of the victims, the Rwanda High Commissioner to Kenya called on the world to do whatever to prevent such atrocities from recurring. Further, Ambassador Ngoga underscored the significance of understanding the root causes of genocide and addressing systemic failures to prevent future violence. Promoting reconciliation He emphasized the role of education, remembrance, and justice in fostering reconciliation, preventing genocide, and promoting reconciliation. “This Conference therefore holds great significance as it provides us with an opportunity to come together, exchange ideas, reflect upon one of the darkest chapters

in human history, and collectively strive towards a future built on understanding, reconciliation, and peace,” he said. He added that it is everyone's moral obligation to ensure that the voices of the innocent lives who perished during the genocide are heard, their stories told, and their legacy preserved for future generations. Ambassador Ngoga said that it is equally important that other internationally recognized genocides are taught globally so that the younger generations have sufficient knowledge of the atrocities. While commemorating the victims, Ambassador Ngoga faulted the international community for its inadequate response to the genocide against the Tutsi. He noted that the world must learn from this failure

and commit themselves to preventing similar atrocities in the future. The Ambassador called on the international community to support efforts to prosecute individuals involved in genocidal acts, emphasizing the importance of accountability in preventing future atrocities. “It is therefore imperative for the international community to support efforts to prosecute and bring to justice those who orchestrated and carried out the genocide against the Tutsi,” he said. The Ambassador noted that justice is the cornerstone in preventing genocide and ensuring accountability for the perpetrators.

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Communicative Competence

Enhancing Communicative Competence in Teaching English at Secondary Schools

Worth Noting:

- The findings of the study, including both quantitative and qualitative data, are presented in this section. The correlation between communication skills and language proficiency of pupils is highlighted in the statistics analysis. Observations and interviews in the classroom provide insight into the effectiveness of communicative language teaching strategies in the promotion of communication skills in secondary school students.
- The discussion section analyses the results of existing literature and addresses the implications for teaching English at the secondary school level. It reviews the challenges and achievements that have been achieved in implementing communicative language teaching strategies. Potential areas of improvement and further research are also discussed in the section.

Abstract

This article looks at the importance of communication skills when it comes to teaching English in high schools. It examines the basic aspects of communication skills, their importance to language learning processes, and strategies for effectively integrating them into mainstream English classes in high schools. To examine the impact of communication skills on students' language proficiency and overall learning experience, this study uses a mixed methods approach.

Keywords: Communication skills, English language education, secondary schools, language proficiency, language learning strategies.

Introduction

An overview of the importance of communication skills in teaching English at the secondary level is provided in this introduction. It stresses the importance of effective communication for language acquisition and the challenges faced by students as they develop their communicative skills. The research objectives and the study questions that guide it are concluded in this section.

Literature Review: In particular, this section reviews existing literature on the communicative competence of language training with a view to its theoretical foundations and practical impact. The report discusses the different models of communicative competence, pedagogical approaches, and effects on students' lin-

guistic skills and cultural awareness as regards communication teaching. A theoretical framework for the study has been set out in the literature review.

Methodology: The methods of research design, participants and data collection shall be outlined in the methodology section. To obtain a full understanding of the relationship between communication skills and language outcomes, it is possible to use a mixed methods approach combining data from both quantitative as

well Qualitative sources. To obtain relevant data from both students and teachers, surveys, classroom observations, and interviews are used.

Results

The findings of the study, including both quantitative and qualitative data, are presented in this section. The correlation between communication skills and language proficiency of pupils is highlighted in the statistics analysis. Observations and interviews in the classroom provide insight into

the effectiveness of communicative language teaching strategies in the promotion of communication skills in secondary school students.

Discussion

The discussion section analyses the results of existing literature and addresses the implications for teaching English at the secondary school level. It reviews the challenges and achievements that have been achieved in implementing communicative language teaching strategies. Potential areas of improvement and

further research are also discussed in the section.

Conclusion

The conclusions summarise the main findings and reinforce the importance of communicating skills for teaching English at the secondary school level, as well as discuss wider implications for language learning. To improve the communication skills of students, it proposes practical recommendations for teachers.



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New rules to help improve flow of data: China Daily

By: Capital Correspondent.
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Authorities said earlier this week that they would roll out ownership rules this year to facilitate data trading and circulation while optimizing regulations on the flow of data overseas, as a pivotal part of the country's efforts to balance development and security.

The move was outlined at the national data work conference in Beijing, which was held on Monday and Tuesday, and was part of a national drive to bolster the digital economy and create new growth points by upgrading legacy industries with digital technologies.

According to a media release of the meeting, the attendants agreed that this year, the National Data Bureau, which was launched in October, will prioritize building "sound data infrastructure", including a property rights system that will help accelerate data flow and transactions and rules that will determine how benefits accrued from data mining should be distributed.

The bureau was created to safeguard data security and boost the digital economy. It is administered by the National Development and Reform

Commission, the country's top economic planner.

Ouyang Rihui, a professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics, said in an interview with the Security Times newspaper that developing data infrastructure is crucial for the efficient circulation of data and can help unleash its "multiplier effect" to empower traditional industries. Data has been leveraged to aid work in various sectors, ranging from precision agriculture to autonomous driving and efficient steel production.

"The essence of utilizing data is to explore more application scenarios," he said.

Meeting attendants also proposed mining government statistics and other public data resources to inspire other utilization scenarios. They suggested supporting the creative use of personal and corporate data, and creating a friendly environment for utilizing data.

The officials also underscored the potential of digitalization in driving progress, pledging to advance high-quality development through digitalization and developing the digital economy and public services. They said government investment would be ramped up to build a national network for computing power and data circulation, while urging



to "always keep a tight grip on data security" and enhance the level of technical support to protect data.

In addition, China will step up global cooperation in the digital economy and optimize rules for cross-border

data flow, the officials said.

Figures from the meeting showed that China last year reproduced 32 zettabytes of data, with the world's total amount of data estimated to top 175 zettabytes by the end of next

year.

Xinhua News Agency said every 10 percent increase in data flow can generate 0.2 of a percentage point of GDP growth.

Safari Rally

Victor Bwire: Seizing the Opportunity of the Safari Rally to Showcase the Kenyan Brand

By: Victor Bwire .
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

The meticulous preparations, military precision, technical acumen, human brains, and financial resources involved in the World Rally Championship (WRC) make this global event worth its billing. A visit to the service park at the Kenya Wildlife Service-managed place within the National Park on the outskirts of Naivasha town reveals the technical work, verification technology equipment, and manpower deployed, highlighting why this motorsport is so successful and exciting.

From the vehicle verification machines, fuel center, media center, and drivers' interview point to the marshals, technical crews, drivers, and hotel staff—both local and international—alongside running sponsor banners and assembled vehicle parts, the scene is nothing short of amazing.

The organizational skills required to manage the KICC official start venue, the Kasarani Special Stage, the service park, the routes, and the Hellgate finish point of the WRC

that starts tomorrow in Nairobi are a testament to why Kenya should be proud of hosting the event. As the only country in sub-Saharan Africa with such facilities and natural resources fit for such a global motorsport event, Kenya stands out.

The WRC on Kenyan soil offers more than routine benefits; it presents an opportunity to showcase investment opportunities in business, including tourism, and to increase Kenya's credibility among community nations. With meticulous planning and execution, the event can boost the country's efforts to not only improve its economic standing but also its global reputation.

Apart from the economic benefits like accommodation, transport, and short-term employment that Naivasha, the host of the WRC, has already experienced, the event brings together organizers, government, sponsors, and teams working over months to assemble resources from within the country and abroad.

The WRC, as the second oldest of the FIA's world championships after Formula One, is an international rallying series owned and governed by the FIA. Behind the skilled drivers and hardworking crew teams, there are huge financial and technological



The annual WRC Safari Rally was held in Naivasha, Kenya in March 2024.

investments from car manufacturers and sponsors. From modifications to using fossil-free jet fuel, the rally requires significant investment to make the cars fly on the rough terrains.

These events attract a significant number of visitors to Kenya and provide massive opportunities for Kenyans. It is imperative to showcase our strengths, particularly in

the business and hospitality industry, and to leverage principles of development journalism and media as agents of social change.

Kenya's brand diversity extends beyond traditional tourism products to include commercial hubs, athletic excellence, and educational prowess. By proactively sharing information with the media, we can highlight these aspects to attract high-quality

visitors, investors, and mutually beneficial relationships with global players.

Therefore, as we seize the opportunity presented by the Safari Rally, let us not only celebrate the thrill of the sport but also leverage it to showcase the full spectrum of the Kenyan brand to the world.

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Education

History Of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University



By: Zilola Kenjebayeva
Kuvondigovna
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth
Noting:

• We know that nowadays many universities are creating wide opportunities for young people. In addition, we can see that several reforms are being implemented in this university in order to provide comprehensive support to young people and create a wide opportunity for them to get quality education.

• As an example, the work carried out by the head of the university, Shavkat Safarovich Sharipov, as well as the departments of work on educational and youth issues, and the primary organization of the Youth Union, is a clear proof of our opinion.

• If we dwell on the activities of the Youth Union, we can witness the active work of coordinators in several areas within the organization. That is, each of the 13 faculties in our university has one faculty leader and 6-person council coordinators. Many university-wide competitions and projects are organized by these coordinators.

Abstract: this article provides information about the history of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, one of the most prestigious higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan, its path, achievements during its activity and the current educational system.

Keywords: institute, university, Youth Union, Student Academy, Student Travel, Volunteer Center, activity, process, success, famous scholarships.

Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, considered one of the most prestigious universities in Uzbekistan, was founded in 1974. 15 years later, in 1989, the university was named after Abdulla Qadiri. Initially, the institute started with 2 faculties, 5 departments, 6 departments, 50 faculty members and 425 students. Today, it is a university with 13 faculties and 41 departments.

According to the decision of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev of 21.06.2022 on measures to improve the quality of pedagogical education and further develop the activities of higher educational institutions training pedagogic personnel, Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute named after Abdulla Qadiri "was granted the status of a university.

We know that nowadays many universities are creating wide opportunities for young people. In addition, we can see that several reforms are being implemented in this university in order to provide comprehensive

support to young people and create a wide opportunity for them to get quality education.

As an example, the work carried out by the head of the university, Shavkat Safarovich Sharipov, as well as the departments of work on educational and youth issues, and the primary organization of the Youth Union, is a clear proof of our opinion.

If we dwell on the activities of the Youth Union, we can witness the active work of coordinators in several areas within the organization. That is, each of the 13 faculties in our university has one faculty leader and 6-person council coordinators. Many university-wide competitions and projects are organized by these coordinators. Zakovat, debate intellectual games, e-sports and various competitions in several types of sports are among them. The Student Academy, established at the educational institution, serves to work with startup projects of students studying at the university, to guide them in their scientific and educational activities, and at the same time to provide them with all-round support.

Department of work with students' helps students to find solutions to problems that arise in their educational activities. The primary organization of the Youth Union works towards such important goals as discovering the abilities of students, attracting them to the directions of their interest, and providing all-round sup-

port.

We can say that 35% of the contract amount of the contract amount of the students who completed the military service with benefits and were admitted to the higher education institution on the basis of the contract by the initiative of the President of our republic Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev is demanded by the state budget. Following this decision, 103 students of the same students at the Jizzakh State Pedagogical University in the 2022-2023 academic year also took advantage of this opportunity, that is, 103 students were charged 35% of the fee contract amount by the state.

Within the framework of the "Five important initiatives" to be carried out at the national level, many competitions, for example, projects aimed at the development of reading, are constantly serving to organize students' free time in a meaningful and effective way.

It is worth noting the well-known scholarships established in order to properly encourage youth activities. Students who have achieved many successes in their careers are the recipients of these scholarships. It is noteworthy that university students Shokhrukh Kurbanov, Aziza Amonova was awarded Navoi state scholarship, Lochinbek Abduvov Bobur state scholarship, Mehriniso Ergasheva Islam Karimov state scholarship. Such achievements of university students are an honor and pride for the university.

Every year in our university, talented, active in every way, leading young girls, i.e. the most knowledgeable student of the year in a minor specialty. The most active promoter student of the year, the most active creative student of the year, the most active talented student of the year, the most active inventor-innovator student of the year, and the most active athlete student of the year will be awarded with souvenirs.

Students visit several ancient and famous corners of our country in the Student Travel project. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our university, active students visited Zomin district. The students got to know the suspension bridge in the district and ended the trip with a lot of impressions.

Jizzakh State Pedagogical University also has a Volunteer Center, which serves as a volunteer youth center. Volunteer centers create favorable conditions for social education, formation of citizenship and patriotism, support of work and social initiatives of professors and teachers and students, development of professional, personal and management skills of young citizens, as well as formation of labor and social skills of young people.

Today, Jizzakh State Pedagogical University has created conditions that meet world standards. In order to organize high-quality activities in the educational process, avoid corruption in the field, objectively as-

sess the knowledge of students, and prevent excessive red tape, the activity of the hemis platform is set aside. At the same time, it is necessary to stop the activities of the registrar's office. This department has full control over the students' learning process and is also responsible for conducting the final exams.

This educational system organized in our university is carried out in harmony with the educational system of leading developed countries of the world in accordance with world standards.

In conclusion, we can witness that the educational system at the University has changed radically. The conditions created for students and their rational use of these opportunities are a worthy contribution to the increase in the prestige of the university and to the high ranking of our country among the most developed countries.

Zilola Kenjebayeva Kuvondigovna

I was born in Ellikkala district of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Currently, I am a student of the Russian language and literature department of the Jizzakh State Pedagogical University.

Activities of Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. The faculty of Russian language and literature is Uzbek Russian language in language groups, 1st stage student Kenjebayeva

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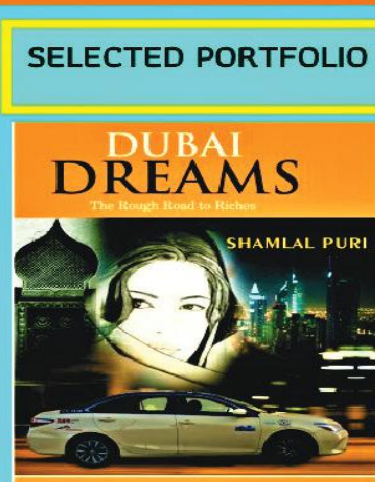
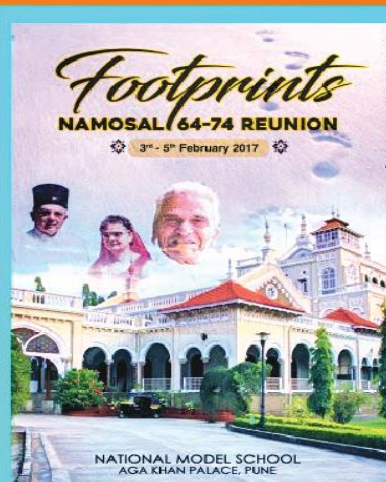
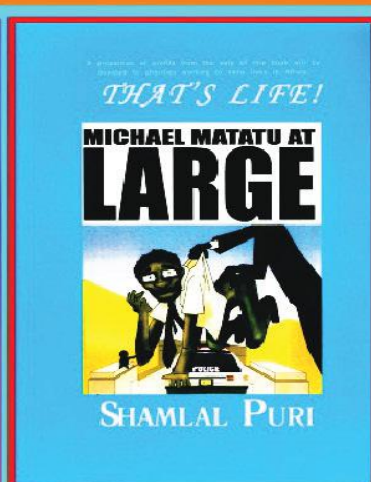
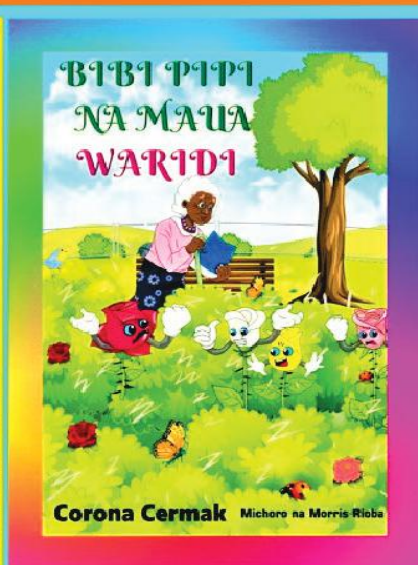
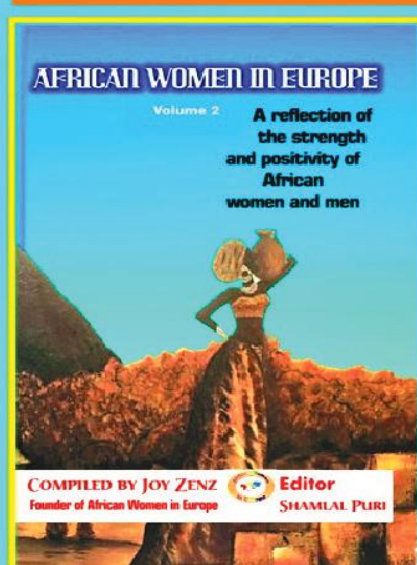
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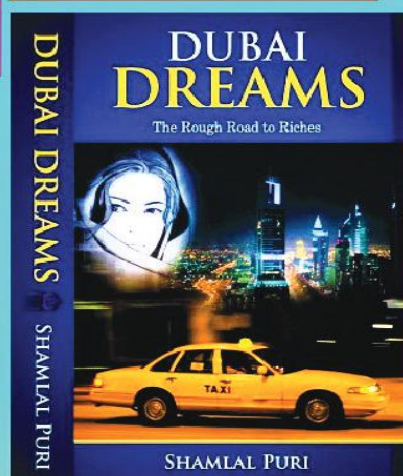
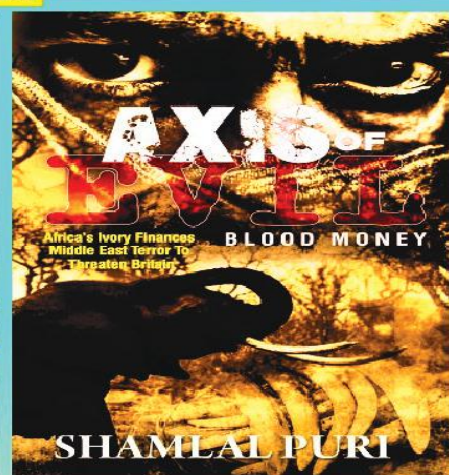
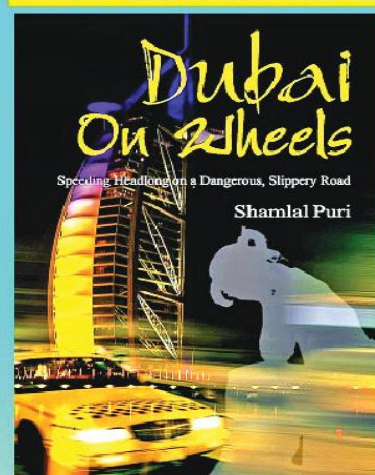
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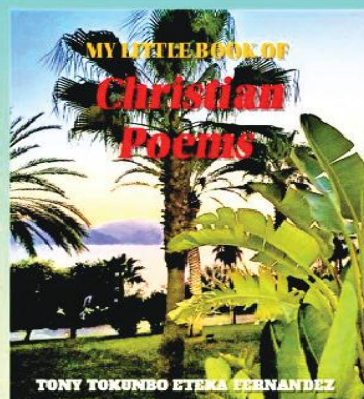
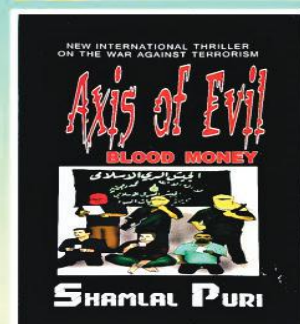
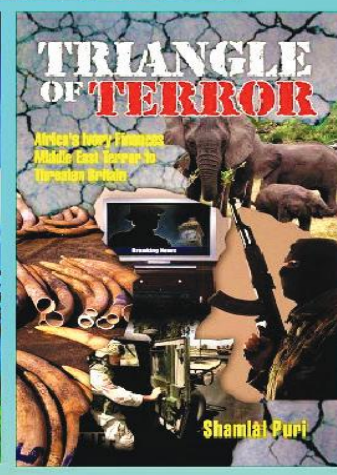
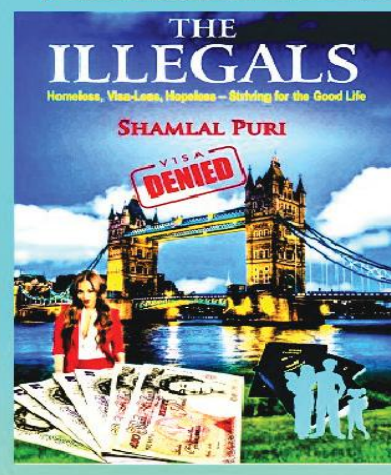
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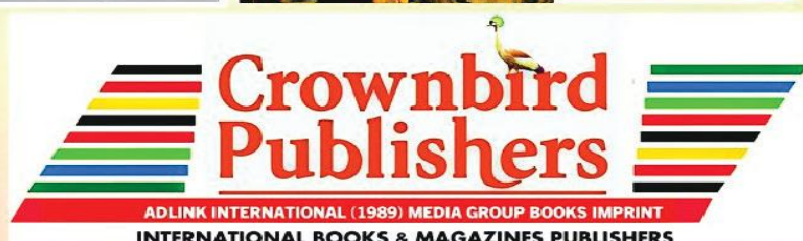


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UK News

Businesses abused Britain's generosity during the pandemic pay the price: CRIMINALS 'STOLE' BILLIONS IN COVID BOUNCE BACK BUSINESS LOANS MEGA-FRAUD EXPOSED IN BRITISH COURTS



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

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- It gave the lender a complete (100%) government-backed guarantee against the outstanding balance of the facility (both capital and interest). The borrower always remained fully liable for the debt.
- The scheme was open to businesses established before 2020 that Covid-19 adversely impacted.
- Any UK business in financial difficulties on 31 December 2019 during Covid could apply.
- Hundreds of thousands of businesses applied; while many thought the Government had reached out to them with the serious intention of helping them, many others thought there was an opportunity for free money.
- More than £47 billion was given to 1.6 million recipients who borrowed £50,000 each.

respected for its honesty. Of the money doled out with the Government's approval, an estimated £4.9 billion was lost to fraudsters. However, later, the Government claimed the figure was reduced to £3.5 billion – still a massive loss.

The scheme was established to help small and medium-sized businesses to borrow at the height of the lockdown and during the pandemic.

The scheme helped small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover. The maximum loan available was £50,000.

The Government guaranteed 100% of the loan, and there were no fees or interest for the first 12 months. After 12 months, the interest rate was 2.5% a year.

It gave the lender a complete (100%) government-backed guarantee against the outstanding balance of the facility (both capital and interest). The borrower always remained fully liable for the debt.

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Any UK business in financial difficulties on 31 December 2019 during Covid could apply.

Hundreds of thousands of businesses applied; while many thought the Government had reached out to them with the serious intention of helping them, many others thought there was an opportunity for free money. More than £47 billion was given to 1.6 million recipients who borrowed £50,000 each.

The law finally caught up with those who made fake claims and penalised them accordingly, either by banning them from running companies or jailing them. The opposition hit out, claiming the Government gave taxpayer funds to gangs of criminals, which was undoubtedly "a source of enduring shame to the Chancellor".

Banks usually conduct stringent credit checks to avoid fraud and ensure customers can repay their loans; the Boris Government was in such a rush to give these BBLs and speed up distribution that the authorities agreed to dispense with any checks,

The result was catastrophic for the taxpayers.

However, there were rules for borrowers to confirm that Covid hit them and that they were not insolvent as of 1 December 2019.

That was not difficult to prove by the applicants; many of them were genuine, but a considerable lot of them were fraudulent applicants,

Financial institutions conduct these checks as sought by the Government.

The unusual thing about these loans is that the Business Department, which managed these loan schemes, sought ministerial directions to push through them even though critics say they did not meet the usual standards for government borrowing.

The Government was in a rush to speed-track the scheme's launch, but they overlooked its vulnerability to abuse by individuals and organised crime.

Of the billions the Government lost, it is unlikely to recover all the loans given to fraudsters and experienced criminals. However, the legal machinery has begun to arrest and penalise those directly involved in the fraud. BBLs were claimed by thousands of including loans to fund gambling or currency trading, money that the Government is unlikely to recover.

Others took the money, not for their businesses but for his improvements, posh holidays, raffles, or luxury personal items.

Even organised crime stepped in. According to the National Crime Agency, there was the case of Arten Terzyan, a Russian and Lithuanian Devis Groguatskij, who were alleged to have been involved in laundering £19 million in BBL payments to the applicants in the UK.

Some 67% of the businesses that claimed BBLs were dissolved, and critics believe that it is unlikely the Government will be able to chase all fraudulent claims successfully.

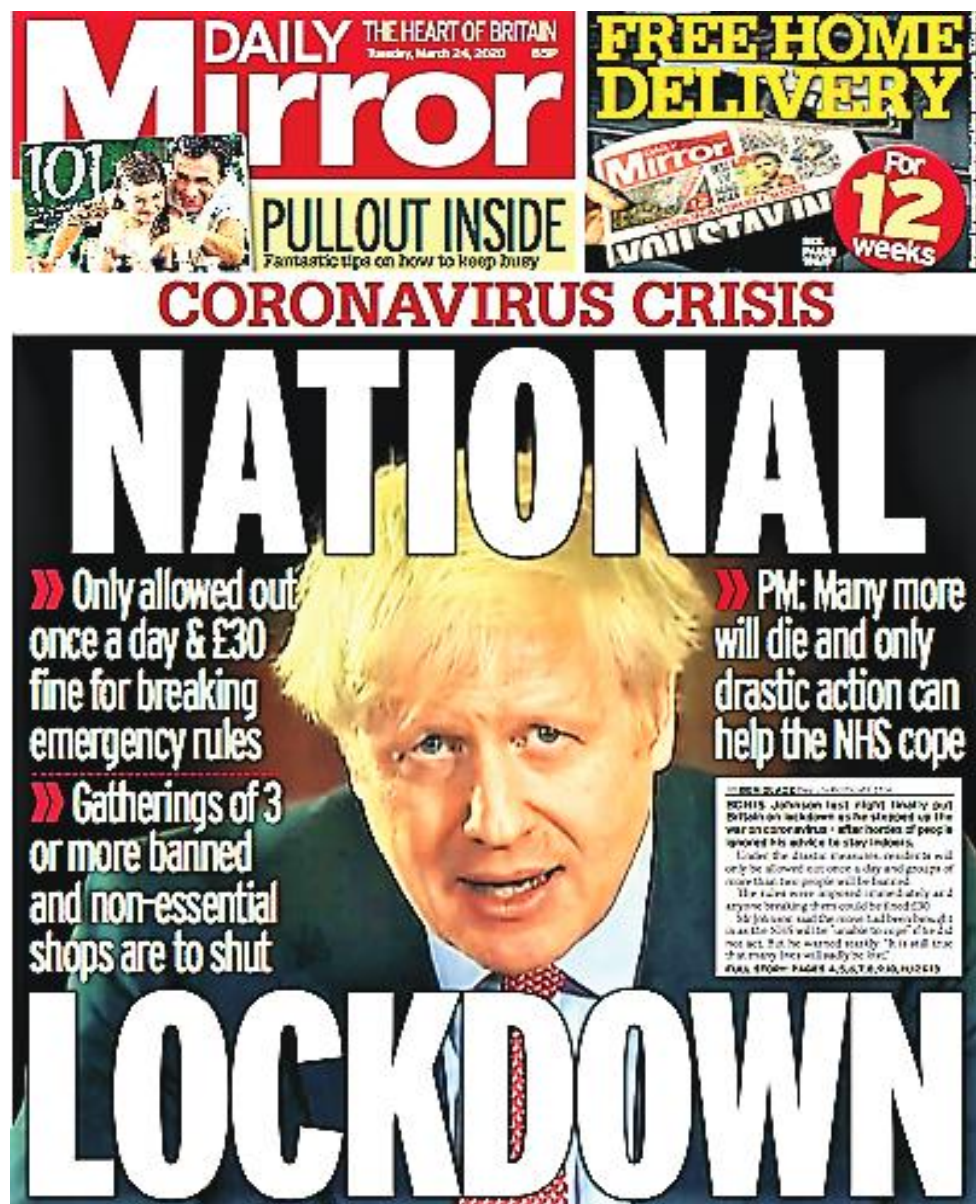
Some individual cases of abuse of BBLs and fraud have become known as the authorities continue to track them and bring them to justice.

These investigations cost

Contd Page 11.



Then Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed tough lockdowns which crippled UK business, and Bounce Back Loans were created in 2020



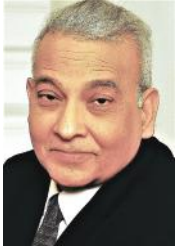
Flashback headlines of the 2020 lockdown, which Boris imposed, hit the business nationwide



Closed shops in central London during the lockdown in 2020. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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Taxpayers lost billions in Bounce Back Loan fraud. Photo National Crime Agency NCA



Guildford Court house where some bounce back loan fraudsters were taken, Photo courtesy



Snaresbrook_Crown_Court_ where some accused of abusing BBL were taken. Photo Cassianto.



London during the Covid 19 lockdowns. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Jailed for swindling the taxpayer,

Worth Noting:

- The unusual thing about these loans is that the Business Department, which managed these loan schemes, sought ministerial directions to push through them even though critics say they did not meet the usual standards for government borrowing,
- The Government was in a rush to speed-track the scheme's launch, but they overlooked its vulnerability to abuse by individuals and organised crime.
- Of the billions the Government lost, it is unlikely to recover all the loans given to fraudsters and experienced criminals. However, the legal machinery has begun to arrest and penalise those directly involved in the fraud.
- BBLs were claimed by thousands of including loans to fund gambling or currency trading, money that the Government is unlikely to recover,

more than £30 million; even this sum is considered conservative.

The Government does not have the money not to fight white-collar crime, and the fraudsters have probably got away until they are caught.

The Government is relying on banks to try to chase smaller-scale fraudsters, It would be impossible to blame just one community for these loans as the diaspora nut and the local Brits have been responsible for the BBL fraud.

Some of the cases highlighted include that of a Company Director from Rotherham obtained £150,000 BBL along with his friend who also took £50,000.,

Muneeb Ihsan, 26 from Rotherham, was the director of three companies between 2019 and 2020. All three - Porehart Ltd, Bargain Basement 90 Ltd and Bargains Basement 90 Ltd (note the Bargain with as 's') were voluntarily liquidated by Muneeb Ihsan in September 2020.

The liquidations triggered an investigation by the Insolvency Service, which found that Muneeb Ihsan opened a bank account for each company in June 2020, after the pandemic began, for the sole purpose of fraudulently obtaining three £50,000 Covid-19 Bounce Back Loans.

As there was no evidence that any of the companies had ever traded, none of them were eligible for the loans, which the Government made available for genuine firms struggling to keep going during lockdown.

Upon receiving the funds, Ihsan made cash withdrawals from each company's bank accounts totalling £24,342. He then transferred the remainder of the Bounce Bank Loan funds to companies controlled by Mahir

Towid Ul Haque, who he described as 'a close friend', and other third parties.

Mahir Towid Ul Haque (21), also from Rotherham, was appointed director of Hiit-ness Ltd in May 2020, which Ul Haque claimed was an online sports goods retailer.

Ul Haque placed the company into voluntary liquidation in November 2020, which triggered an investigation by the Insolvency Service.

Investigators uncovered that like Muneeb Ihsan, Ul Haque opened a bank account for the company in June 2020 and took out a £50,000 BBL. Further enquiries established that Ul Haque used the loan funds by purchasing a Rolex watch, transferring £16,050 to his personal account, withdrawing £8,410 in cash from the company bank account and transferring £12,500 to other third parties.

There was no evidence that the Bounce Back Loan had been used for the benefit of Hiit-ness Ltd or that it had ever traded during Ul Haque's time as a director of the business.

The Secretary of State accepted disqualification undertakings from both directors, with Muneeb Ihsan banned for 13 years and Mahir Towid UlHaque banned for six years.

Haulage company boss Kulwinder Singh Sidhu, 58, was from Stanwell, was not so lucky when he was jailed for 12 months after pleading guilty to offences under the Companies Act and the Fraud Act, having abused the Bounce Back Loan financial support scheme in 2020.

Sidhu was the director of

Contd Page 13.

Kenya-Ghana

Ghana's Akufo-Addo Endorses Kenya's AUC Candidature

By: Bruhan Makong .
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Ruto said Kenya's candidature is informed by its leading role in enhancing and sustaining the pan-African agenda.
- He singled out the push for independence and sovereignty, peace and security development and prosperity, sustainability, and climate action among priority areas for African countries.
- Ruto said the two bids present an opportunity for Kenya and Ghana to collaborate for mutual benefit.
- He expressed Kenya's commitment to work with all African States to propel the region forward in development and security.
- "We hope to work with all as we try to achieve Africa's 2063 agenda."
- President Ruto assured his Ghanaian counterpart of his support and Kenya's commitment to working with Ghana to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two states.



President Ruto was awarded the honour on Wednesday by his Ghanaian counterpart Nana Akufo-Addo, who hosted a State banquet for him in Accra/PCS

President William Ruto has secured Ghana's endorsement of Kenya's bid for the Africa Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson ahead of the February 2025 elections. The revelation comes as Kenya steps its charm offensive to convince regional leaders to support Raila Odinga to succeed the incumbent, Moussa Faki, who has served in the position since March 14, 2017. President Ruto said Wednesday, during a joint briefing with his Ghanaian counterpart Nana Akufo-Addo, in Accra, that Kenya would back Ghana's Minister for foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, for the position of Secretary General of the Commonwealth for the period 2024-2029, in reciprocity. "I thank you for accepting to support Kenya's candidate for the position of Chairperson of the African Union Commission 2025-2028, which has been initiated following a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process across governments," he said.

Pan-African agenda
Ruto said Kenya's candidature is informed by its leading role in enhancing and sustaining the pan-African

agenda. He singled out the push for independence and sovereignty, peace and security development and prosperity, sustainability, and climate action among priority areas for African countries. Ruto said the two bids present an opportunity for Kenya and Ghana to collaborate for mutual benefit. He expressed Kenya's commitment to work with all African States to propel the region forward in development and security. "We hope to work with all as we try to achieve Africa's 2063 agenda." President Ruto assured his Ghanaian counterpart of his support and Kenya's commitment to working with Ghana to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two states.

Eastern Africa's turn
On March 15, the African Union unanimously adopted the right of the Eastern Africa region to produce the next Chairperson of the African Union Commission in the February 2025 elections. Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi described it as a breakthrough for the East African region to present candidates for the post. Mudavadi who lobbied for the adoption of the decision

stated that it aligned with what Kenya has been pushing for. He noted the move would remove any technical or legal hurdles in Odinga's race for the AU Commission chairman post. The decision also provides that the Northern African region will front candidates for the Deputy Chairperson while the other three regions, Central, Southern, and Western will compete for the six positions of commissioners.

Consensus building
Mudavadi stated that Africa will work closely within

the 14-Member State Eastern Africa region to build consensus around the bloc's candidate. Notably, Kenya and Somalia have already put forward their candidates for the AUC position. Kenya began lobbying other African leaders for support after President Ruto announced plans to present Ruto as Kenya's regionally-backed candidate. Odinga has also sought the support of key actors in the continent. "I have requested my friend, former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, to continue advocating for my

candidacy and engage with other leaders," Odinga said following a meeting with Obasanjo in February. Odinga served as the AU High Representative for Infrastructure Development in Africa from 2018 to February 2023, a tenure that ended amid claims Nairobi had withdrawn its support following President Ruto's assumption of office. On March 5, President Ruto said East African Community leaders had agreed to sponsor Odinga as the candidate for the AUC chairman post, highlighting regional support for Odinga's candidacy.



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- **The liquidations triggered an investigation by the Insolvency Service, which found that Muneeb Ihsan opened a bank account for each company in June 2020, after the pandemic began, for the sole purpose of fraudulently obtaining three £50,000 Covid-19 Bounce Back Loans.**
- **As there was no evidence that any of the companies had ever traded, none of them were eligible for the loans, which the Government made available for genuine firms struggling to keep going during lockdown.**

Wavylane Ltd, a haulage company based in Stanwell, which has been trading since 2010.

On 9 June 2020, Sidhu applied for a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan from his bank on behalf of his business.

The loan was paid into the company bank account on 26 June 2020. Sidhu filed paperwork with Companies House to dissolve the business, transferring the funds to his personal bank account within two days of receipt.

The company was dissolved in October 2020 and was subsequently identified as likely Bounce Back Loan fraud by the Insolvency Service and cross-government counter-fraud systems.

The Insolvency Service investigation found that Sidhu had fraudulently overstated the company turnover in the Bounce Back Loan application, and within two days of receiving the money, he had transferred it to his personal account before dispersing the funds to his son and another company.

He pleaded guilty to charges under the Companies Act 2006 and Fraud Act 2006 at the court on 19 December 2022. He was sentenced on 13 February 2023 at Guildford Crown Court.

The court imposed a confiscation order for £50,000, and Sidhu has paid this in full.

In addition to the custodial sentence, Sidhu was disqualified as a director for six years.

Another glaring case that got investigators working is Rotherham resident Stephen Burke, 53, boss of four construction companies who overstated their turnover to claim £200,000 in BBLs falsely.

Burke was the director of four companies that provided services to construction projects: Yorkshire Plant Hire and Sales Ltd, Yorkshire Site Preparation Ltd, Woodhouse Civil Engineering Ltd, and Richmond Brokers Ltd.

Yorkshire Site Preparation Ltd was listed as a dormant firm with the Companies House, the registrar of Companies, while the other three companies' accounts ending January 2020 indicated turnover from just £635 to £3,400.

However, Burke stated that the application forms for the turnovers were between £200,000 and £320,000 for each company, allowing him

to secure four bounce-back loans for the entire £50,000 permitted.

He spent £174,000 repaying a personal loan that breached the BBL conditions.

He sought to dissolve all four companies in February 2021 but was blocked due to the outstanding BBL loans and instead placed into liquidation to recover this money. Burke admitted to obtaining the £200,000 Bounce Bank loan from the Government and was disqualified from being involved with any company for 11 years.

London businessman Rajesh Dhirajlal Vaghela, 46, from Stanmore, was sentenced to six months in prison and suspended for 18 months after pleading guilty to fraud by abusing the BBL scheme when he received a £25,000 loan before closing his business to avoid repaying the taxpayer loan.

He was ordered to pay £2,150 court costs. He has repaid the loan in full before being sentenced. Vaghela was a director of RKV Consultancy since 2019.

Vaghela had applied to the Companies House to dissolve his business and later transferred all the loan money to personal bank accounts.

Two directors of construction companies were banned from running a company for 16 years after breaching the BBL loans scheme.

Ivan Hristov Fratve, 57, from London, was the sole director of Bl&F Ltd, a construction, security and extermination business applied for a £50,000 BBL, but within 14 days of receiving the money, Fratve applied to dissolve Bl&F Ltd without repaying the loan, a criminal offence.

Fratve appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court on 23 June 2023, was given a two-year suspended sentence, and was electronically tagged for four months with a curfew order between 7 pm and 7 am. He was disqualified from being a company director for six years.

Another construction company director, Ryan William Moir, 34, from east Sussex, sole director of Croxton Group Ltd, applied for the maximum £50,000 loan, stating that his company's turnover the previous year was £250,000. When his company entered in May 2022, it owed £184,500, including over £49,400 toward



Lockdown London empty streets of central London. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



The Insolvency Service



Some company owners got this label.

the BBL.

Moir was banned from being a company director for ten years until 19 July 2033. Two company directors Azmi Shafi Ahmed, 28, from Grays, Essex, and George David Festivus Pinnegar, 31, from East Grinstead, were disqualified for a total of 17 years after each claimed the maximum £50,000.

Ahmed was the sole director of AZ Financials Ltd, trading as a bookkeeper from Ludgate Hill in London. In July 2020, he applied for a £50k BBL for the company after claiming that its previous year's turnover had been £200,000.

However, the Insolvency Service began investigating the director's conduct after AZ Financials Ltd went into liquidation in November 2022, owing the full amount of the loan.

Investigators found that the company's turnover in the previous year was less than £40,000. Ahmed had exaggerated the figures in the loan application by at least

five times the true amount to claim over £40,000 more than the bookkeeper had been entitled to.

They also discovered that three days after the money arrived in the company's account, Ahmed transferred the full £50,000 to his personal bank account.

Ahmed has now repaid £25,000 to the company's liquidator, and the remainder was repaid in June 2023. In a separate case, George Pinnegar, sole director of London Sound Engineering Ltd, also applied for a £50,000 loan for his company in July 2020 after claiming the estimated turnover for the previous year to be £250,000.

The business traded as a sound engineering firm from Hammerwood Park in East Grinstead –although the company was listed on Companies House as a temp agency.

It went into liquidation in August 2021, still owing the full amount of the loan.

Insolvency Service investi-

gators discovered that the company had filed dormant accounts, which showed that London Sound Engineering Ltd had not been actively trading on 1 March 2020 – one of the criteria required to apply for a Bounce Back Loan.

They found that Pinnegar had transferred almost £38,000 of the loan money to his bank account over six months. He also paid the remaining £12,000 into the bank account of a connected company.

The company's liquidator is currently working to recover the funds.

Azmi Ahmed's 6-year disqualification began on 13 June 2023, and George Pinnegar's 11-year ban started on 20 June 2023.

The bans prevent them from becoming involved in a company's promotion, formation, or management without the court's permission.

United Nations World Water Day

Drinking from China's new regulatory guidelines on water conservation

By:
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- The regulations propose determining rules on water use management, setting water usage quotas for key crops, industrial production, and service sectors. They also suggest implementing differentiated metering and pricing based on water sources and usage, including tiered water pricing for residential water usage, and additional charges for agricultural irrigation water usage that exceeds allotted quotas.
- In urban landscaping and greening, water use efficiency should be a primary consideration. In regions facing significant water scarcity, the use of drought-resistant plants, implementation of water-saving irrigation techniques, and regulation of water usage for artificial lakes should be prioritized. Public water supply companies should improve the management of pipe facilities and ensure smooth operations. They are obligated to establish a leakage control system and reduce water losses; otherwise, any excess losses will not be factored into water pricing.



Children show their paintings themed on saving water at the Haizhouwan Central Kindergarten in Lianyungang City, east China's Jiangsu Province, March 22, 2018, on the occasion of World Water Day. Various activities were held in China to mark the World Water Day, as an effort to promote the public awareness on saving water. (Xinhua/Geng Yuhe)

May 1, the regulations aim to provide legal guarantees for China's water security, advancement of ecological progress, and high-quality development.

The regulations propose determining rules on water use management, setting water usage quotas for key crops, industrial production, and service sectors. They also suggest implementing differentiated metering and pricing based on water sources and usage, including tiered water pricing for residential water usage, and additional charges for agricultural irrigation water usage that exceeds allotted quotas. In urban landscaping and greening, water use efficiency should be a primary consideration. In regions facing significant water scarcity, the use of drought-resistant plants, implementation of water-saving irrigation techniques, and regulation of water usage for artificial lakes should be prioritized. Public water supply com-

panies should improve the management of pipe facilities and ensure smooth operations. They are obligated to establish a leakage control system and reduce water losses; otherwise, any excess losses will not be factored into water pricing. China will restrict water-intensive projects in areas with severe water shortages or groundwater over-exploitation and gradually phase out outdated and water-intensive technologies, equipment, and products. The regulations stipulate legal responsibilities for illegal acts, with individuals who tamper with water meters facing fines ranging from 10,000 to 100,000 yuan, and businesses that resist water-saving renovations and neglect water recycling being penalized.

County-level Governments and above will guide agricultural production and operation entities to adjust the structure of planting, breeding, and water usage,

and develop water-saving agriculture and dryland farming suited to local conditions. New technologies are assumed to have great potential in optimizing agricultural production methods. China will continue to support the research and development of new strains of drought-resistant crops and promote the scientific use and eco-treatment of aquaculture wastewater. Additionally, efforts will be made to promote irrigation technology to improve water use efficiency.

China's Ministry of Water Resources says that since 1949, remarkable strides have been made in the development of water policies and regulations. The rollout of a significant number of water policies and regulations over time has resulted in an increasingly sophisticated legal framework on water resources. China has so far managed to put in place a fairly robust water law system that consists of,

among others, 4 pieces of legislation, 19 pieces of administrative regulations, 55 ministerial rules, and 700 or so subnational regulations and government rules.

China has also learned, and is still learning, from international best practice. As part of its efforts to move forward the development of water policies and legislation, the country has consistently taken care to learn from and draw upon international lessons and achievements in enacting water legislation. Over the course of the development and amendment of the Water Law and other regulations, international cooperation and interaction have enabled the country to learn and incorporate numerous state-of-the-art international management philosophies and regulatory regimes.

The legislative approach and lessons of other countries have served as a useful reference for China's adoption of a series of statutory arrange-

ments including water right, water extraction licensing, and a legal system that mandates the combination of basin-specific water resources management and administrative region-based water resources management.

Ultimately, to tackle its complex water challenges, the Ministry notes, China needs not just a solid engineering foundation and support of advanced technologies, but more importantly a robust institutional framework. The most daunting challenge confronting the current water regime is the failure of water resources, as a factor of production, to force a shift in the pattern of economic growth. The potential of water pricing in improving resource allocation, conservation, and protection has yet to be fully tapped. More needs to be done to motivate all segments of society to invest in the development of water infrastructure.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Sino-US

Analysts say Sino-US interactions gearing up: China Daily

By: China Daily
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu spoke by phone with US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell last week and talked about the bilateral ties as well as global and regional issues of common concern.
- In addition, later this month, San Francisco Mayor London Breed will travel to China, in what her office described as a “monumental opportunity” to bolster diplomatic and cultural relations.
- “The head-of-state diplomacy is fundamentally anchoring the relations, while the high-level interactions rolled out by senior officials such as Yellen and Blinken are framing and shaping the ties at the technical level. The former underpins the latter,” said Diao Daming, a professor of US studies at Renmin University of China’s School of International Studies.



Vice-Premier He Lifeng shakes hands with US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on Friday. PEDRO PARDO/AFP

As more delegations of US officials, students and business leaders are poised to arrive from across the Pacific later this month, diplomacy and exchanges have been blossoming recently between China and the United States in official, semiofficial and nongovernmental contexts at various levels. Analysts said the rising frequency of interactions and the improving momentum of the ties are hard-won, and Washington needs to further correct its perception of China and make its coercion policy against China give way to win-win cooperation. President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden held a phone conversation on Tuesday. “The two presidents found the phone call to be candid and constructive. The two sides agreed to stay in communication, and tasked their teams to deliver on the San Francisco vision,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. On Thursday, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen

kicked off her second trip to China in eight months, which is scheduled to last until Tuesday. Washington also plans to send US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to visit China this month to strengthen dialogue and communication. Vice-Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu spoke by phone with US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell last week and talked about the bilateral ties as well as global and regional issues of common concern. In addition, later this month, San Francisco Mayor London Breed will travel to China, in what her office described as a “monumental opportunity” to bolster diplomatic and cultural relations. “The head-of-state diplomacy is fundamentally anchoring the relations, while the high-level interactions rolled out by senior officials such as Yellen and Blinken are framing and shaping the ties at the technical level. The former underpins the latter,” said Diao Daming,

a professor of US studies at Renmin University of China’s School of International Studies. “As one of the highlights of his administration in foreign affairs, Biden certainly wants to further keep the relationship generally stable this year. And a major sign of stability is maintaining communication with the Chinese side at all levels,” Diao said that if the White House sincerely looks to keep the relations afloat, “it is imperative that it really delivers on its promises on topics such as trade and the Taiwan question, and does not stir up more trouble”. Over the past few months, government departments and working teams have maintained communication and made progress in a number of areas, including diplomacy, trade, finance, law enforcement and counternarcotics. Groups of US students have also taken trips to China lately as part of a five-year student exchange plan proposed by Xi to invite 50,000

young people from the US to visit the country. Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Monday that “China supports and encourages more mutual visits and exchanges between Chinese and American people from all sectors.” Su Xiaohui, deputy director of the Department for American Studies at the China Institute of International Studies, said the recent interactions between the two nations reflect the fact that the “momentum of the ties is continuing” and is being further improved. “Behind the China trip made by so many corporate executives from the US is their idea that the two countries have reached a consensus on stabilizing ties and are embarking on cooperation in specific areas,” she said. Last week, Xi met with a group of representatives of the US business, strategic and academic communities at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. “The history of China-US relations is one of friendly exchanges

between the two peoples,” Xi said. Stephen Orlins, president of the National Committee on US-China Relations, attended the event. “Most of the people were CEOs of very big companies that have enormous stakes in China, and what they received was assurance about the Chinese economy, assurance about... the investment environment,” Orlins told Chinese media after the meeting. Ban Ki-moon, former United Nations secretary-general and chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia, expressed his hope recently that China-US ties could be kept afloat. “While the relationship between the United States and China — the No 1 and No 2 countries in the world — is not so smooth at this time, I sincerely hope that the two leaders, whoever may be elected the next (US) president in November, will work very closely,” he told Chinese media in an interview.

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Diaspora

Tough times for the media, but resilient ones will remain

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Journalists ascending to positions of management in news organizations are being asked to undergo training and further studies in business management rather than in journalism.
- In several media houses, the editorial, which is the core business of the companies, is the most neglected, invested in, and valued compared with advertising or commercial departments.
- You will be surprised at how many resources are wasted on non-core issues — abandoned equipment, offices, studios, printing equipment, vehicles, and related items at all media houses.
- We must value journalists and remember it's useless for journalism to be writing about corruption and other ills in other sectors when it's worse in the media. The media must clean house and embrace accountability, human rights, and best practices in human and economic resource management.



The media festival hosted by Baraza Media Lab provided a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas on innovative and forward-thinking projects/CFM - Sharon Resian

By and large, it's not an interesting time for journalists in Kenya. Journalism in Kenya, just like in the rest of the world, is going through a challenging time technologically, economically, and professionally; hurdles that call for a deeper reflection by all and sundry. The current instability and massive layoffs in the media in Kenya have very little to do with professional production and redundancy, as we are made to understand, but economically motivated actions that have everything to do with mismanagement, corruption, and unethical business conduct by some media managers and owners. Journalists are just being sacrificed. Uncertainty over innovation such as Artificial Intelligence, a hostile business environment, denial of revenue from advertising, credibility and trust issues, unethical behavior by journalists, among others, are threatening the sector.

A number of media outlets are coming up with innovative ideas including in-depth public interest content, cost-saving interventions, and fundraising strategies that will ensure the media industry remains, but more is needed so that it's not seen as an industry being ostracized. The purely economic and factory management approach to running media business has pushed journalists to the brink. News has become a product for sale, and investors want huge returns from the enterprises at the expense of news that has public value. Journalists ascending to positions of management in news organizations are being asked to undergo training and further studies in business management rather than in journalism. In several media houses, the editorial, which is the core business of the companies, is the most neglected, invested in, and valued compared

with advertising or commercial departments. You will be surprised at how many resources are wasted on non-core issues — abandoned equipment, offices, studios, printing equipment, vehicles, and related items at all media houses. We must value journalists and remember it's useless for journalism to be writing about corruption and other ills in other sectors when it's worse in the media. The media must clean house and embrace accountability, human rights, and best practices in human and economic resource management. I think journalists must start talking about the running down of media enterprises by managers, who then sacrifice journalists in them to make their companies remain afloat. Procurement mismanagement, white elephants, and poor investment decisions are the order of the day in media companies, and quick, prudent decision-making is lacking,

leaving journalists equally frustrated. Similarly, journalists should now move to separate the commercial interests of their employers and the professional ethics for which they were trained. We must, while serving the interests of our employers, also work on ensuring and holding ourselves to the professional standards that differentiate us from media workers, and this might not be served within the existing formations. From the interest and recent actions from other quarters, Kenyans are largely taking a very punitive approach to rein in on the media. Everyone seems to be blaming the media for all manner of evil, and some journalists seem to be succumbing to the pressure — either by doing purely public relations stories or abandoning newsrooms. The legal environment and the mob justice approach to dealing with journalists have seriously exposed the media to threats. It would seem the government has started applying subjective allocation of advertising revenue to compliant media houses, while certain private corporations, through corporate tyranny, have also sought to influence editorial independence by withholding advertising revenue. The current onslaught on journalists calls for an urgent awakening amongst

journalists to reevaluate and improve media professionalism and accountability within the industry and, above all, improve the working environment for media practitioners in the country. The media must work towards creating solidarity and a common agenda for the media fraternity in the country to not only reduce the divisions in the sector but ensure that media issues are part of the national agenda, and a conducive environment is created for the media to play its role in national development unhindered. More importantly, as media criticism takes shape and is welcome, Kenyans should be aware that not all people carrying cameras, recorders, and notebooks are journalists or work for legitimate and credible media outlets; many are mere cons and brokers looking for your money. Press conferences will be packed to capacity, fake interviews will be done, and several sources will be asked to facilitate or "release" the "journalists" after those interviews or press conferences; but no stories will be forthcoming. Angry sources, after failing to see the articles, will accuse media of all manner of things, creating a very hostile working environment for journalists and other media workers who are legitimate.



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Diaspora

How to use communication to manage turbulent times

During and even after the pandemic, many organizations underwent and are undergoing major restructuring.

By: Dr. Caroline Kiarie
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Dr. Caroline Kiarie is an Assistant Professor, Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications.

Worth Noting:

- According to Grammarly’s State of Business Communications Report published in 2023, leaders reported a 15 per cent decline in productivity due to poor communication at work while knowledge workers reported a 7 per cent increase in stress due to poor communication at work. Without a strategic approach to communication, miscommunication happens, information becomes fragmented, and collaboration communication at work.
- Without a strategic approach to communication, miscommunication happens, information becomes fragmented, and collaboration fails. However, when communication is strategically coordinated, it becomes the conduit through which shared goals are articulated, visions are clarified, and collective efforts are achieved.
- Strategic communication professionals offer specialized expertise that ensures that relevant, credible, and impactful communication is happening in society.

During and even after the pandemic, many organizations underwent and are undergoing major restructuring. In such situations, without strategic communication, employees across various departments may feel disconnected and uncertain about the future. However, by implementing a carefully crafted communication strategy that emphasizes transparency, empathy, and clarity, leaders can reduce anxieties, align diverse teams, and inspire confidence in the organization’s future. This strategic approach not only mitigates resistance to change but also cultivates a sense of unity and purpose among employees as there is a strong employee voice, fostering a more resilient and adaptive organizational culture. Strategic communication is a deliberate and thoughtful approach that goes beyond the mere exchange of information, and instead fosters understanding, alignment, and progress within an organization. As we navigate the new era defined by prosumers, rapid change and unprecedented connectivity, the need for strategic communication in the workplace is paramount. How then, given the ever-changing landscape, can strategic communication

be leveraged to improve the workplace. To foster growth towards shared goals in a workplace where teams are increasingly diverse, dispersed, and digitally connected, the risk of misalignment, misunderstanding, miscommunication, and misinformation can affect the bottom line of the organization. According to Grammarly’s State of Business Communications Report published in 2023, leaders reported a 15 per cent decline in productivity due to poor communication at work while knowledge workers reported a 7 per cent increase in stress due to poor communication at work. Without a strategic approach to communication, miscommunication happens, information becomes fragmented, and collaboration communication at work. Without a strategic approach to communication, miscommunication happens, information becomes fragmented, and collaboration fails. However, when communication is strategically coordinated, it becomes the conduit through which shared goals are articulated, visions are clarified, and collective efforts are achieved. Strategic communication professionals offer specialized expertise that ensures that relevant, credible, and

impactful communication is happening in society. In this way, they build and sustain relationships in organizations both internally and externally promoting growth towards a common goal. This often translates to a positive reputation and business image which leads to increased business value. To bridge the gap between leaders and their employees Strategic communication helps guide leaders and their ideas to connect with their employees and communicate effectively. It involves a rigorous process that is fundamental to the growth of a business since there is a deep understanding of challenges and opportunities. This becomes important in crafting approaches that shape the perceptions and relationships of an organization. For instance, during and even after the pandemic, many organizations underwent and are undergoing major restructuring. In such situations, without strategic communication, employees across various departments may feel disconnected and uncertain about the future. However, by implementing a carefully crafted communication strategy that emphasizes transparency, empathy, and clarity, leaders can reduce anxieties, align diverse teams, and inspire

confidence in the organization’s future. This strategic approach not only mitigates resistance to change but also cultivates a sense of unity and purpose among employees as there is a strong employee voice, fostering a more resilient and adaptive organizational culture. To guide leaders and key decision-makers Strategic communication serves as an anchor for effective leadership and decision-making. As we are now in an increasingly dynamic and hyper-connected world, leaders are overwhelmed with information, opinions, and perspectives adding artificial intelligence to the mix. Without strategic thinking, information overload can blind their decision-making and hurt the organization’s objectives. Leaders therefore need to embrace strategic communication principles where crafting and asking questions is a tool, effective listening and strategic communication are key, and the value of feedback is a gift. The principles help in getting a holistic picture that contributes to the adaptation, adjustment, and transformation of organizational decisive actions. In the absence of strategic communication, leaders may struggle to convey the

rationale behind their goals, leading to confusion among employees, investors, and other stakeholders. However, by leveraging strategic communication techniques such as storytelling, framing, and tailored messaging for their stakeholders, leaders can articulate a compelling narrative that mitigates the challenges, provides opportunities, and contributes to the organization’s success. All this underscores the importance of strategic communication in the modern workplace. In a world defined by complexity, uncertainty, and rapid change, effective communication is no longer a luxury but a strategic necessity. By embracing strategic communication principles, organizations can navigate complex ecosystems by recognizing communication is a powerful tool for connecting, building, and enhancing relationships, driving change, and shaping the future modern workplace. Dr. Caroline Kiarie, Assistant Professor, Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications

Diaspora

Opportunities For Young Generation In Uzbekistan

By: Salimova Sevara Khidirbai
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Worth Noting:

- Uzbekistan always helps every citizen. For instance, “Youth Register” (Yoshlar daftari) will be the right example for this sentence. Financial assistance is given to young people in difficult financial situation, included in the “Youth Register”, up to 1.320.000 UZS.
- An application is made to the local youth leader for financial assistance. The youth leader examines the social status of the applicant within 3 working days and informs the Board of Trustees (district (city) youth affairs department) about granting or refusing financial assistance.
- Financial aid is given in cash or plastic card through “Khalq Bank”. Receiving one-time financial assistance is not a reason to exclude young people from the “Youth Register”. Financial assistance is provided once a year.



Salimova Sevara Khidirbai

Each and every developed or developing country always takes youth rights into consideration. I can easily say, Uzbekistan is also one of the highly developing country. To cite an example, there are a lot of opportunities for all people in who lives in Uzbekistan, including youngsters. In Uzbekistan each and every people can take part in book reading competition named by “Intelligent reader” (Zukko kitobxon). In this competition every month the book list, which includes 3 books, announced via official telegram channel. During the month participants should read all of the 3 books and at the last 10 days of the month applicators take an online

exam on Telegram. Then maximum 6 top applicators, who answered the most tests correctly, are selected from every regional district and they get opportunity to the next (final) round of this competition. At the final round of this competition every team answers 30 questions (10 questions from every book), after then according to correct answers the winners announced. Prize money for active participated teams is 300.000 UZS, for 3rd place is 3.600.000 UZS, for 2nd place is 4.800.000 UZS and for the 1st place is 6.600.000 UZS. Participating is not limited in this competition. Uzbekistan always helps every citizen. For instance,

“Youth Register” (Yoshlar daftari) will be the right example for this sentence. Financial assistance is given to young people in difficult financial situation, included in the “Youth Register”, up to 1.320.000 UZS. An application is made to the local youth leader for financial assistance. The youth leader examines the social status of the applicant within 3 working days and informs the Board of Trustees (district (city) youth affairs department) about granting or refusing financial assistance. Financial aid is given in cash or plastic card through “Khalq Bank”. Receiving one-time financial assistance is not a reason to ex-

clude young people from the “Youth Register”. Financial assistance is provided once a year. The expenses of young people studying for entrepreneurship and profession will be covered up to 75 percent of the expenses of young people studying for entrepreneurship and profession will be paid based on the positive recommendation of the deputy mayor. To do this, young people who want to study entrepreneurship or profession submit an application and a copy of the training course contract to the district (city) Department of Youth Affairs. The name of the educational organization, the name of the educa-

tional course or profession, the amount of one month’s payment and the total term should be specified in the contract. As well as, Uzbekistan is full of opportunities to study on abroad. With the help of El-Yurt Umidi Fund any talented student can study on abroad without any expenses. The scholarship’s tuition fee (contract) for bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral studies in foreign countries, transportation costs to the place of study abroad (both ways, at most once a year), study abroad living, food and domestic transportation expenses during the period of receiving, obtaining a visa and medical insurance of the scholar during the period of study abroad, purchasing necessary literature and textbooks, publishing scientific articles at the request of a foreign university, and related to the scholar’s study abroad other expenses will be paid. First of all, for using this opportunity applicant should be accepted any foreign universities or colleges. There are 22 places for bachelor’s degree, 193 places for master’s degree, 130 places for doctoral studies. Architecture and design, culture and art, journalism and public relations (PR), geology, agriculture, forestry and water management, space technology, nanotechnology, IT and digitization, which are considered to be in short supply in the country for the scholarship competition, attention is focused on priority specialties in such fields as artificial intelligence, atomic and solar energy, health care, telemedicine, electric power, oil and gas. Salimova Sevara Khidirbai’s daughter was born on May 17, 2005 in the city of Samarkand, Samarkand region. In 2012, he was admitted to the 12th general education school in Samarkand. During 2021-2023, he studied at the academic lyceum under the Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service. Currently, he is a student of the 1st stage of the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages. Until now, he has participated in many international events, including CRIC21, FIDE world rapid and blitz championship, UzTEA conference.

Let's Protect Our Language

By: Mehriniso Juraeva .
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Worth Noting:

- They can implement policies and provide funding to support indigenous languages and their speakers. Bilingual education programs, language revitalization projects, and initiatives to incorporate indigenous languages into official documents can help preserve and promote these languages. Technology can also be a useful tool in preserving languages.
- With the advancement of technology, it is now possible to create audio and visual recordings of languages, document grammar rules, and create digital dictionaries. These resources can be made available to the public, thus providing access to endangered languages to a wider audience. Furthermore, as consumers, we can also play our part in language protection by supporting and consuming media content in endangered languages.



Mehriniso Juraeva

Furthermore, as consumers, we can also play our part in language protection by supporting and consuming media content in endangered languages.

Language is a powerful tool that connects people, provides a sense of identity, and enables us to express our thoughts and emotions. It is an essential aspect of human communication and plays a crucial role in shaping our individual and collective identities. In today's interconnected world, the protection of languages is a crucial matter that demands attention. A language is not just a set of words and grammar rules; it is a reflection of a culture, heritage, and beliefs of a community. It binds people together and helps them pass down their traditions and values from one generation to the next. However, with the spread of globalization and the dominance of a few dominant languages, many languages around the world are facing

the threat of extinction.

The UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger reports that around 600 languages have already disappeared in the last century, and over 2,500 more are on the verge of extinction. This startling fact calls for immediate action to protect and preserve these endangered languages. One of the primary reasons for language endangerment is the dominance of a few major languages in the global market. English is considered the lingua franca of the world, and its widespread use in business, science, and education has led to the decline of smaller, indigenous languages. As people migrate in search of better opportunities and education, they often abandon their mother tongue to learn the dominant language. This results in the gradual disappearance of these languages, along with their cultures and traditions.

Language preservation

must begin at the grassroots level with the communities that speak endangered languages. It is essential to create awareness about the importance and value of these languages among the younger generation. Schools, cultural centers, and community organizations can play a significant role in promoting and preserving indigenous languages.

They can offer language classes, cultural events, and workshops to encourage people to use their native language and pass it on to future generations. Governments also have a crucial role to play in the protection of languages.

They can implement policies and provide funding to support indigenous languages and their speakers. Bilingual education programs, language revitalization projects, and initiatives to incorporate indigenous languages into official documents can help preserve and promote these languages. Technology

can also be a useful tool in preserving languages.

With the advancement of technology, it is now possible to create audio and visual recordings of languages, document grammar rules, and create digital dictionaries. These resources can be made available to the public, thus providing access to endangered languages to a wider audience. Furthermore, as consumers, we can also play our part in language protection by supporting and consuming media content in endangered languages.

By reading books, watching movies, and listening to music in these languages, we can help sustain their existence. It is also essential to respect and appreciate cultural diversity and the different languages spoken by people around us.

In conclusion, language protection is crucial for the preservation of cultural diversity and the maintenance of our collective heritage. It

is our responsibility to raise awareness, promote, and support endangered languages. Let us join hands to protect and celebrate the richness and diversity of languages for the generations to come.

As American linguist and activist Noam Chomsky once said, "Language is a process of free creation; its laws and principles are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generation are used is free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation." Let us protect this freedom of creation by protecting all languages.

Mehriniso Juraeva
Student of Termez State University

Unsmiling Packaging In Your Delicate Hand!

By: Mamarasulova Dildora.
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Worth Noting:

- Uzbekistan always helps every citizen. For instance, "Youth Register" (Yoshlar daftari) will be the right example for this sentence. Financial assistance is given to young people in difficult financial situation, included in the "Youth Register", up to 1.320.000 UZS.
- An application is made to the local youth leader for financial assistance. The youth leader examines the social status of the applicant within 3 working days and informs the Board of Trustees (district (city) youth affairs department) about granting or refusing financial assistance.
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Mamarasulova Dildora

The mother was asked: "Which of your children do you love?"

Mother said: "I will love the patient until he recovers, the stranger until he returns, the little one until he grows up, and until I pass away from the world."

That's the kind of person she is. Hot doesn't mean hot and cold doesn't mean cold. The bird rests when he rests, but she doesn't rest. It seems that the whole world in our life is closely connected with the word "mother". From the moment a person comes into the bright world, for the first time, she feels the mother's warm bosom, white milk, boundless love. Every night before giving birth to us, she experiences vigilance, restlessness and

sleepless nights. When we come to this bright world, no one will have the same joy and happiness as her joy. A kind person who teaches life lessons, who spent nights awake for his child, who does not hesitate from work and effort for his happiness and future, who always shows the right path, who finds a way to our hearts by sharing love, who is a grateful sharer of goodness - is a mother.

The place of our mothers in our lives is very important. It seems that we are nothing without our mother. If there are no prayers addressed to us with great intentions, neither our work nor our life will be meaningful. Thanks to her knowledge, knowledge, and work in ev-

ery field, which she taught us in order not to stumble on our way of life, we are currently achieving many victories. It is a duty for our parents to bring up a child who is good for the country, who benefits the country with his abilities and potential, who is progressive in every aspect.

Our mother supports us every step of the way, encourages us, inspires us, and encourages us to act. No matter what the situation is, night or day, always by our side. Although not physically strong, it gives us the will to overcome great obstacles and dangers for the sake of our children and family. It makes it possible for us to be physically, intellectually and mentally strong.

A person who is always ready to give everything so that we are not less than anyone else. A dignified person who turns to light when we are afraid of darkness. She is a mother, a teacher, a friend and a confidant for us. Whether we have experienced a small failure, we wish never to be easily defeated in life, to make no mistakes in life's trials and exams, behind every difficulty in existence, great success, boundless happiness, strong will, and many achievements await us.

Therefore, wherever there is good in this world, as there is evil, there are children who can protect their mother like a delicate flower, never let her down, always honor, honor and respect her, and be a true example for others. Unfortunately, there are also children who are not interested in their parent's condition, who only use it for their own benefit, who did not appreciate it in time, who did not realize that heaven is under the feet of mothers. Let's remember a story here. The content of the story is as follows: it was noted that we should always treat our parents with the same courtesy, respect them, take a deep place in their pure hearts with goodness, and feel humble around them. It is said that a young man lives alone with his mother. One day, when the young man tries to put on his shirt, he notices that one of the buttons is missing and has fallen off.

"Mom, where is the button on my shirt?" she yelled to his mother to express her pain. Mother she immediately presses the button and gives it to his son. However, the son's anger could not be suppressed, she yelled at his mother even more rudely and slammed the door of the room, scattering his things in his hands. His mother is depressed, unable to speak a single word. The young man deeply regrets his treatment of his mother, is restless at night, and goes out without a wink.

When he wakes up in the morning and goes to her mother, he starts to apologize. But there is no sound from the mother. The guy is not feeling well and goes to class. In the course of training, without a single word entering his mind, he thinks that something bad will happen to him today because I hurt my mother. Why did I hurt my mother? In any case, the reverend tries to apologize to his breed and cheer him up. He wants to write a letter to his mother from his phone and doesn't know what to write. The end says:

" - I just read a piece of information. It is said that the bottom of a person's foot is softer than the top of it. My dear mother, kiss both the bottom and the top of your feet to confirm this information. will you allow me to reach you? ", he sends the message. This is when the lesson begins. Even when he was sitting, he was hurrying to go home and kiss his mother's feet. As soon as he finished his studies, he was about to return home when he received a message from his mother. His mother answered him:

" - No, my son, I will not allow it. Because I know that this information is true. I knew you when you were a baby, my child. I kissed the soles of your feet and the tops of them while you were there. "My child," he says. The young man could not help himself after his mother's answer. Tears streamed from his eyes. He flew home like the wind. That he was never in such a hurry felt. As soon as he entered the house, he threw himself on his mother's chest and kissed her cheeks, eyes, and hands. He wanted to kiss her feet, but his mother did not let him. Hugging his mother tightly, he said: "Mom, forgive me."

His mother shed tears and comforted him saying: "I am not angry with you, my dear child, I have already forgiven." Mothers love their children more than themselves. One of the most common characteristics of all mothers on the planet is that they always forgive their children, no matter what their mistakes are. After all, there is no one in this world more precious and necessary than children.

God gave them strong will, endless love, faith and loyalty. Let's never disrespect our mothers, let's never hurt them, let's be gentle in being kind and open-minded. Let's always be happy and take a place in the heart. In conclusion, we must say that the key to our heaven, the happiness and pleasure in this bright world, the basis of all our successes up to this day, is the approval of our Lord. After all, where else is there a place for us that is warmer, calmer, safer than the bosom of our paradise? Undoubtedly, in the mother! Dildora:

Termiz State Pedagogical Institute, Faculty of Philology, Department of Uzbek language and literature, second stage, student of group 207, Mamarasulova Dildora

The Pathway of Water: Promoting Peaceful Ties, fostering Harmony and Prosperity

By: Kanani Wanjohi .
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Worth Noting:

- Kenya's water story is complex, interlaced with obstacles and opportunities. With its varied landscape and rising population, Kenya faces unique water problems.
- Understanding how water influences human settlement, collaboration, and prosperity in Kenya provides essential insights for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advocating water for peace on a global scale.
- Because of the variable climate and geographically uneven rainfall patterns, some regions experience prolonged droughts while others experience seasonal floods, hence the urgent need to develop innovative, long-term water management solutions that promote equal distribution and reduce conflict.
- Climate change threatens Kenya's water security, as it does to many other regions worldwide. Erratic rainfall patterns affect traditional water-gathering methods and strain current water infrastructure.



Historically, water has been a central factor in human settlement patterns. Ancient civilizations flourished along the banks of rivers. Modern cities cluster around freshwater sources, impacting how and where people live. However, unequal access to water resources has led to tensions, especially where water is scarce or polluted; competition for limited resources can escalate into conflicts, aggravating social and political instability. Water also fosters harmony and prosperity when managed equitably and sustainably. Access to clean water and sanitation improves public health and enhances educational opportunities, and overall well-being. By ensuring universal access to water and sanitation, communities can reach their full potential, increasing social cohesion and economic prosperity. Water is also a pathway for international cooperation and discussions, promoting peaceful ties and collaborative action on shared water resources. The United Nations (UN) World Water Day on 22nd March is an annual reminder of the global water crisis. This year's theme, "Water for Peace," highlights the critical role of water in promoting

cooperation and averting conflict. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF (2023), approximately 2.2 billion individuals still lack access to safe drinking water, with 115 million relying on surface water sources. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022), about half of the world's population faces acute water scarcity at some point each year. Furthermore, according to the World Bank (2022), water-related disasters account for 70 percent of all-natural disaster mortality. Kenya's water story is complex, interlaced with obstacles and opportunities. With its varied landscape and rising population, Kenya faces unique water problems. Understanding how water influences human settlement, collaboration, and prosperity in Kenya provides essential insights for accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advocating water for peace on a global scale. Because of the variable climate and geographically uneven rainfall patterns, some regions experience prolonged droughts while others experience seasonal floods, hence the urgent need to develop innovative,

long-term water management solutions that promote equal distribution and reduce conflict. Climate change threatens Kenya's water security, as it does to many other regions worldwide. Erratic rainfall patterns affect traditional water-gathering methods and strain current water infrastructure. Adaptation methods, such as growing drought-tolerant crops and increasing water efficiency are critical for strengthening resilience. But all is not lost Kenya has a long history of applying conventional methods of managing water, such as rainwater collection and sand dams. Kenya needs sustainable water management systems by combining these techniques with contemporary solutions, as evidenced by the increased uptake of modern infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, boreholes, and dams. Water for peace in Kenya requires a collaborative effort from various stakeholders such as the government, communities, civil societies, NGOs, and the private sector. Governments should invest in infrastructure, promote sustainable practices, and foster water governance frameworks. Addressing water pollution and ensuring water rights for all citi-

zens is vital. Community engagement is also critical to the success of water projects. Local knowledge and engagement are essential for ensuring that initiatives are culturally appropriate and suit the unique needs of communities. Such partnerships raise awareness about water concerns, lobby for policy reform, and implement water management projects at the community level. With its global network of volunteers and humanitarian projects, Rotary International has been at the forefront of leveraging water for peace and prosperity. Through initiatives like the Rotary Water and Sanitation Program and the Rotary Foundation's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) projects, Rotary Clubs have significantly improved access to clean water and sanitation in underserved communities worldwide. Rotary clubs in District 9212, which includes Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Eritrea, have been instrumental in drilling boreholes, building rainwater harvesting systems, and promoting hygiene education in Kenyan communities. In June In 2021, The Rotary Club of Nairobi—Lang'ata, in partnership with Kenya Defence Forces, drilled a borehole for the Oloomaiya-

na community, installing a solar-powered water pumping system to supply over 12,000 people. Before the project's launch, Oloomaiyana commuted for at least fifteen kilometers daily to fetch water from the nearest basin for their livestock and personal use. The water was also reticulated 4km to the Oloomaiyana Centre water kiosks and adjacent facilities, such as the Early Childhood Education Centre and the local dispensary. Let us reaffirm our commitment to using water to promote peace and sustainable development. By promoting water stewardship, emphasizing equitable access to water resources, and encouraging collaboration at all levels, we can create a more just, resilient, and affluent world for current and future generations. Allow water to serve as a source of life and a catalyst for peace, unity, and progress. We must act on the knowledge that water is more than just a resource to be exploited and competed for; it is a human right fundamental to all aspects of life. The writer is an environmentalist and past president of the Rotary Club of Murang'a.