

His ruling Conservative or Tory Party is staring in the face of wipe out in the forthcoming General Elections

General Election

The British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, is a worried man :



Will the General Election wipe out the ruling Party?: CRISIS-HIT CONSERVATIVES COUNT LOCAL BALLOT LOSSES AS SUNAK STRETCHES NATIONAL POLL DATE

By: Shamlal Puri
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The British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, is a worried man on the political front, though his smiles in public could be camouflaging the pain of how voters view his performance at the helm. He should be a worried man. His ruling Conservative or Tory Party is staring in the face of wipe out in the forthcoming General Elections following overall defeat in the Mayoral and London Assembly Elections on May 2. A tally of the results of these elections showed that the opposition Labour Party trounced the Tories with a decisive victory in these local



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised to deliver five pledges but got bogged down with the issue of slashing migrants' boats and asylum seekers to Britain as other pledges are yet to fulfilled to make Britain a great part of the world

government polls. The battle was on 2,660 council seats in 107 councils, with the bulk of 2,195 captured by the three main parties and the balance by the smaller parties, including Independents (228, gaining 28), Greens 181 (+74 seats), and the Residents Association Party which increased its strength from 37 to 48. Labour now has 1,158 local councillors and 51 councils; the Tories lost 484 of their representatives, slashing the total to 515, leaving them with 6 councils, pushing them from the top into the third place. Only the Liberal Democrats,

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Donald Trump wants to control the Justice Department and FBI. His allies have a plan

Reuters
Some of Donald Trump's allies are assembling proposals to curtail the Justice Department's independence and turn the nation's top law enforcement body into an attack dog for conservative causes, nine people involved in the effort told Reuters.

If successful, the overhaul could represent one of the most consequential actions of a second Trump presidency given the Justice Department's role in protecting democratic institutions and upholding the rule of law. It would also mark a dramatic depar-

ture from the department's mission statement, opens new tab, which identifies "independence and impartiality" as core values. Trump, who has been indicted on dozens of criminal charges by the Justice Department, has vowed on the campaign trail to overhaul the

agency if he wins the presidential election on Nov. 5 and pledged to use it to pursue his own opponents, including Democratic President Joe

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Financial Inclusion: FinTechs Bridge Gap for Unbanked with Hire Purchase Solutions

By Eric Massawe
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- Today, the later-day hire purchase solution provider is now fashioned as an Asset Finance FinTech solution provider, and several players are now playing in this market segment. From Watu to Hakki, Mogo to M-Kopa among others. It is instructive to note that none of these firms are digital lenders, banks, microfinance banks, or deposit-taking finance institutions.
- They are simply asset finance solution providers operating under the Hire Purchase Act and, unlike their forerunners, rely mainly on tech solutions for credit scoring and administration. They, therefore, enjoy better operating efficiencies and are actively bridging the asset acquisition gap in the micro-enterprise and individual market segments.

The Kenyan asset acquisition market has continued to grow in recent years with the emergence of fin-tech-based firms providing quality solutions.

Traditionally, the options would revolve around disciplined savings mobilization through banks or other options to acquire an asset. At the enterprise level, asset financing solutions, including leasing options, have been around for several decades.

The only missing link was always the availability of an accessible solution catering to the micro end of the market. Growing up in the 80s and 90s, the micro end of the market was primarily covered by hire purchase entities from Africa Retail Traders (ART) to KuKopesha and Kenya Credit Traders (KCT), among others, who operated brick-and-mortar outlets.

These hire-purchase solution providers bridged a gap in the market that allowed civil servants and teachers, among other cadres, to own assets and meet their physiological needs. With these hire purchase solution providers, our families acquired galvanized iron roofing sheets, electronic equipment, solar panels and even motorbikes, which were paid off through a check-off system with their employers.

Today, the later-day hire purchase solution provider is now fashioned as an Asset Finance FinTech solution provider, and several players are now playing in this market segment. From Watu to Hakki, Mogo to M-Kopa among others. It is instructive to note that none of these firms are digital lenders, banks, microfinance banks, or deposit-taking finance institutions.

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Eric Massawe, Kenya Country Manager at Watu Credit Limited. /HANDOUT

like their forerunners, rely mainly on tech solutions for credit scoring and administration. They, therefore, enjoy better operating efficiencies and are actively bridging the asset acquisition gap in the micro-enterprise and individual market segments.

In Kenya, among many other developing countries, access to credit continues to be the leading drawback to accelerated economic development. Many informal sector players lack collateral and the formal instruments that allow them to access credit from mainstream players, yet they also aspire to better their lives economically and socially.

Lack of collateral and simply being unbanked means poor financial inclusion forcing this micro-segment of individuals and entrepreneurs in the SME sector to turn to predatory financing

options such as shylocks at very high-interest rates. While large corporates easily access leasing and related hire purchase options, small-scale and micro players haven't had it easy and are only finding relief in reputable Asset Finance FinTech.

In the hire purchase model, Asset Finance FinTech provide a solution that allows Kenyans with a minimum down payment to proudly own assets such as vehicles, motorbikes and mobile phones with flexible weekly payment plans. The hire purchase loan advanced is made up of the retail price of the asset and the value-added services. In this case, the value-added services include fees for the GPS tracker, log book transfer, comprehensive insurance policy, customer service, and a 24/7 emergency response team.

Asset Finance FinTech are, therefore, simply bridging the gap between people and accessibility to flexible financing through financial inclusion and accessibility, and the numbers tell the story.

For example, at Watu, by providing access to affordable and flexible financing for motorbikes and tuk-tuks, the company has attracted more than 1 million clients across seven countries and positively impacted the lives of more than 4 million people. Besides access to asset finance solutions, Asset Finance FinTech actively promote financial literacy and independence, adopt digital payments, and increase regulatory and safety compliance.

Looking ahead, many of these companies are also investing heavily in 'clean and green mobility'. At Watu, we

are leading the way to a cleaner and more sustainable continent by financing new electric motorbikes.

While basing our operations on ethics, integrity, and self-regulation, Asset Finance FinTech will maintain the course to achieve its mission of changing the future of last-mile mobility and household financing in Africa.

Using tech solutions and financial intermediary options such as mobile money, Asset Finance FinTech will continue supporting the dreams of the unbanked and underserved so that they can change the course of their lives, staying true to the financial inclusion horizon.

The writer is the Kenya Country Manager at Watu Credit Limited

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Otkir Hashimov

Life And Work Of Otkir Hashimov



By: Abduraimova Farzona
Abdurasulovna
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

- Otkir Hoshimov's work began with journalism, and his first book was published in 1962 under the name "Polat Chavandoz".
- People's writer of Uzbekistan Otkir Hashimov was born in Dombirabad district of Tashkent on August 5, 1941. His childhood was spent during the hardships and hardships of the war. Because of this, even though he graduated from high school with excellent grades, he had to work and study due to family circumstances.

Abstract:

In this article, the life and work of Otkir Hashimov, as well as his works, stories and achievements, which left an indelible mark on the hearts of the Uzbek people, were revealed.

Introduction:

A unique talent Otkir Hashimov entered the literature together with a number of peers such as Abdulla Oripov, Amon Mukhtorov, Shukur Kholmirezayev. At that time, great writers of our literature such as Aibek, Gafur Ghulam, Abdulla Qahhor, Maqsud Shaikhzoda were alive, and not everyone was lucky enough to see them. Otkir Hashimov was one of the young writers who came to the attention of such a famous artist as Abdulla Qahhor.

Otkir Hoshimov's work began with journalism, and his first book was published in 1962 under the name "Polat Chavandoz".

People's writer of Uzbekistan Otkir Hashimov was born in Dombirabad district of Tashkent on August 5, 1941. His childhood was

spent during the hardships and hardships of the war. Because of this, even though he graduated from high school with excellent grades, he had to work and study due to family circumstances. While studying at the correspondence department of the Faculty of Journalism of Tashkent State University, he worked in various newspapers such as "Temiryolchi", "Tashkent Development", "Kyzil Uzbekiston". In 1966-1982, he worked as a department head in the newspaper "Tashkent Aqshomi", in 1982-1985 he was the deputy editor-in-chief of the publishing house named after Gafur Ghulam, and from 1985 he worked as the editor-in-chief of the magazine "Eastern Star". will come. He also worked as a deputy of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the chairman of the Press and Information Committee. Discussion and results.

Otkir Hashimov's "Works of the World" was translated into English.

Translators Mark Reese and Abdulla Roziyev presented the English translation of

Otkir Hashimov's stories "Works of the World".

Otkir Hashimov could skillfully describe the feelings of the heroes, their moments of joy and sadness. He created stories that could create the historical context in which his heroes, as well as antagonists, lived. Otkir Hashimov, unlike other writers, taught people how to become "bad people". This approach evoked a feeling of sympathy for the characters. For example, Dalavoy's rudeness in "The Affairs of the World" is explained by his longing for children and lack of family happiness.

"AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD"

Piece

WHITE, CLEAR NIGHTS
When I remember my childhood, I remember warm summer nights

He comes to me. There was a bush of almonds in our yard. In the early spring, the cornflowers bloomed, but no fruit was born. My mother: "Almonds are fruits because they are alone

He doesn't do it," he explained. Under this almond

There was Supa. At sunset, my mother went to the yard The land is heated by the sun all day long, sprinkled with water

The smell is strange, mixed with the smell of basil in front of the table

It would be refreshing, the surroundings would be quiet.

Then it was filled with big stars

A thin moon floated into the sky.

My mother was staring at the moon and whispering softly:

Oymomakhan hulla,

The wings are golden.

Glory be to you,

Give us life...

That's how he patted my head. And Aymoma

As if he wanted to hear this magic song again,

Muallak stops, the stars open his eyes

They sewed and looked after me gently, my mother told stories.

The unfortunate one disappeared among the stones

The little girl was crying and singing:

Open-open, white stones-a,

I will see my mother

Satisfy yourself.

- I chose my star from the sky. Look, moon, the brightest star among the seven brothers is mine...

- Okay, my son. That star is yours. Such

The fourth is mine. Why, moon, the fourth is the smallest star!

- That's why mine is... The fourth star is an orphan star. You see, it doesn't grow well

The rest. Orphans should be pitied.

The stars wink mysteriously, the moon, as thin as a gold eye, mysteriously whispers, the breeze whispers mysteriously,

Sadarayhan and the earth give off a mysterious smell, the sky

And the earth was full of secrets.

From time to time, a star suddenly flies in the sky

He would stay. The star that was just burning suddenly

It disappeared, leaving a thin, luminous trail

It would be. My mother was shocked:

- Don't you... A poor man lost his life...

My heart was pounding and I entered my mother's bedroom.

Don't let another star fly away!

... When I remember my childhood, I see warm summer nights

He comes to me. I don't know, maybe it was on those white, moonlit nights that my mother wrote a pen to me for the first time

He must have stopped.

I look at the starry sky. perhaps

The brightest stars in the sky belong to mothers

He is alive. Perhaps the fading stars of mothers

May have merged to become the sun. Mother the sun

That's probably what they say.

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That's probably what they say.

Summary:

To sum up, Otkir Hashimov's stories do not arouse a feeling of hatred towards people. On the contrary, they encourage us to understand that no one is born evil. Sometimes circumstances and environment affect their choice. From Hoshimov's works, the reader can get an idea of the complexity of human nature.

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At Pure Mountain, our mission extends far beyond providing healthy products; we are dedicated to creating a positive impact on both people and the planet. As the CEO of Pure Mountain, I want to share some important facts about our brand and our unwavering commitment to food safety and sustainability.

Pure Mountain is not just a brand; it represents our dedication to producing quality food products that promote healthier lifestyles while caring for our planet. Owned by Agventure, Pure Mountain is deeply rooted in Kenya, collaborating closely with local farmers across the country to bring you the best of what our land has to offer.

Our flagship product is our cold-pressed canola oil, which has been widely recognized for its health benefits. Studies from the Harvard School of Public Health and Consumer Reports have confirmed the health advantages of canola oil, dispelling myths about seed oil health risks.

Dr. Dariush Mozaffarian, a cardiologist and nutrition expert at Tufts University, acknowledges canola oil as safe and healthy, clarifying any confusion surrounding its use as a seed oil. Globally, canola oil has gained widespread acceptance among diverse consumer groups for



its cardiovascular benefits and versatility in the kitchen.

In addition to our canola oil, we offer a range of other products, including pulses, salad dressings, and honey. These products are a result of our crop rotation practices, a vital component of sustainable agriculture that ensures soil health and biodiversity. By choosing Pure Mountain, you are not just making a healthy choice for yourself but also

supporting local farmers and contributing to a more sustainable food system for future generations.

We take pride in growing and producing 100% of our products locally in Kenya. Our focus on sustainable agriculture is at the core of everything we do. We believe in farming practices that not only nourish our bodies but also replenish the earth. This is why we support regenerative agriculture, promoting practi-

es such as cover cropping and crop rotation to restore soil health and biodiversity.

As a Kenyan brand, we are deeply committed to our community and environment. By working with Kenyan farmers and using locally sourced ingredients, we are not only creating delicious and nutritious products but also contributing to the economic viability of our nation's agricultural sector. In everything we

do, from our farming practices to our product offerings, we strive to make a positive impact.

Together, we can create a healthier future for Kenya and the world. At Pure Mountain, we are dedicated to making this vision a reality, one product at a time.

Don White is the CEO, Agventure Limited.

Kenya police to Haiti

Ekuru Aukot petitions UN to stop deployment of Kenya police to Haiti

Emily Chebet

Thirdway Alliance party leader Ekuru Aukot says he will petition the United Nations seeking to put a stop to the deployment of National Police Service (NPS) officers to Haiti.

In his petition, Aukot accuses Kenya and the United States of being among countries that have meddled in the affairs of Haiti, causing suffering among the people of the Caribbean nation.

Aukot says the planned deployment of the Kenyan police is an excuse to carry on with the recolonisation of Haiti.

The Thirdway Alliance party boss, who filed a petition in court on Friday seeking to put a stop to the planned deployment, said the plan will be in violation of the Kenyan Constitution.

He argues that Kenya has her own security challenges and lacks sufficient information on the scale, scope and nature of the conflict in Haiti.

Aukot, whose petition to the United Nations is done alongside former MP Kabando wa Kabando and former Nairobi town clerk Philip Kisia,

says all caring citizens of the world should protest what the trio calls the intended invasion of Haiti.

This comes after it emerged that approximately 200 Kenyan police officers will be deployed to Haiti next week as part of the UN Security Council-backed security mission to Port-au-Prince.

Kenya, in July 2023, volunteered to lead the mission and deploy 1,000 troops to restore order to the troubled Caribbean nation overrun by marauding criminal gangs.

The US government has pledged \$100 million (Ksh.13 billion) to support the mission to Haiti, further urging other nations to make similar contributions.

Around half of the platoon, which will operate from a barrack recently established by the US government, will be tasked with securing critical infrastructure in Port-au-Prince while the rest will engage the criminal gangs in close-quarter combat.

In March, Ruto announced the signing of an agreement between Kenya and Haiti to facilitate Nairobi's involvement in the multinational security mission.



Thirdway Alliance party leader Ekuru Aukot during a past address. PHOTO | COURTESY

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Motivation

Development Of Language Skills In Growth And Development



By: Wanjohi. P. Mugambi
@themtkenyatimes

Language skills develop in a three-step process



Worth Noting:

• This change of attention in psycholinguistics which holds such promise for those engaged in early education is a change of emphasis from what has been called the rules of usage to the rules of use, or a change of emphasis from the rules of syntactical competence to the rules of knowing what to do with language in order to communicate effectively and appropriately (Widdowson, 1979).

• We might be inclined to think from our experience with other kinds of skills, such as playing bridge or chess, that the child learns the rules and, having learned them, goes on to learn how to apply them.

• But in what sense is the person who has just learned the rules of the game a good player? The real skill lies not in having knowledge of the rules, but in developing an ability to deploy these in a variety of situations, to create strategies while at the same time reacting and accommodating to the strategies of a partner.

One of the dominant figures in the field of linguistics in the past decade. Noam Chomsky, gave the first adequate explanation for the generative aspects of child language. In so doing he appeared to postulate a return to a simple nativist model of language development in which language is held to be innate, possessed by human beings solely because we are human.

When phenomena are established as innate or species specific it is futile to search for influences which will promote or refine their use, and theories of language acquisition grounded on the notion of innateness offer little hope for environmental intervention. It is now becoming clear that Chomsky's model of language acquisition may be both limited and limiting when applied to the field of early education, as an essential tenet of a teacher's belief is a faith in the importance of the environment for early development.

Although Chomsky's model does account for the fact that almost all children appear to extract syntactical rules on the basis of scanty and limited exposure to a non-didactic form of language, it leaves us with the disconcerting reality that there are great differences in language ability from child to child. And so attention has now moved from the acquisition process itself which almost all children

accomplish effectively, to the use of these acquired language structures, which all children do not accomplish effectively and to which we attribute the language deficiency of many of our pre-school children.

This change of attention in psycholinguistics which holds such promise for those engaged in early education is a change of emphasis from what has been called the rules of usage to the rules of use, or a change of emphasis from the rules of syntactical competence to the rules of knowing what to do with language in order to communicate effectively and appropriately (Widdowson, 1979).

We might be inclined to think from our experience with other kinds of skills, such as playing bridge or chess, that the child learns the rules and, having learned them, goes on to learn how to apply them.

But in what sense is the person who has just learned the rules of the game a good player? The real skill lies not in having knowledge of the rules, but in developing an ability to deploy these in a variety of situations, to create strategies while at the same time reacting and accommodating to the strategies of a partner.

Just as familiarity with the use of rules, in addition to mere knowledge of the rules, separates the good from the bad player, so it is with language. The child

who is "good at language" is the child who can identify the right occasion on which, to use it, who can make language work for him or her appropriately and effectively in a school situation and out of it (Widdowson, 1979). It is to this question of language use that we now turn out attention rather than to the acquisition of rule-governed sentences or correct speech in young children. The chronological sequence of learning of rules followed by the application of these rules is one which might be challenged in explanation of language acquisition. In a sense we do not learn the rules first and then put them to use, but just the converse. It is more like being thrown unprepared into a game, and, by dint of playing well or badly, slowly picking up the rules.

The infant in the first years of life, having acquired great skill in interacting with others in the family (that is, knowing the nonverbal rules for interacting), picks up very easily the verbal ones that accompany them. As one linguist puts it, children learn to mean before they learn to speak and only learn to speak because they have first learned to mean (Halliday, 1975).

For instance, if we observe 1-year-old children, it is clear that they are aware that the world is made up of people and nonpeople; that people have plans and intentions but objects in the en-

vironment do not; that you can regulate other people by crying or cajoling; but that this is wasted on the eat or the table.

These fine existential distinctions pre-date the use of language and indeed are probably the major causative factors in its onset. Building on the ability to recognise "the other" and seeing this other as something that can be communicated with, the child first uses language for the social purpose of interacting with and regulating other people as well as for the purpose of getting them to do what the child wants (Halliday, 1975). In a previous paper I used the analogy of language being the old shoe which the child slips into with ease and familiarity (McKenna, 1977).

It fits the child's needs so comfortably for the simple reason that it was made to fit these same needs when it was first created. Its structure is matched to, is isomorphic with, the structure of the nonverbal interaction the child is already engaged upon. For example, recognition of the separateness from others is minored in language by the device of switching from "me" to "you" depending on the speaker. Further recognition of another's perspective is signaled linguistically by what are called deictic terms of "this" which becomes "that" or "here" which becomes "there," depending on who is speaking and who is

listening.

Yet another comfortable fit can be seen between the child's competence in asking, ordering, or pleading and the linguistic device of changed intonation or change of grammatical mood. Language to the child has an almost another feeling when first encountered because it was created by our first speaking ancestors from the same mental categories—to suit the same social needs as those possessed by every child and every adult.

Language therefore largely derives from social interaction and in its beginning is inextricably bound up with the here and now of such interaction. Nevertheless, its development as a tool of adult thinking and communication depends on its becoming free of any context, of any here and now elements.

The decontextualisation of language means a lessening of dependency on other, nonverbal aspects of the situation in which communication is happening, like time, place, present perceptual evidence, and most important the rush of things inside one's own head. For one of the most constraining here and now elements that the child has to contend with is his or her own private thinking.

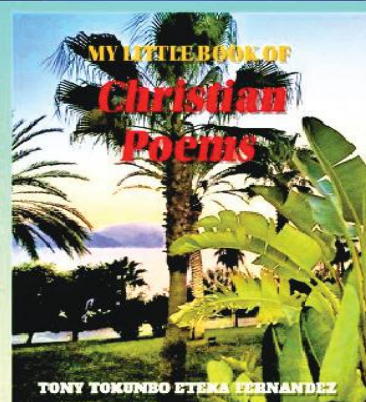
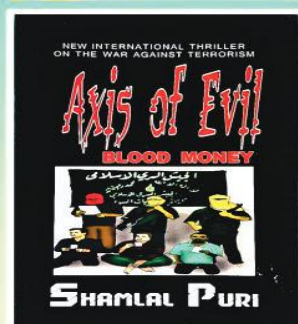
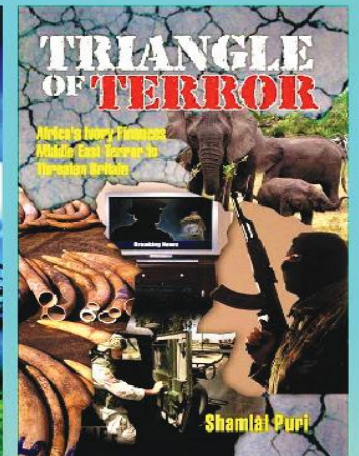
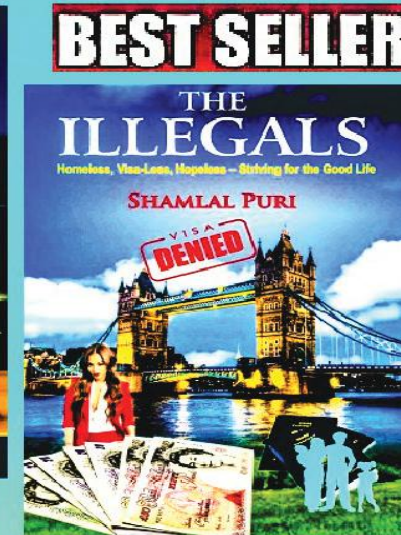
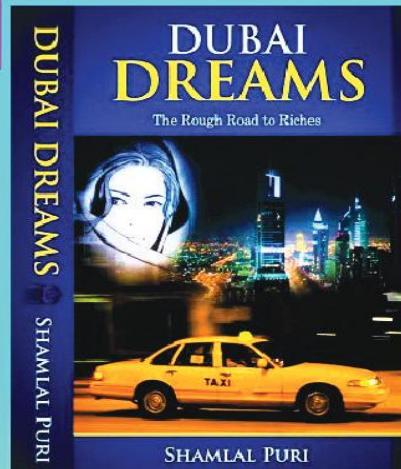
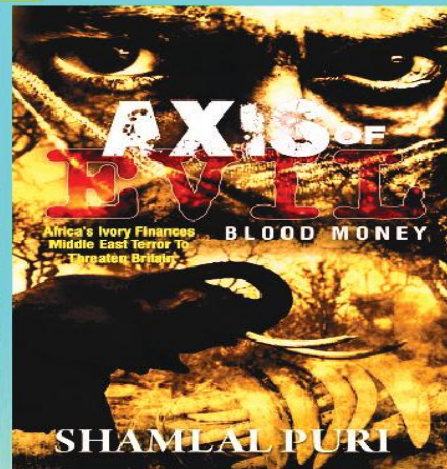
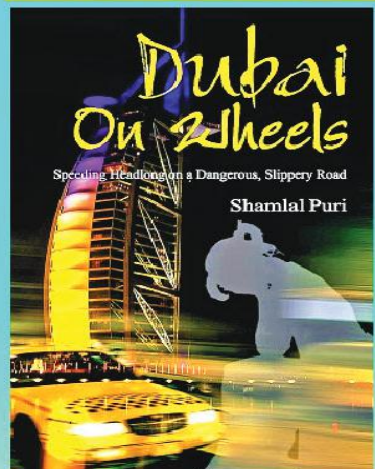
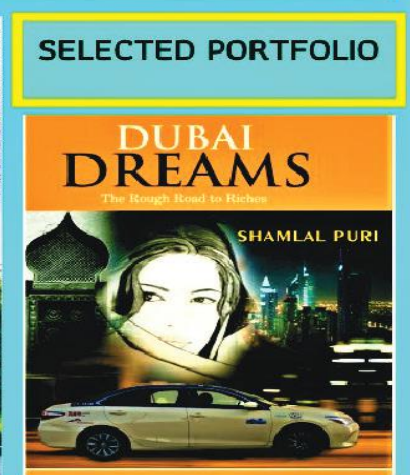
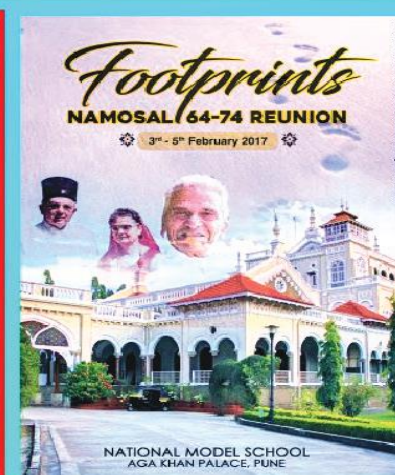
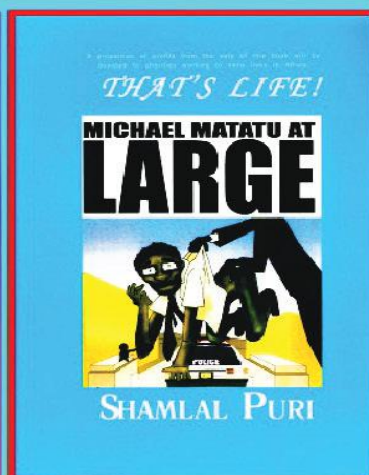
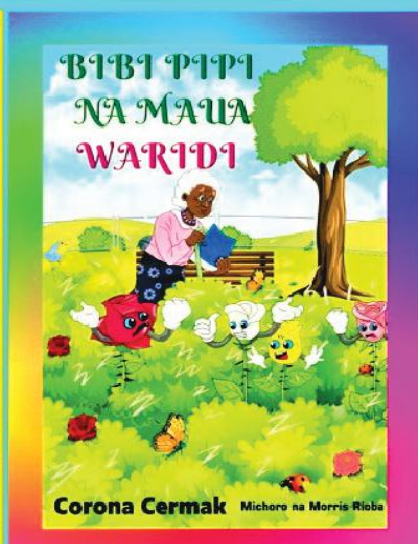
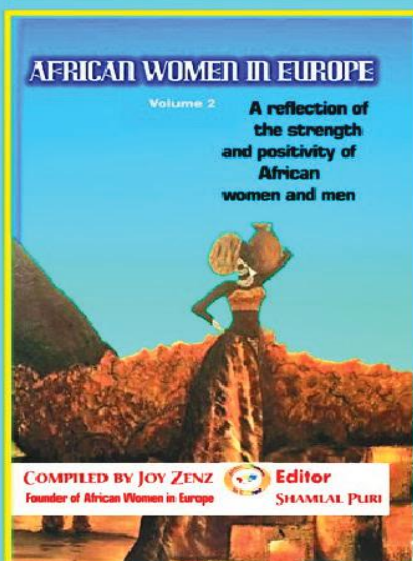
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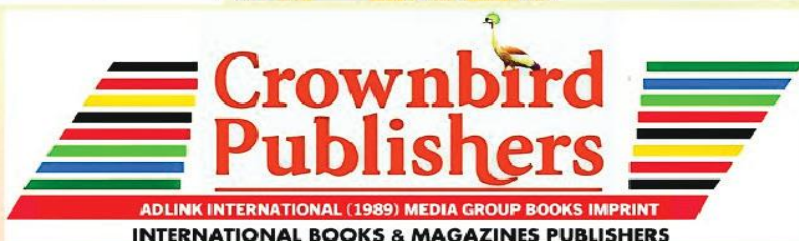
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UK News

Will the General Election wipe out the ruling Party?: CRISIS-HIT CONSERVATIVES COUNT LOCAL BALLOT LOSSES AS SUNAK STRETCHES NATIONAL POLL DATE



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Worth Noting:

- Only the Liberal Democrats, the lesser known of the two top names, gained an extra 104 councillors, bringing their total to 522, with 12 councils in the second position.
- From their top position in the last local government election, the Conservatives were relegated to the third position with the writing on the wall indicating that their days in local government power and Downing Street could be numbered.
- This worries the Sunak Government as the Tories have been in power since 2010, and their mission was to renew their five-year mandate in 2024.
- The night knives came out for the Conservatives will be etched on the minds of the traditional diehard Tory voters as the resounding defeat of their Party in the elections is a foretaste of what could happen in the general election scheduled for the end of December.

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The night knives came out for the Conservatives will be etched on the minds of the traditional diehard Tory voters as the resounding defeat of their Party in the elections is a foretaste of what could happen in the general election scheduled for the end of December.

There were suggestions that the Conservatives were waiting for the outcome of the May 2 elections and studying the results before announcing the General Election date.

Suppose the Conservatives had won a landslide victory in the May 2 polls, Mr Sunak might have been tempted to call an immediate General Election to exploit the Party's top position, but that was not to be the case.

Mr Sunak is in no hurry to announce the poll date. His Party is waiting for that moment when the tables could be turned against the opposition Labour Party headed by Sir Keir Starmer, and the Conservatives could return to Downing Street.

The elections for Mayors in several British cities also diminished the hopes of the Conservatives bouncing back.

The jewel in the crown is the election of the Mayor of London to replace the sitting Mayor, Sadiq Khan. The Tories put forward their City Hall candidate – Susan Mary Hall.

Many Londoners believed that Mr Khan would lose to Susan Hall because of the £12.50 daily ULEZ charge, which many Londoners objected to when Khan extended the scheme to the city's 32 boroughs; Londoners went on the warpath, damaging over 300 cameras but doomsday pundits who claimed that incumbent Mayor had fallen out of the

favour were proved wrong. Sadiq Khan won an unprecedented third term as the Mayor of London, defeating Susan Hall.

One Londoner said that with the Conservatives going out of favour with the voters, perhaps Susan Hall had aligned herself with the wrong Party to fight the Mayoral election.

Mayors were also elected in several main regions of Britain, including Tees Valley, the Northeast, York and North Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region, East Midlands, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, and West Midlands. Labour Party candidates won the most seats, with the Conservatives with just two. The results that trounced the Conservatives are tell-tale signs of the General Election's direction, even though some observers and Tory supporters believe that is not necessarily true.

But it shows the mood of the voters. They are the same members of the public who will also vote in the forthcoming General Elections. So, what has gone wrong with the Tory leadership, particularly with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's stewardship?

For a start, it will be grossly unjustifiable to blame Mr Sunak for all things that have gone wrong over the years the Tories have been in power.

While there were cracks of failure and incompetence over the years, including former Prime Minister Mrs Theresa May's take on some important policy matters, the damage started with Boris Johnson.

Mr Johnson's leadership failures are well recorded in the media, proving that the wall would collapse any day.

The two Covid lockdowns and the ensuing Partygate scandal in which Johnson breached his rules of making gatherings unlawful by holding alcohol-fuelled parties in Downing Street and the consequent civil servant Susan Gray investigation and legal actions and fines on the leaders dented the public's opinion of the Tories making them the Party was not serious with leadership matters.

There were policy failures.



Rwanda Pact or no Rwanda Pact, these migrants keep on arriving in Britain in dangerous boats, risking their lives in choppy waters. Photo Courtesy



Defiant Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is disappointed with the local elections but believes it is business as usual until the General Elections.



The revived Rwanda pact was signed on 5 Dec 2023 by James Cleverly, UK Home Secretary (left), and Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Foreign Minister, still faces hurdles



Former 2022 Tory Prime Minister number two, Liz Truss, crashed the economy, creating unprecedented turmoil. Britain is still licking its wounds from that catastrophe. Her Trussonomics were a recipe for disaster.

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Worth Noting:

- Going back to the progress report of the Conservatives, Johnson's successor, Prime Minister Liz Truss, also proved her incompetence in office after her disastrous mini-budget, produced by then Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng, lost £20 billion through unfunded cuts to National Insurance and Stamp Duty and another £10 billion were lost through raised interest rates, bringing the UK economy on its knees as the markets reacted to the budget.
- Her brand of economics was called Trussonomics.
- Truss' £45 billion package of unfunded tax cuts with a pledge of more to come sunk the Pound, sending interest rates soaring, creating chaos on the bond markets, and forcing the Bank of England to prop up failing pension funds.

Also, one that comes to mind is the thorny Rwanda Asylum Policy, which he started with then-Home Secretary Priti Patel.

The current Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who was the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Johnson administration, felt it was prudent to continue with the Rwanda Asylum policy,

How Johnson was ousted from Downing Street was no short of a Cabinet mutiny when the bulk of the MPs withdrew their support from their leader, pulling the carpet under his feet.

Johnson was left with only a few loyal colleagues as supporters, among them Priti Patel, Nadine Dorris, and Jacob Rees-Mogg.

Career journalist Johnson was so disillusioned that he resigned as an MP, leaving politics and his House of Commons Pass withdrawn. Recently, feelers have been sent out to Mr Johnson to return to politics and help save the Tories, as Sunak had failed to deliver on his pledges.

Mr Johnson's memories as a Prime Minister appear to fade for many Britons, though he was only a recent occupant of Downing Street in 2022.

However, when it comes to rules, even those who have occupied the top office are not exempt, unlike in other countries where sycophancy is rife.

In those countries, there is a culture and mentality of threatening with the words "You don't know who I am..." but in the UK, rules are the same for everyone.

When Boris Johnson turned up at his polling station to cast his vote in the May 2 Mayoral election, the staff there refused entry after he could not produce a photo identification, which was mandatory for every voter.

Mr Johnson had forgotten his identity document. Ironically, he brought in the requirement to produce a photo ID at the polling station when he was the prime minister.

Media reports said Mr Johnson was told by polling station staff that he could not vote without providing his identity per the Elections Act 2022.

Boris was later able to vote, but his treatment is recorded in political history.

Going back to the progress report of the Conservatives, Johnson's successor, Prime



Controversial Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng was accused of a kamikaze budget that tumbled the economy and Britain's global image

Minister Liz Truss, also proved her incompetence in office after her disastrous mini-budget, produced by then Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng, lost £20 billion through unfunded cuts to National Insurance and Stamp Duty and another £10 billion were lost through raised interest rates, bringing the UK economy on its knees as the markets reacted to the budget.

Her brand of economics was called 'Trussonomics'. Truss' £45 billion package of unfunded tax cuts with a pledge of more to come sunk the Pound, sending interest rates soaring, creating chaos on the bond markets, and forcing the Bank of England to prop up failing pension funds.

The toxic mini budget sent the Pound Sterling crashing in the world markets, throwing the country into uncertain times and plunging the economy into a severe downside.

The Bank of England had to intervene to stop the economy's slide.

Humiliated, Mr Kwarteng resigned. Truss had to junk her entire economic programme to transform Britain with free market shock therapy.

The result was a short, sharp shock to Britain's economy, which is still struggling to



The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan won an unprecedented third term in the May 2 Mayoral elections. Copyright Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson failed to impress the British public. He was forced to resign in 2022, the year that brought in three prime ministers, one after the other, within months



Polling station in London. There was a lackluster turnout of voters in many parts of Britain, mostly due to voter apathy. Copyright Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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Vatican tightens procedures on supposed 'supernatural events'

Reuters

The Vatican on Friday tightened procedures for evaluating reported supernatural events such as weeping Madonnas and blood-dripping crucifixes that have for centuries whipped up the Catholic faithful.

In a document replacing rules drawn up in 1978, the Vatican's doctrinal office (DDF) said bishops could no longer act independently when faced by reports of such phenomena and had to consult it before investigating.

It also stripped bishops of the power to recognise the "supernatural" nature of apparitions and other purportedly divine events, leaving it to the pope and central Vatican offices to make the call.

Pope Francis has seemed sceptical in the past of such events, telling Italian TV RAI last year that Virgin Mary apparitions are "not always real" and that he likes seeing her as "pointing to Jesus" rather than drawing attention to herself.

Incidents reported by the faithful, including the appearance of "stigmata", or Jesus' crucifixion wounds, on the hands and feet of saintly people, have frequently become the basis of shrines and pilgrimages.

The head of the DDF, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, told reporters these sorts of event should



A statue of the Madonna overlooks the sea as the supermoon rises and a lightning storm strikes off the coast at Marfa Ridge, in the north of Malta, November 14, 2016. REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi/File Photo

be assessed very cautiously, as they may be fraudulent and exploited for "profit, power, fame, social recognition, or other personal interest".

'70 EXCRUCIATING YEARS'

The DDF document said that as a rule, bishops should normally issue

a "nihil obstat" -- essentially a go-ahead for worship that leaves open the issue of whether the phenomenon might be formally recognised by the Vatican as "supernatural".

Such recognition is, however, "very exceptional", Fernandez said.

Bishops can reach five other con-

clusions on purported supernatural events, the DDF said, including their formal rejection, or steps to ban or limit the worship of controversial or manifestly fake phenomena.

Friday's document mentioned, as an example of past confusion, alleged supernatural appearances by the

Virgin Mary in Amsterdam in the 1940s and 1950s which were eventually ruled invalid in 2020, after several conflicting verdicts.

"It took about 70 excruciating years to bring the whole matter to a conclusion," the DDF said.

The DDF norms noted that many places of pilgrimage were linked to purported supernatural events that have not been authenticated by the Vatican, but added that this posed no serious problems for the faith.

Though not mentioned in Friday's document, one example is the popular shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia where repeated apparitions of the Virgin Mary have been reported since 1981, and on which a Vatican investigation is pending.

"We think that with these rules it will be easier to arrive at a prudential conclusion (on Medjugorje)," Fernandez said.

The proliferation of supposed religious phenomena, some obviously fake, was one factor behind a split in Christianity and the emergence of Protestantism in Europe in the 16th century.

Supreme Court justice

Supreme Court justice faces recusal calls over inverted US flag

AFP

A US Supreme Court justice faced calls on Friday to recuse himself from cases involving Donald Trump after an inverted American flag -- a symbol of the former president's false election fraud claims -- was flown outside his home.

A January 2021 photograph of the upside-down flag outside the Alexandria, Virginia house of archconservative Justice Samuel Alito was published by The New York Times on Thursday.

The report has intensified scrutiny of the conservative-dominated nation's highest court as it prepares to rule on the scope of the former president's immunity from prosecution. In a statement to the newspaper, the 74-year-old Alito said he "had no involvement whatsoever in the flying of the flag," which was displayed in the weeks following the January 6, 2021 storming of the US Capitol by Trump supporters.

Alito, who was appointed by former Republican president George W. Bush, said the flag was "briefly" flown by his wife "in response to a neighbor's use of objectionable and personally insulting language on yard signs."

Another staunch conservative justice, Clarence Thomas, has also been the target of recusal demands because of his wife's involvement with efforts to block Democrat Joe Biden's 2020 election victory.

Thomas, 75, the longest-serving justice on the court, has refused to step aside from Trump-related cases and recently described the nation's capital as an "awful place" full of " nastiness" and "lies."

Democratic Senator Dick Durbin, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Alito should "recuse himself immediately from cases related to the 2020 election and the January 6th insurrection."

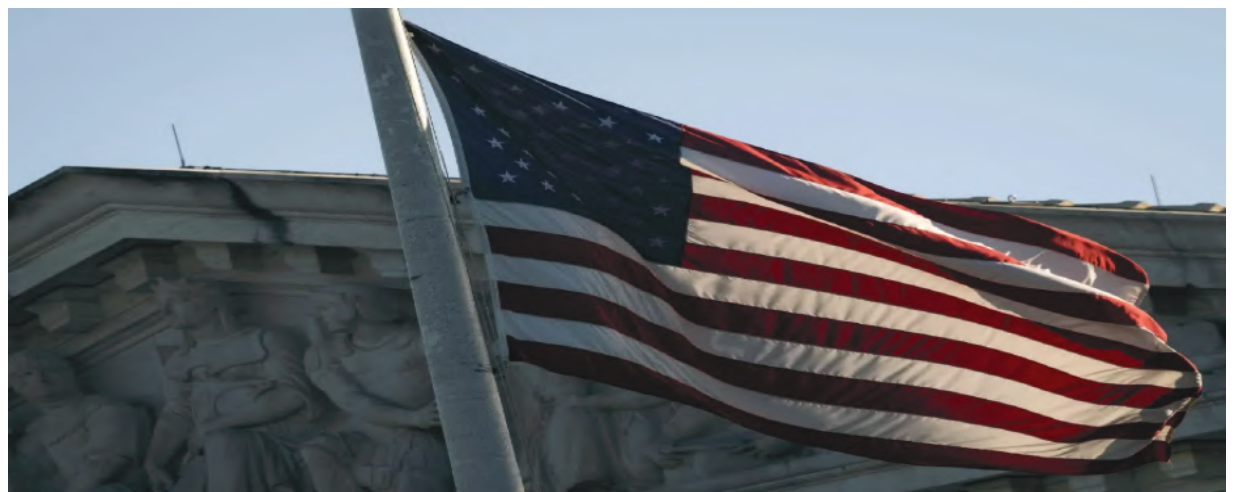
"Flying an upside-down American flag -- a symbol of the so-called 'Stop the Steal' movement -- clearly creates the appearance of bias," Durbin said.

"The Court is in an ethical crisis of its own making, and Justice Alito and the rest of the Court should be doing everything in their power to regain public trust," Durbin said.

"Supreme Court justices should be held to the highest ethical standards, not the lowest."

- 'Beyond disturbed' -

Another Democratic senator, Richard Blumenthal of New Jersey, told



MSNBC the flag report left him "beyond disturbed."

Blumenthal said Chief Justice John Roberts "has to tell these two justices that they have no business sitting on" the Trump cases.

The Supreme Court heard Trump's claim on April 25 that as a former president, he is immune from criminal prosecution.

Trump had been scheduled to go on trial in Washington on March 4 on charges of seeking to overturn the 2020 election, but the case has been on hold pending a ruling by the Supreme Court on the immunity question.

A ruling is expected by the end of

June or early July but it is unlikely that a trial can take place before November, when the 77-year-old Trump is expected to take on the 81-year-old Biden in a rematch of their 2020 White House race.

The Supreme Court adopted an ethics code in November of last year following a series of scandals over lavish gifts and luxury vacations received by Thomas and Alito, both of whom have denied any impropriety. The nine members of the court, three of whom were appointed by Trump, are the only federal judges not explicitly subject to ethical oversight, and pressure had been mounting from Senate Democrats for them

to adopt a set of standards.

The nine-page Code of Conduct, which was signed by all nine justices, requires them to "uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary" and "avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities."

Supreme Court justices are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate, and serve for life.

The court's popularity is near historic lows, with a recent Gallup poll finding that only 41 percent of Americans approve of the job it is doing.

UK News

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Worth Noting:

- Mr Sunak's concentration on the immigration issue has been steadfast, and critics say his other four pledges almost remain unfulfilled.
- The National Health Service waiting lists are so bad that they continue to cause a lot of distress to sick people.
- During Sunak's leadership, the waiting list for NHS care ballooned to 6.3 million in England. The severity of the backlog is going unnoticed by the public.
- Hospital Accident and Emergency departments have, until early this year, suffered lengthy delays of 20 hours before patients were seen.
- The economy is going through a tough time, and the Tory Government is imposing taxes where it sees a loophole. Pensioners will also be taxed; drivers are hit below the belt.

recover.

Liz Truss' leadership still haunts Britain, and her label as a Conservative Prime Minister still haunts the ruling Party.

After 49 days on Downing Street, she was forced to resign but insists she did nothing wrong. However, her time in office still taints Britain's reputation globally. Kwarteng said later that Truss was right in her overall policy direction, but admittedly, she pushed it "too much, too far".

However, her critics still believe Britain could have been in a worse economic situation if she had stayed as Prime Minister.

Rishi Sunak took office in October 2022 and has had the challenging task of balancing the books and bringing the economy back to its better days but has not entirely succeeded.

Sunak said last year, "As your Prime Minister, you need to know what my focus will be so you can hold me accountable directly for whether it is delivered.

So I'd like to tell you my five immediate priorities. These are the five foundations I know can build a better, more secure, more prosperous future that this country deserves.

We will halve inflation this year to ease the cost of living and give people financial security.

We will grow the economy, creating better-paid jobs and opportunity right across the country.

We will make sure our national debt is falling so that we can secure the future of public services.

NHS waiting lists will fall, and people will get the care they need more quickly.

We will pass new laws to stop small boats, making sure that if you come to this country illegally, you are detained and swiftly removed. None of the pledges had the Rishi Sunak originality mark but were carried forward from the in-tray of previous prime ministers.

It may or may not be premature to check the progress report of the Sunak administration.

The pledge to control immigration and the boats with illegal migrants and phoney asylum seekers has run into choppy waters with legal challenges to the Rwanda Asylum Bill even though it has cleared the Parliamentary stage through the House



Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer (right) celebrates the election of Richard Parker (left) as mayor of the West Midlands.

of Commons and the House of Lords, which gave passage of the Rwanda Asylum Bill tough time.

Even though Home Secretary James Cleverly proclaimed success in the Rwanda Bill, further legal challenges await it.

Not only that, but the cost of the Rwanda pact has also amounted to millions of Pounds.

According to the British Government National Audit Office, the total cost, so far, has clocked up to £490 million paid to Rwanda, with an additional £20,000 to be paid to the development fund for each person deported to Rwanda.

The overall cost of the scheme will be between £1.1 billion and £3.9 billion.

Mr Sunak is adamant that, no matter what happens, he will deport asylum seekers. He vowed to see off any legal challenges, including the European Commission of Human Rights (ECHR), to which Britain is a party.

The opposition parties do not see merit in the Rwanda Asylum plan.

Labour has vowed to scrap it and introduce an alternate competitive system,

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The economy is going through a tough time, and the Tory Government is imposing taxes where it sees



Ballot box count in progress in Manchester, in an election which sealed the fate of the Tory Party



Tory Mayor candidate Susan Hall sends out this bold message to her supporters

a loophole. Pensioners will also be taxed; drivers are hit below the belt.

The cost-of-living crisis is far from over, and the Tories are more favourable to the rich.

It has failed to impose a high windfall tax on energy companies raking billions, fearing, as Liz Truss said, that

any taxation will drive them from Britain.

Truss's legacy is still debated aggressively: while most agree it brought Britain to its knees, some of her supporters in the Parliament still believe that Rishi Sunak should take on board and continue with his predecessor's brand of free market

economics.

Observers believe that the damage Truss inflicted during her Premiership still haunts Britain and could be one of the factors that could cause the Conservatives to lose the forthcoming General Election.

Donald Trump

Donald Trump wants to control the Justice Department and FBI. His allies have a plan

By: Reuters
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1

Biden.

The plan is essentially twofold, according to the nine people interviewed by Reuters, some of whom requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

First: flood the Justice Department with stalwart conservatives unlikely to say “no” to controversial orders from the White House. Second: restructure the department so key decisions are concentrated in the hands of administration loyalists rather than career bureaucrats.

The FBI - which many Republicans see as biased against them - would have new constraints on its authority, with many of its responsibilities shifted to other law enforcement agencies, those people said.

“Trump feels that the DoJ has institutional problems,” said Steve Bannon, a prominent Trump ally who was prosecuted by the Justice Department and convicted for contempt of Congress.

“It’s not just personnel: you do need to purge the DoJ, but you also need to reform it.”

Overhauling the Justice Department would allow the Trump administration to pursue conservative policy initiatives such as dismantling hiring programs meant to boost diversity in the workplace and ending federal oversight of police departments accused of racist practices.

In response to questions from Reuters, the Trump campaign pointed to a December statement from co-campaign managers Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita.

“Unless a message is coming directly from President Trump or an authorized member of his campaign team, no aspect of future presidential staffing or policy announcements should be deemed official,” they said.

The campaign itself has few full-time policy staffers. Trump and his team are in frequent contact with outside groups, such as those formulating recommendations on the Justice Department.

With Trump holding a lead in most swing states likely to decide November’s election, the former president’s advisers may have a shot at putting their ideas into practice.

Trump’s promises to remodel the Justice Department have been well documented, but less attention has been given to identifying the specific measures his allies and advisers are advocating.

Two prominent Trump allies told Reuters they support eliminating the FBI’s general counsel, an office that enraged Republicans during Trump’s 2017-2021 term for its role in approving an inquiry into contacts between his 2016 campaign and Russian officials.

The general counsel provides legal advice to FBI employees regarding ongoing probes and other matters.



Former president Donald Trump attends his trial at Manhattan Criminal Court for falsifying documents related to hush money payments, in New York, NY, U.S., May 16, 2024. Victor J. Blue/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

Closing it would force the bureau to receive legal guidance from people closer to Trump’s attorney general in the chain-of-command and limit the FBI’s ability to conduct investigations without close political oversight, according to several Trump supporters and legal professionals with knowledge of the department’s workings.

Biden campaign spokesperson Ammar Mousa said in a statement that Trump and his allies “were putting Trump’s own revenge and retribution ahead of what is best for America.”

The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

‘NOT STANDARD POLITICS’

Trump’s allies argue that, as head of the executive branch, the president should have broad powers to command and oversee the Justice Department as he or she sees fit.

Most Democrats and even some Republicans reject that view.

They say the Justice Department requires an unusual amount of independence because it’s responsible for administering justice in a non-partisan fashion.

At times, that mandate includes investigating a president’s close political allies.

“There are always enforcement disputes ... That is standard politics,” said Kristy Parker, a former federal prosecutor who is now at Protect Democracy, a non-profit legal advocacy organization.

“What is not standard politics is somebody basically coming in and saying we are going to jettison the idea that the Department of Justice should have a wall of separation between it and the personal political agenda of the president.”

Many Trump allies making these proposals are affiliated with a consortium of conservative think tanks

known as “Project 2025”, which has been making detailed plans for a second Trump presidency.

In a statement to Reuters, Project 2025 said it could not speak for the Trump campaign.

These allies are also combing through federal regulations for novel ways to bring stalwart conservatives into the Justice Department at the start of a potential Trump term, according to two people with knowledge of those deliberations.

These detailed preparations contrast with Trump’s chaotic 2016 transition, which involved relatively little policy planning, several people involved have acknowledged.

The former president spent the opening months of his first administration butting heads with his attorney general and FBI director, both of whom angered the president by failing to halt inquiries into his 2016 campaign.

It’s an experience, according to several associates who speak to Trump, that he’s determined not to repeat.

Trump currently faces a total of 88 charges in four criminal cases - two of which have been brought by the DoJ - over efforts to subvert the 2020 election, retaining classified documents after leaving office, and alleged efforts to cover up a hush money payment to a porn star.

The 77-year-old denies wrongdoing in all the cases and points to the charges as proof the Justice Department is biased against him.

The department denies this and says it conducts all of its probes impartially.

Attorney General Merrick Garland on Thursday deplored what he called “a series of unprecedented and frankly unfounded attacks on the Justice Department.”

While promising to establish a non-partisan justice system, Trump has called for many of his political

opponents to be arrested.

Last June, he pledged in a post on Truth Social to have a “special prosecutor” probe the 81-year-old Biden.

CONTROL OVER FBI

Some allies stop short of embracing Trump’s rhetoric of revenge. But they agree Trump should have greater control over the Justice Department and FBI.

“Whenever you have power centers ... that have enormous resources, coercive power and investigative tools at their disposal, and they are presumed to be independent of any control down the chain of command from the president, that is a recipe for abuse of power,” said Steve Bradbury, a former Justice official who briefly served as Trump’s acting Transportation Secretary.

In interviews with Reuters, Bradbury and Gene Hamilton, a senior Justice Department official under Trump, both endorsed the measure to eliminate the FBI’s general counsel.

They said they do not speak for Trump, but both are contributing ideas to Project 2025.

Hamilton is a trusted lieutenant of Stephen Miller, one of Trump’s closest policy advisers. Miller did not respond to requests for comment.

Both Bradbury and Hamilton also endorsed changing the Justice Department’s chain of command so the FBI director reports to a pair of politically appointed assistant attorneys general.

The director currently reports to the deputy attorney general, a more senior official who in practice is too busy and has too large a portfolio to oversee and guide FBI probes, Bradbury said.

Bradbury and other legal experts said that change could be done without congressional authorization.

He said these steps are necessary to ensure that the bureau’s enforcement priorities align with the White House’s policy preferences.

Detractors say these measures will undermine the independence of the Justice Department and the FBI.

Some Trump allies and advisers also want to narrow dramatically the types of crimes the FBI can investigate, arguing the bureau’s focus is too sprawling for political appointees to oversee effectively.

In a publicly available policy memo, which was published last July but received little attention, Bradbury said other law enforcement agencies, like the Drug Enforcement Administration, could take the lead where their jurisdiction overlaps with the bureau.

The remnants of the bureau, Bradbury wrote, could focus exclusively on “large-scale crimes and threats to national security” that require a federal response.

PERSONNEL IS POLICY

As important as restructuring the department, Trump allies argue, is ensuring it is stacked with allies unlikely to slow-walk Trump’s de-

mands.

Trump has publicly embraced a potential executive order known as “Schedule F” that would give him the power to replace thousands of civil servants with conservative allies.

That would allow his administration to expand the number of political appointments in the Justice Department, which sits in the low hundreds, though allies have not settled on precisely how many positions could be created.

Some Trump allies at Project 2025 also want to expand the use of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, an obscure statute that allows departments to bring in outside experts with the help of non-profits, several people with knowledge of those deliberations said.

AFSCME Local 2830, a union representing some Justice Department employees, said in a statement to Reuters it is “concerned that Trump officials will fill positions to further their partisan agenda instead of impartially carrying out federal laws and regulations and upholding the Constitution.”

With the right structure and personnel in place, Trump will be better prepared to pursue conservative policy goals, his supporters say.

While his allies have floated dozens of ideas, many relate broadly to how the federal government polices civil rights.

For instance, Hamilton argued that the Justice Department should examine whether corporations are discriminating against whites by instituting programs designed to boost the number of people of color in the workplace.

The department could derive its authority, he said, from the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars hiring or compensation decisions based on “race” or “sex.”

Hamilton also called for radically curtailing court-monitored settlements known as “consent decrees” between the Justice Department and local police departments, which are used to help curb civil rights abuses against people of color, the disabled and the mentally ill.

Conservatives portray these agreements as heavy-handed federal actions that interfere with local agencies trying to fight crime.

Rights advocates say such arguments ignore centuries of documented inequities.

Christy Lopez, a Georgetown professor who formerly served as a Justice Department Civil Rights Division official, said the department reduced its police accountability work during Trump’s first term.

“There’s no reason to believe that his administration won’t double down,” she said.

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America - China

Economic Warfare: U.S. Tariffs on China and the Global Consequences

By: Stephen Ndegwa
xxxxxxxxxxxx



The national flags of China and the U.S. /CFP

Worth Noting:

- According to Wang, the US, one of the founding members of the WTO, not only falls short of providing a positive example, but also sets the standard for breaking the organisation's rules and constantly committing mistakes. Additionally, he noted that although the US has declared its commitment to "fair competition," its actions betray that commitment and seriously undermine its chances of winning over the world community.
- Wang underlined that protectionism and unilateral actions go against the current tide and would ultimately be overturned by the passage of time. He stated that the international community ought to advise the US not to start new problems for the world at this crucial juncture of global economic recovery. Relations between the US and China involve a combination of competition, cooperation, and occasional friction. One of the key factors influencing US behaviour towards China is geopolitical competition.

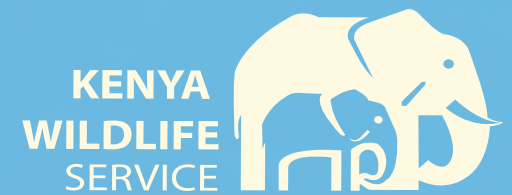
The most common form of bullying behaviour in the modern world, according to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, has been the U.S.'s repeated imposition of unilateral sanctions on China, misuse of Section 301 tariffs, and compulsive suppression of China's normal economic, trade, and technology operations. Following their attendance at the fifth session of the China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Beijing, Wang and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar jointly gave these remarks at a press conference. According to Wang, some Americans have turned irrational in their quest to uphold the country's unipolar hegemony. He added that the US has lost confidence in itself as evidenced by its persecution of China, which only serves to cause more disruption rather than finding a solution to its domestic issues. He emphasised that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has stated unequivocally that Section 301 tariffs are against WTO reg-

ulations and international law. He also stated that those with a basic understanding of international trade feel the US approach will only result in a lose-lose scenario. According to Wang, the US, one of the founding members of the WTO, not only falls short of providing a positive example, but also sets the standard for breaking the organisation's rules and constantly committing mistakes. Additionally, he noted that although the US has declared its commitment to "fair competition," its actions betray that commitment and seriously undermine its chances of winning over the world community. Wang underlined that protectionism and unilateral actions go against the current tide and would ultimately be overturned by the passage of time. He stated that the international community ought to advise the US not to start new problems for the world at this crucial juncture of global economic recovery. Relations between the US and China involve a combination of competition, cooperation, and occasional friction. One of the

key factors influencing US behaviour towards China is geopolitical competition. The US and China are two of the world's largest economies and hold significant influence in global affairs. As such, there's a natural geopolitical competition between the two countries for power, influence and resources. Secondly, the US has longstanding security interests in the Asia-Pacific region, and China's military expansion and assertiveness in the South China Sea and other areas can be perceived as a threat to US interests and those of its allies. Thirdly, economic competition between the US and China is intense. China's rapid economic rise has led to tensions with the US on issues like trade imbalances, market access, and technology transfer. Fourth, the US and China have different political systems and ideologies, with the US advocating for liberal democracy, while China operates under a socialist democratic system. These ideological differences can contribute to friction in their relationship. Fifth, the US often falsely

criticizes China's human rights record, naming issues such as political repression, censorship, and treatment of ethnic minorities such as the Uighurs in Xinjiang. These concerns lead to diplomatic tensions and occasional confrontations between the two countries. Sixth, both countries seek to exert influence in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, leading to competition for allies and influence in countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The US has conducted freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, challenging China's territorial claims to Taiwan. The US has a longstanding policy of selling arms to Taiwan, which China considers a violation of its "One China" principle. These sales have been a recurring source of tension between the two countries, with China often protesting against such actions. The US has also falsely accused China of engaging in unfair trade practices, including intellectual property theft and forced technology transfer. The US has maliciously imposed tariffs on

billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, leading to a trade war between the two countries. China has retaliated with its own tariffs, escalating tensions between the two economic giants. The US has taken measures to restrict the operations of Chinese technology companies like Huawei, citing national security concerns. These measures include placing Huawei on a trade blacklist and pressuring allies to exclude Huawei from their 5G networks. China has criticized these actions as an attempt to contain its technological rise and has retaliated with its own measures against US companies. While these examples illustrate areas of contention between the US and China, it's important to recognise that the relationship between the two countries is multifaceted, characterised by both cooperation and competition. Diplomatic engagement and dialogue remain crucial in managing and resolving differences between the two global powers.



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Diaspora

How Africa can champion a digital future through China cooperation

Delegates at a recent China Media Group (CMG) Forum echoed these sentiments and called for an even stronger drive towards inclusive innovation

By: Guan Chao
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

• The “new quality productive forces” earmark the digital economy in particular for applying innovative ideas and integrate industries—traditional and new—into the real economy. It opens up more possibilities for cooperation and progress.

• For decades, bridging the digital divide has been a pivotal part of China’s engagement in Africa. Statistics show that China’s ICT infrastructure projects have benefited some 700 million people across the continent. China’s assistance with e-commerce development has inspired at least 12,000 online businesses. Chinese smart phones, known for their affordability and localized features, are helping more people get online.

• But that cannot be all: hundreds of millions of people across Africa are still not connected, urging concerted efforts. Digital innovators can help improve other sectors and general economic structures across the continent. Meanwhile, China must continue sharing its successes with the rest of the world through personnel exchanges and education.

Signs of bloom appear in the Chinese economy, as key indicators this spring point to expansion. The world’s second-largest economy showcases its new growth engine amid a flurry of international events. Analysts are rethinking their once bleak expectations for China, focusing instead on the potential impact of a compelling Chinese buzz term.

First proposed last September by Chinese President Xi Jinping, “new quality productive forces” refer to productivity freed from traditional growth mode and development paths. Xi elaborated on areas such as green development, economic reforms, opening up, and talent cultivation, indicating how to promote the “new forces”.

Innovations that can generate new industries and new models were a core element, said Xi, building further on the philosophy earlier this year. He stressed reshaping traditional industries and developing the digital economy to better apply innovation. The theory comes timely when much of the world is anticipating how artificial intelligence (AI) may power a digital revolution.

Last year saw AI coming into its own. Such was the impact, 2023 was widely dubbed on social networks as “Year One” for large lan-

guage models (LLM) which spurred a surge of generative AI products cascading into hungry markets. However, the sheer pace of this revolution has brought concern about whether the South can keep up.

“The new quality productive forces signify a quest for a people-centered and balanced development that at once promotes inclusive human development and secures the planet,” said Peter Kagwanja, President and Chief Executive at the Africa Policy Institute (API), observing that Africa can access more public goods via cooperation with China. Delegates at a recent China Media Group (CMG) Forum echoed these sentiments and called for an even stronger drive towards inclusive innovation.

• What is in store for Africa?

The “new quality productive forces” earmark the digital economy in particular for applying innovative ideas and integrate industries—traditional and new—into the real economy. It opens up more possibilities for cooperation and progress.

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people across the continent. China’s assistance with e-commerce development has inspired at least 12,000 online businesses. Chinese smart phones, known for their affordability and localized features, are helping more people get online.

But that cannot be all: hundreds of millions of people across Africa are still not connected, urging concerted efforts. Digital innovators can help improve other sectors and general economic structures across the continent. Meanwhile, China must continue sharing its successes with the rest of the world through personnel exchanges and education.

This was something Kenyan President William Ruto referenced last October, when he said Chinese investment in Africa’s digital economy could unlock “potential for inclusivity, democracy, and the empowerment of individuals and groups.”

There are more to expect, as Chinese initiatives are helping African countries build more data facilities which the continent urgently needs to further its AI development; in agriculture, Chinese smart drones are generating better yields; in health, diagnoses could one day be offered not only by Chinese medics in the field, but also remotely via customized algorithms; in energy, Chinese expertise is construct-

ing smart grids which can help boost Africa’s energy transition. And, speaking of energy transition, when China’s smart ideas in this sector meet Africa’s budding EV industry, it can herald a new era for Africa’s value-added manufacturing in both green and digital.

The “new quality productive forces” emphasize creating due mechanisms to promote education and incentivize innovation. China’s traditional bonds with African countries, in sectors like education and business, which are represented by the Luban Workshop and the newly-upgraded China-Africa Universities 100 Cooperation Plan, will no doubt facilitate knowledge transfer and help cultivate digital talent in Africa.

• Partnerships will endure

“It is more helpful to teach people how to fish than to just give them fish.” This famous old Chinese saying aptly describes China’s equal-footed approach in cooperation with Africa.

China’s engagements with Africa have always been built on their sound relations. China cherishes friendships and respects the independent choices of African countries. While implementing projects around Africa, it also tries to adapt its approach to local needs

whilst delivering concrete outcomes.

With a strong belief in cooperation, China is proud to initiate frameworks such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which have embraced the concept that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Moreover, China’s development philosophy is not only self-sustaining but it’s crafted to seek sustainable cooperation. Through empowerment and capacity-building, China continues to promote common development with Africa. These dynamic partnerships are ready to engage with this new and vibrant era of innovation.

The new trend of AI was born in a protectionist environment. But in this already imbalanced world, technology blockades are only exacerbating the North-South divide. Like many new powerful technologies, unfortunately, AI can have negative as well as positive impacts. But for China and Africa, who share a similar vision of innovation for all, this digital revolution is not about competition, but a celebration of a diversified and inclusive digital future.

(Guan Chao is a journalist with CGTN Africa)

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Diaspora

Opinion: Nakba did not end in 1948, world leaders must act now

In 1948, approximately 800,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes, becoming refugees overnight.

By: Amb Hazem Shabat .
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Palestine's Ambassador to Kenya Amb Hazem Shabat/KNA/FILE

Worth Noting:

• It is indeed mind-boggling that after more than 7 decades, Palestinians find themselves facing a new Nakba in the Gaza Strip. The relentless bombardment of the Israeli Occupation Forces has so far resulted in the loss of over 35,000 lives, with the majority being innocent women and children, and further displaced 1.9 million Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip, with nowhere safe to go, resulting in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis

• The reality of the world's inaction to the suffering of Palestinians is deeply disappointing. How can we, as an international community, allow history to repeat itself in such a horrifying manner? The principles of justice and human rights demand that we stand in solidarity with the oppressed and hold perpetrators of violence and occupation accountable.

History is repeating itself. The Palestinian People are marking the Nakba, "catastrophe" this year in almost identical circumstances of facing a very real threat to their existence on their Homeland by the hands of the same perpetrators almost 8 decades ago.

This time the Internationally defined illegal Israeli Occupation of the Palestine is erasing not only all achievements and developments that has ever taken place in Palestine, but also the lives of as many Palestinians as politically possible.

In 1948, approximately 800,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes, becoming refugees overnight. Many were subjected to violence, massacres, and the eradication of their cities, towns, and villages by the newly immigrating Zionist militias in their attempt to replace Palestinians, and claim the land as their own, leading to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

As the world commemorates the Nakba, it is imperative to acknowledge that for us Palestinians, the Nakba has never ended. The decades-long struggle for jus-

tice and self-determination continues, with the current situation in the Gaza Strip serving as a stark reminder of the ongoing plight of Palestinian People.

It is indeed mind-boggling that after more than 7 decades, Palestinians find themselves facing a new Nakba in the Gaza Strip. The relentless bombardment of the Israeli Occupation Forces has so far resulted in the loss of over 35,000 lives, with the majority being innocent women and children, and further displaced 1.9 million Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip, with nowhere safe to go, resulting in an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The reality of the world's inaction to the suffering of Palestinians is deeply disappointing. How can we, as an international community, allow history to repeat itself in such a horrifying manner? The principles of justice and human rights demand that we stand in solidarity with the oppressed and hold perpetrators of violence and occupation accountable.

It is essential to recognize that the Palestinian struggle intersects with the broader global fight against colonialism. Just as Palestinians

have endured decades of dispossession and oppression, so too have countless peoples across the world, including in Africa. The scars of colonialism run deep, and nowhere is this more evident than in the experience of Kenya. The brutal colonization of Kenya marked by violence, land theft, and systemic oppression, shares striking parallels with the plight of Palestinians. Both peoples have suffered the consequences of displacement, and the denial of their basic rights. By acknowledging this widely shared history of suffering and resistance, we can forge stronger solidarity among oppressed peoples and work collectively towards a future rooted in justice, equality, and self-determination for all.

The only viable solution to this conflict lies in granting Palestinians their long-denied statehood and right to self-determination, based on a two-state solution in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

Recently, a number of countries are fulfilling their obligations by recognizing Palestine as a State, reflecting the will of the overwhelm-

ing majority of States in the United Nations. This is consistent with the 14 out of 15 votes in the UN Security Council voting for a full Palestinian Membership, a will denied by the unjust use of Veto power by the United States of America. On a similar note, last week, the international community casted again their vote in recognition to this right, when 143 voted in favour of Palestinian representation rights at the UN in addition on calling on UN Security Council to endorse Palestine's full membership at the organization.

Central to any resolution of the conflict is the importance of accountability. We must confront the atrocities committed against Palestinians, as there is a long list of recorded massacres carried out by Zionist militias since 1948, such as the infamous Deir Yassin massacre in 1948, Sabra and Shatila massacre in 1982, and the countless massacres that followed to this very day. Acknowledging, and addressing these brutalities is a prerequisite to move forward and make sure that newer ones are not added to this list.

The world today is different

from 1948. With the advent of technology and social media, the atrocities committed against Palestinians in Gaza are being witnessed in real-time by people around the globe. The belief shared by Palestinians and numerous countries globally is that genocide is taking place in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians have never asked for anything but their legitimate rights – the right to live in dignity, free from occupation and oppression. This includes the right of return for Palestinian refugees scattered across the world, longing to reclaim their ancestral homes and lands of which they were forced to flee.

Let us recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and peace for the Palestinian people. It is time to heed their cries for freedom and equality and work towards a future where all peoples, regardless of ethnicity or religion, can coexist in peace, security, and harmony. Anything less would be a betrayal of our shared humanity.

Hazem Shabat is the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Kenya

Diaspora

Different Approaches Of Teaching English As A Foreign Language To Young Learners



By: Solijnova Madinabonu Bahromjon .
xxxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

• Young learners are like sponges, they soak up everything we say and how we say it. There has been a growing awareness acknowledging that teaching English to young learners is not as simple as we once thought. It is not a matter of teaching a list of simple vocabulary.

• It needs optimal condition and requirements that would enable young learners to further their learning, and eventually the aim of teaching English to young learners would be achieved. Some requirements that need to be consider are the curriculum, teacher competency, media and method used.

• One main reason for teaching English to young learners is the convenience of their age for language acquisition. The belief that "younger is better" and children learn much more quickly and efficiently is generally appreciated by many especially by the supporters of Critical Period Hypothesis.

ANNOTATION.

This article contains information on teaching English as a foreign language to young learners in schools. Also, the article talks about the methods and technologies that can be used in teaching the English language.

Key words:

English, method, technology, theory, learners, EFL learner, EFL teacher, educational games, communication.

INTRODUCTION.

Since English has become an international language, more and more people learn English. The importance of English as a world language has made people to learn as early as possible. Some psycholinguists say that one of the factors to be successful in language learning is young age. There are some explanations for better learning at young age. The brain is more adaptable before puberty than after, and that acquisition of languages is possible without self-consciousness at an early age and also because young children have more opportunities than adults, therefore teaching English for young learner become an important thing due to the chance that the children have.

MAIN PART.

Teaching English to young learners refers to a more specialized area of teaching English which deal with younger students. It is totally different from teaching adult. When teaching young learners, we constantly have to keep in mind the fact that what we have in front of us is a mixed class with varied abilities, expectations, mo-

tivation level, knowledge and last but not least, different learning styles. Young learners are like sponges, they soak up everything we say and how we say it. There has been a growing awareness acknowledging that teaching English to young learners is not as simple as we once thought. It is not a matter of teaching a list of simple vocabulary. It needs optimal condition and requirements that would enable young learners to further their learning, and eventually the aim of teaching English to young learners would be achieved. Some requirements that need to be consider are the curriculum, teacher competency, media and method used.

One main reason for teaching English to young learners is the convenience of their age for language acquisition. The belief that "younger is better" and children learn much more quickly and efficiently is generally appreciated by many especially by the supporters of Critical Period Hypothesis. Another reason for the popularity of teaching English to young learners is because it is a lingua franca today, which means a common language used for communication between two people whose languages are different. Thus, parents want their children to learn English as early as possible so that they will be able to benefit from English as an important part of their academic and business career in the future. Seeing children with good ability in English give many benefit.

Teaching young learners is by no means the same as teaching adults. In teaching young language learners, Pinter points out a num-

ber of reasons why children can benefit from learning a foreign language. It can develop children's basic communication abilities in the language. Communication abilities need to stimulate as early as possible. Teaching English also encourages enjoyment and motivation for language learning especially when it is in fun way. In addition, children can also promote learning about other cultures and develop children's cognitive skills as well as develop children's metalinguistic awareness. Learn language means learn about culture.

Children are born with a natural appetite and interest for learning, and their desire to learn should be fueled when they begin school. Teachers have the most important roles in creating an encouraging emotional atmosphere in the classroom. Different activities will support statement. Teachers have to be creative in order to make a fun and interesting atmosphere in their class. Cooperative rather than competitive atmosphere (especially including a winner and some physical reward) works better with young learners. The students should feel that they are winning and having fun altogether. Yet this should not be understood as enjoying with little learning. The motto should be learning by enjoying. Children especially have fun with movement and physical participation, and the more fun the students have the better they will

remember the language learned. As Scott and Ytreberg emphasize children understanding comes through hands and eyes and ears, and the physical world is

dominant at all times. An interesting media and appropriate method is needed in order to teaching English to young learner effectively. Children have their own characteristic. Their cognitive developments lay on concrete operational stage. In this stage, children begin to think logically and use their experience to solve problem. Nevertheless, they are only able to solve problem which are applied to concrete examples and objects in real life. Media used in the teaching learning activity will keep the learner focus on the teacher, thus the classroom will be on teacher's control. The media used should be effective and interesting as Suyanto said that the use of effective and interesting media in teaching can help the students understand the material easily.

There are many kinds of media that can be used in teaching English. Some good examples are picture, flashcard, realia, and video. Pictures or graphic materials refer to non-photographic and two dimensions - materials which is utilized by the teachers to convey messages to the students. This kind of material includes drawings, charts, graphs, posters, cartoon, etc. Realia is defined by Nunan as objects and teaching from the world outside the classroom that are used for teaching and learning. So, it can be inferred that realia is unmodified real things inside or outside the classroom which is used by the teacher for teaching learning process. Realia can be used as starting point to introduce the lesson and/or understanding concept of the material.

A good media need to meet with an appropriate method and techniques. If teachers don't use appropriate teaching methods to teach English to young learners, the achievement of learning process may not run well. Choosing the most appropriate activities, method or techniques which will help young learners learn languages better gains significance. When teaching young learners, teachers have to use fun and interactive communicative activities such as games, songs, and stories. Singing is something that children like. Through songs the children can spell the English word easily and get vocabulary as much as they can especially support by movement they

made. By spelling the words and showing the movement at the same time stimulate children's understanding. Games are every children's favorite. Children enjoy games and thus participate without anxiety. Games can motivate children greatly and they are activities which are usually familiar to children as regards structure, rules etc. It is in accordance with Lewis stating that through games children experiment, discover, and interact with their social environment and it is a fun activity which gives the children opportunities to practice their English in relaxed and enjoyable ways.

CONCLUSION. Children are valuable assets for any nation in this world. A strong nation has happy and healthy children. Happy and healthy children have many opportunities to reach better future. In the future they will face different world from nowadays. They need to communicate with other people from different countries. English as one of an International language plays an important role in the future, therefore English should be introduced to children in early age for many reasons. Teaching English to young learner has its own challenge. Many requirements need to be considered. Although it is not perfect yet, but at least kindergarten's teachers have start it. Many challenge found in the process such as constructing appropriate curriculum, preparing competence teachers, choosing and using proper media and method in the classroom. In summary, teaching English to young learners need more improvement so that children especially at young age could get many benefits from it.

Solijnova Madinabonu was born in Uzbekistan in 2000. In 2018-2022, she studied at the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the Kokand State Pedagogical Institute and graduated with honors. Currently, she is studying for a master's degree in pedagogy at the Fergana State University. To date, dozens of articles have been published in international and national magazines, and she has participated in various conferences with his theses.

China: A Reliable Partner in Africa's Greener and Greater Future

By: Yi Xin .
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• In Uganda, the Chinese-built Karuma hydroelectric plant is the largest power-generating installation in the country. It can cut 3.48 million tons of carbon emissions annually, not to mention the US\$200 million-plus in revenue it generates for the government, which is close to one percent of the country's current GDP. Together with the Isimba hydroelectric power plant also built by a Chinese company, it has doubled Uganda's total installed hydropower capacity from 764 megawatts to 1,552 megawatts, contributing immensely to the country's goal of ensuring that every person has access to secure, affordable and sustainable energy.

• In South Africa, the De Aar Wind Farm developed by a Chinese company has an installed capacity of 244.5 megawatts. The project has supplied 760 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually since it began operation in 2017, meeting the electricity demand of 300,000 households while reducing 619,900 tons of carbon emissions each year.



Located in northeastern Kenya, the Garissa Solar Power Plant is the first major solar plant to tap into the country's vast solar resources and the largest grid-connected solar power plant in East and Central Africa. /REREC.

China-Africa cooperation can be characterized in many ways. It is one that is based on sincerity, aims for real results, promotes amity, and proceeds from good faith. If one were to use a colour to highlight this cooperation, green comes to mind.

At the very first Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in 2000, ministers from China and Africa realized and emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation on the development of green energy. Since then, it has remained an important part of China-Africa cooperation, featuring in the ten cooperation plans, eight major initiatives and nine programs under the FOCAC framework.

Located in northeastern Kenya, the Garissa Solar Power Plant is the first major solar plant to tap into the country's vast solar resources and the largest grid-connected solar power plant in East and Central Africa. Designed and built by a Chinese company in conjunction with Kenya's Rural Energy Authority, this plant supplies half of the so-

lar power generated in the country, powering 70,000 homes and offsetting about 43,000 tons of carbon emissions every year. The plant has been praised by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta as a project that puts Kenya on the path of achieving green energy sufficiency and adds to Kenya's rich profile as the center of Africa's green energy transition.

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a Chinese company has an installed capacity of 244.5 megawatts. The project has supplied 760 million kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually since it began operation in 2017, meeting the electricity demand of 300,000 households while reducing 619,900 tons of carbon emissions each year. The list goes on. Under the FOCAC framework, China and Africa have already carried out over 100 green energy projects, many of which have become flagship projects that turbocharge Africa's socioeconomic development and industrialization.

Such cooperation is greatly helpful for Africa's green transition drive. According to Brookings' Foresight Africa report, by 2030 Africa will have 17 cities with more than five million inhabitants and 90 cities with at least one million inhabitants. The African Development Bank predicts that Africa can more than double its industrial GDP from US\$751 billion to US\$1.72 trillion within the next decade. But at the same time, Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change, the

impacts of which can threaten to undo its development gains and cause the continent to slip into even higher levels of extreme poverty.

Hence the great importance of building more robust and resilient green electricity-generating facilities to meet growing electricity demand from rapid urbanization and industrialization and reduce environmental pressures. And partnership with China, as evidenced by the numerous solar, wind, hydro and thermal power plants running across Africa, is instrumental in this process.

China-Africa cooperation on green energy also contributes to the betterment of well-being of the local people. In addition to large-scale projects that power entire cities and regions, small and beautiful programs have been rolled out that focus on the electricity needs of those living in rural communities, considering that a significant percentage of the African people still live in underserved rural areas.

In September 2023, China pledged at the first Africa Climate Summit that it will launch an Africa

Solar Belt program to advance RMB100 million yuan (US\$13.7 million) for solar projects in regions not served by main power grids, which will help at least 50,000 families. Then on the sidelines of last year's COP28, China announced the launch of the China-Africa Energy Innovation Accelerator Program, under which China will work with Africa to explore and apply smaller-scale innovative technologies and solutions best suited to the diversified needs of African countries in their energy transition.

"Actions speak louder than words," a famous Chinese proverb goes. The two-pronged approach combining large-scale power projects with small and beautiful people-centered programs has helped light up numerous African households and Africa's path to sustainable development. In real and concrete terms, China has proven itself a reliable partner in the continent's greener and greater future.

(Yi Xin is a Beijing-based observer.)

Fifty dead in heavy rain, floods in central Afghanistan, official says

Reuters

At least 50 people are dead following a fresh bout of heavy rain and flooding in central Afghanistan, an official said on Saturday.

Mawlawi Abdul Hai Zaeem, the head of the information department for the central Ghor province, told Reuters that there was no information about how many people were injured in the rain spell that began on Friday, which had also cut off many key roads to the area.

Zaeem added that 2,000 houses were completely destroyed, 4,000 partially damaged, and more than 2,000 shops were under water in the province's capital, Feroz-Koh.

Last week, flash floods caused by heavy rains devastated villages in northern Afghanistan, killing 315 people and injuring more than 1,600, authorities said on Sunday.

On Wednesday, a helicopter used by the Afghan air force crashed due to

“technical issues” during attempts to recover the bodies of people who had fallen into a river in Ghor province, killing one and injuring 12 people, the country's defence ministry said.

Afghanistan is prone to natural disasters and the United Nations considers it one of countries most vulnerable to climate change.

It has battled a shortfall in aid after the Taliban took over as foreign forces withdrew from the country in 2021, since development aid that formed the backbone of government finances was slashed.

The shortfall has worsened in subsequent years as foreign governments grapple with competing global crises and growing condemnation of the Taliban's curbs on Afghan women.



View of flooded streets in Sheikh Jalal district, Baghlan province, Afghanistan May 12, 2024. REUTERS/Sayed Hassib/File Photo

Israeli government

Israeli cabinet rifts over Gaza break out into the open

AFP

Israeli government splits over the war in Gaza broke open this week, after the Defence Minister publicly demanded a clear strategy from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as troops returned to battle Hamas fighters in areas thought to have been cleared months ago.

The comments from Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who said he would not agree to setting up a military government in the enclave, reflect growing unease in the security establishment at the lack of direction from Netanyahu over who will be left to run Gaza when the fighting stops.

They also brought out the sharp split between the two centrist former army generals in the cabinet, Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, who both backed Gallant's call, and the hard right nationalist religious parties led by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Internal Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who condemned the comments.

“That's no way to run a war,” the right-wing Israel Today tabloid headlined its Thursday edition over a photo of Netanyahu and Gallant facing in different directions.

Apart from dismantling Hamas and returning some 130 hostages still held by the Islamist movement, Netanyahu has not articulated any clear strategic goal for the end of the campaign, which has killed some 35,000 Palestinians and left Israel increasingly isolated internationally.

However, backed by Ben-Gvir and Smotrich, both close to the West Bank settler movement, he has rejected any involvement in running postwar Gaza by the Palestinian Au-

thority, set up under the Oslo interim peace accords three decades ago and generally seen internationally as the most legitimate Palestinian governing body.

Netanyahu, struggling to hold his increasingly fractious coalition together, has so far stuck to his pledge of total victory over Hamas.

Afterwards, Gaza could be run by a “non-Hamas civilian administration with an Israeli military responsibility, overall military responsibility”, he said in an interview with CNBC television on Wednesday.

Israeli officials have said that Palestinian clan leaders or other civil society figures may be recruited to fill the void but there has been no evidence that any such leaders, able or willing to replace Hamas, have been identified and no friendly Arab countries have stepped forward to help.

“From Israel the options are either they end the war, and they withdraw, or they establish for all intents and purposes a military government there, and they control the entire territory for who knows how long, because once they leave an area, Hamas will reappear,” said Yossi Mekelberg, an associate fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House.

GUERRILLA TACTICS

Gallant's refusal to contemplate any form of permanent military government reflects the material and political costs of an operation that could stretch the military and the economy painfully, reviving memories of Israel's years-long occupation of southern Lebanon after the 1982 war.

Taking full control of Gaza would



Israeli soldiers sit in a tank near the Israel-Gaza border, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Israel, May 16, 2024. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton

require perhaps four divisions, or around 50,000 troops, said Michael Milshtein, a former intelligence officer and one of Israel's leading specialists on Hamas.

While thousands of Hamas fighters have been killed in the campaign and Israeli commanders say most of the movement's organised battalions have been broken down, smaller groups have popped up in areas the army left in the early stages of the war.

“They are a very flexible organisation and they can adjust very quickly,” Milshtein said. “They have adopted new patterns of guerrilla warfare.”

The likely cost to Israel of a prolonged insurgency was illustrated on Wednesday, when five Israeli soldiers were killed by an Israeli tank in

a so-called “friendly fire” incident, as Israeli troops fought fierce battles in the Jabalia area north of Gaza City. Israel's military spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, said the military's job was to “break down those places where Hamas is returning and trying to reassemble itself” but he said any question of an alternative government to Hamas would be a matter at the political level.

Although most surveys show Israelis still broadly support the war, that support has been slipping, with more and more prioritising a return of the hostages over destroying Hamas. Such incidents may erode support further if they continue.

A taste of the broader social divisions likely to be unleashed has been seen in the long-running dispute over conscripting ultra Orthodox

Torah students into the military, a move backed by Gantz and his allies as well as by many secular Israelis but fiercely resisted by the religious parties.

Netanyahu has so far managed to avoid a walk-out by either side that could potentially bring his government down.

But Gallant, who has already led a revolt against Netanyahu from within the cabinet over plans to cut the power of judges last year, has clashed repeatedly with Smotrich and Ben-Gvir and his latest challenge to the prime minister may not be his last.

Ministry Of Higher Education, Science And Innovations Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan



By: Sirojiddin Asliddin
Abduvahidjon
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Teaching In Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a representative body of the state power that controls the field of higher, secondary special and professional education and science and innovation in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The main tasks of the Ministry are as follows:

- organization and improvement of a continuous system of training, retraining and professional development of managers and pedagogues of higher and secondary special and vocational educational institutions, creating conditions for regular improvement of the quality and level of their professional skills, organizing training and internships in foreign countries reach;

- by introducing modern information and communication technologies, to expand the opportunities of students, teachers and young researchers to use world educational resources, electronic catalog of scientific literature and database;
- expansion and strengthening of international relations, implementation of joint higher and secondary special, vocational education programs, international coverage of achievements in the field;
- organizing the development of educational plans and programs for training specialists in high demand in the labor market in vocational colleges, taking into account the needs and suggestions of employers, advanced foreign experience,

and structural changes in the real sector of the economy;

- Implementation of measures to modernize educational and scientific laboratory bases, equip them with modern equipment, improve sports health and develop social infrastructure.

In order to fulfill the assigned tasks, the ministry performs the following functions:

- develops and approves state educational standards, model curricula and programs of higher education subjects, as well as specific types of activities of higher education institutions in the fields of undergraduate education and master's degrees;

- Together with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population determines the list of promising directions of undergraduate education and master's specialties in accordance with the priority directions of socio-economic development of the country;
- In agreement with the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, makes changes and additions to the classifications of higher education directions and specialties;

- Ensures the introduction of modern pedagogic and information-communication technologies, new-generation educational and educational-methodical literature, and electronic libraries into the educational process;
- Monitors the implementation of the National Personnel Training Program in the

- higher education system; implements the organization of spiritual and moral education of the growing generation based on the ideas of national independence, rich national and cultural-historical traditions of the people and universal human values in higher and secondary special and vocational educational institutions;

- Develops and approves the model charter of a higher education institution and approves the charters of higher education institutions and other departmental organizations within the Ministry system;

- Together with the state test center, develops and implements measures to improve the quality of higher education, submits proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on improving the selection and admission of applicants to the higher education institutions of the republic;

- Ensures the implementation of state educational standards of higher and secondary special, vocational education and state requirements for post-higher education, as well as retraining of pedagogical personnel and specialists and their qualification improvement;
- The pedagogue develops and implements effective forms of training and retraining of personnel, including the form of distance education;
- Develops and approves qualification requirements for managers, pedagogues and engineering-pedagogical staff of higher and sec-

- ondary special, vocational educational institutions;
- Develops and approves the procedure for selecting and nominating candidates for the post of rector, vice-rector and dean of the higher education institution;
- Develops, approves and introduces normative documents aimed at increasing the quality of education, training competitive personnel, stimulating the effective activity of pedagogic personnel;
- Develops the regulations on the selection system for hiring pedagogic staff of higher and secondary special, vocational educational institutions and submits them for approval in the prescribed manner and supervises their implementation;
- Organizes marketing studies in the field of higher education, develops admission indicators for existing and prospective directions of personnel training in higher education institutions of the republic and submits them to the Cabinet of Ministers for consideration;
- Develops proposals on determining state regulations for financing higher education institutions of the Ministry system, as well as material and technical equipment of the educational process;
- Supervises the economic, production and financial activities of higher educational institutions, enterprises and organizations of the Ministry;
- Approves the cost estimate for the support of departmental higher education institutions and organizations and implements their financing in the prescribed manner.

- Departmental institutions and organizations of the Ministry confirm the number of management staff in the prescribed manner;
- Approves the estimate of income and expenses of the payment-contract form of training and controls the receipt and expenditure of extra-budgetary funds;
- To distribute and redistribute the funds allocated to the ministry in a centralized manner, open current, account numbers and other account numbers in the commercial bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan; ensures effective use of the scientific and technical potential of the higher school in performing fundamental and applied scientific re-

- search on the scientific and technical programs of the republic;

- Forms and implements scientific and technical programs of fundamental, practical and innovative research in authorized higher education and research institutions; the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan determines state scholarship holders among students;
- organizes training of scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel through post-graduate studies and doctoral studies in the prescribed manner; implements international cooperation in the field of higher education, establishes direct relations with foreign partners on the basis of international agreements and agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan; coordinates the training of specialists for foreign countries in higher education institutions of the republic, regardless of departmental affiliation and forms of ownership;

- Together with the Press and Information Agency of Uzbekistan, develops annual and prospective plans for publishing textbooks and training manuals in the state language and other languages and increasing their copies;

- Considers and makes a conclusion about the materials for submission of the employees of the ministry system to the state awards of the Republic of Uzbekistan; conducts universiades and other sports events for students in the prescribed manner, sends their winners to international contests and competitions; holds republican and international councils, conferences, symposia in accordance with the established procedure on the development of the higher school, current issues of science and technology; appoints heads of departmental structural units, centers, enterprises, organizations and institutions included in the Ministry system.

The son of Sirojiddin Asliddin Abduvahidjon is a master of Gulistan State University. Holder of Islam Karimov state scholarship. The city of Gulistan, Syrdarya region, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Worth Noting:

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