

The country sighed with relief as Mr Sunak, announcing the election date

Sunak Stuns Britons

Critics are asking why Sunak chose to call a snap election:



Summer poll quells delay controversy but raises more questions:
SUNAK STUNS BRITONS WITH SURPRISE JULY 4 SNAP GENERAL ELECTION AMID TORY FURY

By: Shamlal Puri
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After months of procrastination, Rishi Sunak rolled the dice on Wednesday at 5.18 pm, taking a huge gamble to announce the General Election date: July 4, stunning Westminster and catching the country off-guard. An angry group of his Tory Party members are trying to get Sunak to call off the elections, including a no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister. Standing outside 10 Downing Street in a light summer drizzle, Sunak fired the starting gun for the mother of all elections in the UK. The country sighed with relief



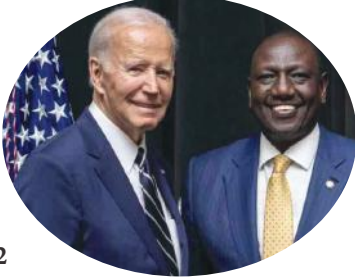
Historic moment when Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the 4 July 2024 General Elections outside 10 Downing Street in London

as Mr Sunak, announcing the election date, said in a carefully crafted speech, “Now is the moment for Britain to choose its future.” Critics are asking why Sunak chose to call a snap election rather than hold back until the middle of December when his Government’s five-year term in office ends. His supporters give five reasons for his decision to go to polls, and they are the cause of optimism for Sunak and the Tory Party and others to extricate the current Government from the quagmire of recent economic issues that have derailed his administration’s confidence and plunged it into the negative public

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‘Major non-NATO ally’: What does Biden’s new Kenya pledge mean?

‘Major non-NATO ally’
NATO



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US calls for swift police deployment to Haiti after missionaries killed

US official says ‘Haiti cannot wait’
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Resources ramped up to build ‘Digital China’
“Digital China”
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Ivorian cocoa farmers ‘barely survive’ while chocolate company profits soar

Farmers in Ivory Coast
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I Was Inspired To Venture Into Writing Because Of Injustice And Propaganda



The Diaspora Times Global

Tanganyika and Zanzibar: Tanzania’s 60-year-old union may need a restructure

On 26 April 2024, Tanzania celebrated 60 years of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The union, which created the present-day United Republic of Tanzania, stands out among the longest lasting political arrangements of its kind in Africa, and has shaped the country’s construction of national identity. Nicodemus Minde, who has researched Tanzania’s politics, unpacks the union’s dynamics.

What’s unique about the Tanganyika-Zanzibar union?
The union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar is not the only attempt at political unification in Africa. Previous ones include the Ethiopia-Eritrea Federation (1952-1962); the Ghana-Guinea-Mali Union (Union of African States) (1958-1963); and Senegambia Confederation (1982-1989). Those have been wound up, but the Tanganyika-Zanzibar union has remained intact. Unification attempts in post-independence Africa have been fraught

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Xi highlights reform-driven growth

By: China Daily
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth
Noting:

- Constructed after China launched reform and opening-up in the late 1970s, Rizhao Port has evolved into a vital global hub for the transshipment of energy and bulk raw materials, with 76 operational berths and over 80 domestic and international container shipping routes.
- Data shows that in the first quarter of this year, the port's cargo throughput increased by 6.7 percent year-on-year, and container throughput grew by 15.3 percent year-on-year.
- When talking with staff working at the port, Xi encouraged them to continue to strive for greater progress in promoting the port's management and operations.



President Xi Jinping visits Rizhao Port on Wednesday to learn about progress in promoting the smart and green development of the port, and expanding opening-up, in Rizhao, Shandong province. JU PENG/XINHUA

President Xi Jinping has urged Shandong, China's second-largest province in population and an important economic powerhouse, to pursue reform-driven high-quality development and build itself into "a hub of high-level opening-up", as he wrapped up an inspection tour to the eastern province on Friday. The three-day fact-finding trip brought Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, to the cities of Rizhao and Jinan. During his visit on Wednesday afternoon to Rizhao Port, a national model for intelligent and sustainable bulk cargo handling, Xi affirmed the port's efforts in turning itself from a traditional port into a modern one by advancing techno-

logical innovation in recent years. Now the port not only ranks among the top in terms of its cargo throughput across the country, but has also gained valuable experience in upgrading and transforming traditional industries to foster new quality productive forces, he said. Constructed after China launched reform and opening-up in the late 1970s, Rizhao Port has evolved into a vital global hub for the transshipment of energy and bulk raw materials, with 76 operational berths and over 80 domestic and international container shipping routes. Data shows that in the first quarter of this year, the port's cargo throughput increased by 6.7 percent year-on-year, and container throughput grew by 15.3 percent year-on-year. When talking with staff

working at the port, Xi encouraged them to continue to strive for greater progress in promoting the port's management and operations. This is not the first time that Xi has inspected a city with a port. Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, he has visited major ports across the country including the Yangluo container port in Wuhan in 2013, Ningbo-Zhoushan Port in 2020, and a coal port area of Huanghua Port in Hebei province last year. During his visit to Tianjin Port in January 2019, Xi stressed that the economy is the top priority in developing a country, and to achieve economic progress, building transportation infrastructure, especially maritime transport, comes first. Xin Ge, a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy

and Governance at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, said in an online comment piece that Xi's inspection in Rizhao underscores his dedication to developing a robust port economy that supports high-level opening-up and the Belt and Road Initiative. Speaking at a briefing on Friday on the work of the provincial Party committee and the provincial government in Jinan, the provincial capital, Xi urged Shandong to actively build an international logistics corridor, promote the coordinated innovation of its free-trade zones and deeply integrate into high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. He also called on the coastal province to leverage its unique advantage of abundant marine resources and build up its marine sector with efforts such as building world-class clusters of ma-

rine ports. Xi said that as a major grain producer, Shandong bears a significant responsibility for ensuring national food security. He said work must be done to boost the province's modern agriculture and high-standard cropland development, thus building it into a higher-level granary. In Rizhao, Xi also visited a coastal greenway, featuring viewing platforms, sports trails, and rest areas for visitors, to learn about local efforts in ecological restoration. "The goal of advancing Chinese modernization is to make people's lives better and better," he said, urging efforts to improve the people's well-being by building a beautiful homeland.

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Education

Methods Of Increasing Educational Efficiency Based On Methodological Preparation Of Primary Class Teachers And Integrative Approach



By: Sobirova Muqaddaskhan
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

The methodical training of the future remedial class teacher will give a more productive result if it is considered from an integrative point of view. It is based on organizational integration. Integration is the convergence and connection of the differential process of the sciences. The process of integration is the stage of connecting communication through disciplines in a new, high-quality way. From time to time, it is closely related to the international classroom programs, as well as the use of modern pedagogical and communication technologies in the educational process, in order to ensure the methodological training of future teachers of modern information technologies.



Primary Class Teachers in Uzbek

Abstract:

The importance of organizing a lesson based on innovative technologies is incomparable in the perfect mastery of students' knowledge. For this reason, this article provides information on the methodical training of teachers and the integration of educational and methodological activities in production classes, and the preparation of education based on an integrative system.

Key words:

Primary class, teachers, students, integration, integrative organization, methodical preparation, method. The rapid changes observed in our society today have a

corresponding effect on the general education system and the pedagogical education system. Nowadays, education has a new quality, a new structure and a new function. One of the most important problems is the updating and implementation of the new generation educational and methodological support, which includes the educational and methodological complexes of the subjects of the state educational standards, the content of the file and the continuity of the teaching support.

The methodical training of the future remedial class teacher will give a more productive result if it is considered from an integrative

point of view. It is based on organizational integration. Integration is the convergence and connection of the differential process of the sciences. The process of integration is the stage of connecting communication through disciplines in a new, high-quality way.

From time to time, it is closely related to the international classroom programs, as well as the use of modern pedagogical and communication technologies in the educational process, in order to ensure the methodological training of future teachers of modern information technologies. This is especially necessary in the process of teaching mathematics. It is very im-

portant and important for future problems in the organization of lesson processes to correct the methods of classroom teachers, to be able to use modern information development.

For example, if the lesson is organized through integration processes, start learning from the method of conducting in mathematics and other lessons.

"ENERGY" method

This method is very interesting and is more suitable for 3rd and 4th graders. To prepare for this game, you will need to prepare some questions. You can use any kind of questions, they can be related to the topic or can be related to the students themselves.

Preparation for the method. You write down your list of questions and print them on A4 paper, placing them on each line separately. Then, with scissors, cut the line between each question. But you don't cut to the end of the paper, the questions must be connected to each other. At the end, you stick the questions on the board and place a trash can nearby. Pass method. Two teams are formed and they have to stand in two rows at the end of the class. The teacher said "Go!" when he says, one student from each team runs to the board and tears off one of the pieces of paper. In this, they have to read aloud the question on the paper and answer the question as

fast as possible. It depends on more questions to make this method more interesting. The more interesting and unexpected the questions, the more effective the method.

The main goal of this above-mentioned method is to teach students to be quick, creative thinking, to motivate them and to develop unity and friendly attitude in the class.

In short, a primary school teacher should be able to organize a quality lesson using the things he has. It is important to pay special attention to interdisciplinary integration in improving the methodological training of future primary school teachers. Improving the methodological training of future primary school teachers is a necessary condition for the development of society.

Sobirova Muqaddaskhan was born on January 28, 1996. He lives in the city of Fergana, Fergana region. Currently, he is studying in the 1st year of the master's department of Fergana State University in the direction of history and theory of pedagogy (by types of activities). Reading different kinds of books is an interest in life. His future goal is to study for a doctorate and develop his personal career.

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Raila says to champion free movement under an African passport

By: Sharon Resian
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Raila Odinga has promised to champion free movement within the African continent to promote trade. The African Passport, an initiative coined by the African Union (AU) in 2018, proposes to remove restrictions on Africans’ ability to travel, work and live within the continent. It seeks to transform “restrictive laws and promote visa-free travel to enhance the movement of all African citizens in all African countries”. Odinga who is eyeing the African Union Commission Chairperson seat, backed by Kenya, told two foreign envoys time had come to actualise the proposal. He spoke on Wednesday when he hosted, separately, Netherlands ambassador to Kenya Maarten Brouwer and his Egypt counterpart Wael Nasreldin Attiya.

“I underscored the importance of a phased, evolutionary approach to

tackle issues like multiple currencies, numerous visa requirements, and various air traffic control regulations. I believe the time has come for the introduction of an AU passport to ease travel across Africa,” Odinga said.

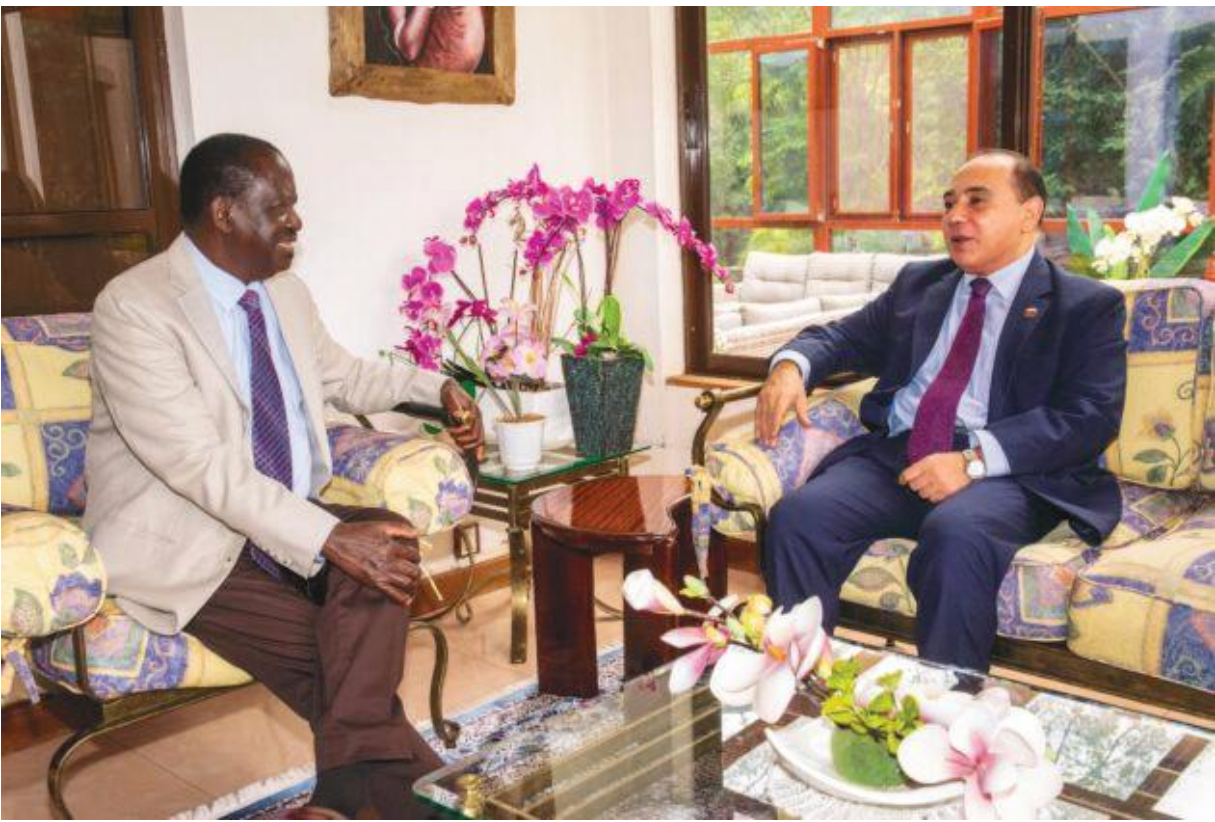
“Together, we can pave the way for Africa’s takeoff, fostering a continent that is integrated, prosperous, and unified.”

Odinga stated that this was his vision for Africa, pointing out the importance to realise the objective in the face of a changing global landscape.

If elected, he will succeed Moussa Faki, the current chair of the AU Commission.

Faki, reelected on February 2, 2021, is serving his final term as the AU Commission Chairperson. He was first elected back in 2017.

AU Member States will elect the next AUC Chairperson in February 2025.



Raila Odinga meets Egypt’s Ambassador Wael Nasreldin Attiya at his home in Nairobi/Raila Press

Ethiopia

Ethiopia protests ‘ill-advised’ rights assessment by US diplomat

Ethiopia has labeled a recent speech by resident United States Ambassador Ervin Massinga as “ill-advised” faulting “uninformed assertions” contained in the statement.

Ethiopia’s Foreign Ministry stated that the statement titled “Policy Speech on Human Rights and Dialogue” contains allegations against, and what it described as unsolicited advice to Ethiopia on how best to run the affairs of the country.

In protest, Addis Ababa further pointed out that the statement made on May 15, also mentions groups “bent on overthrowing the elected Government by force, and known for blackmailing, kidnapping, and terrorizing civilians.”

“The statement is ill-advised and contains uninformed assertions. It is contrary to the historic and friendly relations between Ethiopia and the United States,” Ethiopia’s MFA said.

Addis Ababa noted that the two countries have maintained close ties and continue consulting on national, regional, and global issues of common concern.

Further Ethiopia said the East African state has been open to discussing wide-ranging topics with the US including efforts toward peace and security, ensuring respect for human rights, and nurturing democracy in the country.

Correct factual errors
Addis added that it will work with the Embassy of the United States to



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed/FILE/MFA_Ethiopia

correct “factual errors and inconsistencies in the statement.”

“It will suggest better ways befitting diplomatic decorum; and that will not undermine democratic processes and peace in the country,” the for-

eign ministry added.

Ethiopia maintained that it remains committed to a “mutually respectful” bilateral dialogue and relations with the United States.

In his statement, the US envoy to

Ethiopia reflected on the Yekatit 12 Massacre of 1937, a tragic event where thousands of Ethiopians lost their lives.

Ambassador Masinga expressed regret that many people across Ethio-

pia and the globe, continue to face the same fear that Ethiopians did 87 years ago here.

“Bandits, armed groups, and at times, government security forces, act with impunity in carrying out violations of these very same rights to life, dignity, and respect, reflecting a disregard for due process and the rule of law,” he said.

He commended the bravery of Chargé d’Affairs Cornelius Van Engert, who sheltered nearly 750 Ethiopians within the American Gibbi Center in Addis.

While acknowledging that every country including Ethiopia has a legitimate right to defend itself, Amb Massinga emphasized that “how a country defends itself reveals its character.”

Singling out some region within Ethiopia that continues to experience conflicts such as Oromia, Tigray and Amhara, the US envoy to Ethiopia emphasized the need for warring parties to pursue peace through dialogue, rather than violence.

“To those whose responsibility it is to govern Ethiopia, the government here, the country has far more to gain through peace than on the battlefield. A security-focused approach will not resolve complex political issues,” Ambassador Massinga said.

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Motivation

Education Of Youth In Patriotic Spirit Through The Works Of The President



By: Saydaxmatova Mohtobaxon
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

- The work focuses on the concept of “Spiritual threat” and talks about the impact of various ideological attacks on our national and religious veins. The emergence of such situations can be prevented only by strengthening the faith of people, especially our young people, strengthening their will, educating them as well-rounded people with their own independent thoughts, forming independent thinking, spirituality, goals, it is mentioned that the task can be solved by searching for ways of means and implementing them. .
- In this regard, it is emphasized that parents, teachers-coaches should not lose their vigilance in this matter, and it is impossible to be careless in the education of young people.

Annotation: This article is about “high spirituality – the place of the work of invincible power in the life of a person and society. The essence of the concept of spirituality, its potential, enlighteners who have grown up in our country and the place of the work in the whole world describes the information about the work. .

Key words: Man, society, future, thought, youth, mentality, faith, nation, people, education, spirituality, movement, spiritual courage.

INTRODUCTION

It is known that the development of the society largely depends on the spiritual maturity of the youth. As independent Uzbekistan is in the process of becoming one of the most advanced and developed countries, our society will educate and bring up people who have a broad outlook, are free-thinkers, and at the same time have a deep sense of civic responsibility, who have thoroughly mastered national and universal values. Is one of the main tasks ahead.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS.

In today's conditions, where our independence is strengthening day by day, material and spiritual monuments, scientific heritages left by ancestors serve as an important tool in educating each young generation as a highly spiritual, intellectually mature and spiritually mature person. In the formation of historical memory, its development, and at the same time, the

generation of feelings of national pride in the spirit of the current generation, it is especially important to deeply study the work of the First President I.A. Karimov “High spirituality – invincible power” and the universal ideas put forward in it.

And analysis serves as programming. This work is about the restoration of our national spirituality, the deep study of our rich historical heritage, the preservation of eternal values, traditions and customs, the development of culture and art, science and education, the death of the thinking of our people, especially the youth.

It contains all the views directed towards the noble goal of change and growth. The work “High Spirituality – Invincible Power” is considered to be a great example that fully embodies the meaning of spirituality, which has been the greatest wealth for our people. The work analyzes spirituality, its place and importance in the life of man and society, through comprehensive thoughts and conclusions.

The work focuses on the concept of “Spiritual threat” and talks about the impact of various ideological attacks on our national and religious veins. The emergence of such situations can be prevented only by strengthening the faith of people, especially our young people, strengthening their will, educating them as well-rounded people with their own independent thoughts, forming independent thinking, spirituality, goals, it is mentioned that the task can

be solved by searching for ways of means and implementing them. .

In this regard, it is emphasized that parents, teachers-coaches should not lose their vigilance in this matter, and it is impossible to be careless in the education of young people.

When talking about spirituality, it is said that inculcating it in the hearts of the young generation is a difficult and continuous activity, and its systematic organization is the only priority way to achieve the goal. For this reason, the work covers the field of education, press, television, internet and other mass media, theater, cinema, literature, music, painting and sculpture, that is, it affects the human heart and thinking. Our activities in all areas in accordance with the spiritual needs of the people and the requirements of the times

The need for strengthening is emphasized once again.

“The way to the human heart begins with education.” Therefore, in the process of educating young people, high skills and proper organization of each type of activity are required from teachers-pedagogues. It is expressed in the work that every person raising the young generation must first of all have high spirituality and deep knowledge and consider his task as important and responsible.

As the first President noted: “Where there is carelessness and indifference, when the most urgent issues are left to arbitrariness, that is where spirituality becomes the weakest and weakest point.

And on the contrary, where vigilance and enthusiasm, high intelligence and thinking reign, there spirituality becomes a powerful force.

The future development of our country depends on how young people, who are the foundation of our future, grow up and become human beings. From this point of view, the influence and power of the world of spirituality, which is closely related to our future, can be used to prevent attacks against spirituality and to warn people about such dangers, to raise young people to be spiritually healthy and perfect. The concept of spirituality It mainly appears in two forms. The spirituality of the individual and the spirituality of the nation. The spirituality of the individual is nourished by the spirituality of the nation. When a person considers himself to be a part of the nation, thinks about it, acts and works, then he connects with the concept of spirituality.

The concepts of spirituality presented in this work, the ideas expressed about its promotion, have attracted not only Uzbekistan, but the whole world, especially the Muslim world, and the presentation ceremonies of the work are held in countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, the Arab Republic, Kuwait, and Bahrain. In the first chapter, he emphasizes that the concept of spirituality, which is closely related to the human mind and spirit, occupies a special place in the life of every person, society, nation, and people, and continues the thoughts,

“Spirituality is a person's spiritual purification, “It is an incomparable force that encourages growth, inner world of a person, strengthens will, completes faith, and awakens conscience, all his views are the criterion.” .

CONCLUSION

In short, in the work of the first President, “High spirituality – invincible power”, specific tasks in this regard have been defined. The most important directions of preserving and strengthening the spiritual world of young people, enriching them, preserving and protecting the hearts and minds of the young generation from the influence of various harmful ideas have been deeply analyzed. Organization of teaching “High spirituality – invincible power” in educational institutions on the basis of effective and advanced pedagogical technologies remains the most important requirement of today's developing era.

Saydaxmatova Mohtobaxon was born in Uzbekistan in 1999. In 2019-2023 she studied at the Faculty of Foreign Languages at the Fergana State University 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. She is the winner of so many competitions as “Ulug'bek vorislari” in Republic stage

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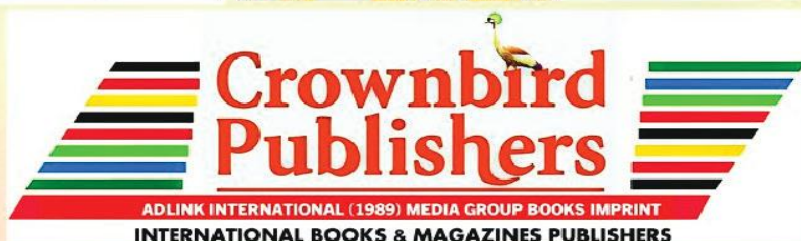
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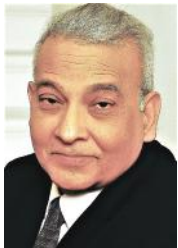
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UK News

Summer poll quells delay controversy but raises more questions: SUNAK STUNS BRITONS WITH SURPRISE JULY 4 SNAP GENERAL ELECTION AMID TORY FURY



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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- The drop in inflation is viewed as positive among some observers. Others believe the inflation is down, but the numbers are not as good as economists had expected.
- His public relations plan is to woo voters with the message that the economy has turned the corner after months of turmoil may not hold for many Britons.
- But Mr Sunak lumbered with many more problems during his time on Downing Street and the time of his two predecessors – Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.
- He inherited some of these problems from the previous two prime ministers in 2022.
- The fall in inflation may be good news for the Government; the crucial point to be considered is that it has no money to offer sweeteners to the public, such as cutting taxes. This is scuppered by larger-than-expected borrowing in April.

opinion.

Mr Sunak was buoyed by the good news on the fall of inflation to 2.3 per cent, after peaking to 11 per cent at its highest in October 2022 when he stepped into Downing Street as the third Prime Minister in that year. He may have been tempted to use the good news as a launching pad for the Government's message that its plan is working, adding that this was the moment for Britain to choose its future, or to add the unspoken words, this was the moment for the Conservatives to renew its mandate for five more years in Government until 2029.

This was seen as a bid to woo voters at the ballot box. The drop in inflation is viewed as positive among some observers. Others believe the inflation is down, but the numbers are not as good as economists had expected.

His public relations plan is to woo voters with the message that the economy has turned the corner after months of turmoil may not hold for many Britons.

But Mr Sunak lumbered with many more problems during his time on Downing Street and the time of his two predecessors – Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.

He inherited some of these problems from the previous two prime ministers in 2022. The fall in inflation may be good news for the Government; the crucial point to be considered is that it has no money to offer sweeteners to the public, such as cutting taxes. This is scuppered by larger-than-expected borrowing in April.

To put this into proper context, figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show there is a gap between government income and spending in April – a whopping £1.2 billion more than the forecast by the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR), far above the expectations of economists.

One of the crucial points is that with the call for general elections, Rishi Sunak may avoid a summer of small boats carrying migrants, a question that's still troubling human rights bodies.

This is one of the key five pledges to stop the small boats from Europe across the English Channel to the British shores, which have gone through challenging waters.

After spending millions of pounds in formulating and getting the Rwanda Asylum Policy in place, it seems the Prime Minister is worn out in the big fight to stop these illegal immigrants who keep on coming to Britain.

The call to a July general election could, in all possibility, give the government breathing space for a few months to avoid executing this policy.

As the Labour Party has claimed, the Rwanda Asylum policy could be dumped if the Tories lose the election.

Mr Sunak could find an escape route to extricate himself from the mess that has cost the Government millions of Pounds in payments to Rwanda, where those rejected for admission to the UK would be deported.

Sunak has made several announcements about the Rwanda flights carrying illegal migrants to Rwanda, but each time, he is thwarted by events, now this General Election.

As expected, he is still defiant that the stalled Rwanda flights will start on the other side of the election, assuming his Government returns to power.

Some sections of the UK voters may prefer to vote for the Tories, but these are steadily dwindling.

The continuing polls indicating the Conservative Party is at its lowest ebb of popularity in the country have wiped the smile off Sunak's. People are demanding a change.

One of the reasons for or against calling the election is the polls are not moving in favour of the Tories.

The opposition Labour Party is in a pole position in popularity stakes with as much as a 21-point lead, according to Politico's poll of the polls.

Sunak supporters believe it may be better to get over the worst and focus on boosting the Party in opposition. That would be like falling from grace because, for many people, the time is up for Tories after 14 years in power. Hope against hope, a section of Sunak's supporters has also thought that the Prime Minister should hold on until at least December 2024,



Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer welcomed the election announcement but has a lot of planning to do.



House of Parliament, the seat of democracy. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

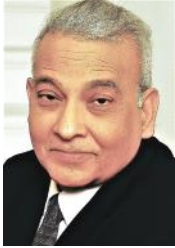


Former Conservative MP Natalie Elphicke with Sir Keir Starmer after defecting to Labour. Photo courtesy.

Contd Page 11.

UK News

Summer poll quells delay controversy but raises more questions: SUNAK STUNS BRITONS WITH SURPRISE JULY 4 SNAP GENERAL ELECTION AMID TORY FURY



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
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Contd from Page 10

Worth Noting:

- The opposition Labour Party is in a pole position in popularity stakes with as much as a 21-point lead, according to Politico's poll of the polls.
- Sunak supporters believe it may be better to get over the worst and focus on boosting the Party in opposition. That would be like falling from grace because, for many people, the time is up for Tories after 14 years in power.
- Hope against hope, a section of Sunak's supporters has also thought that the Prime Minister should hold on until at least December 2024, when the five-year Conservative Party mandate ends in the belief that something may come along by some stroke of luck the Party's fortune could turn around.
- Tory Party critics think Sunak has spent more time devoting his energies to the Rwanda Asylum Plan at the cost of other critical issues.

when the five-year Conservative Party mandate ends in the belief that something may come along by some stroke of luck the Party's fortune could turn around.

Tory Party critics think Sunak has spent more time devoting his energies to the Rwanda Asylum Plan at the cost of other critical issues.

The main base of Tory voters is older and more rural-oriented than the opposition Labour, which has a more substantial base in the urban areas and diaspora communities.

Sunak may also think it is better to go to the polls in the summer than in the bitter winter because fewer party activists would step out in that weather to canvass votes.

There is also the question of the winter of discontent when the National Health Service would be under maximum pressure during the winter crisis.

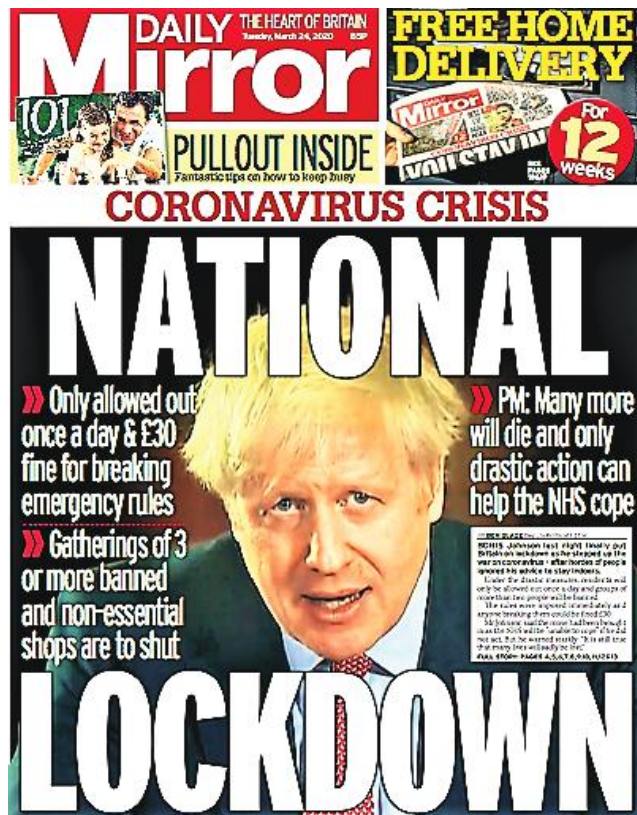
Britons waiting to be seen and the lengthy delays at the hospitals giving creaking service would lead to anger against the Government for failing to beef up the health care system, consequently losing the Tories more votes.

What ails the Tory government?

Many Britons, particularly those who follow the progress of this Government, are convinced the Conservatives have failed to deliver, though Mr Sunak may disagree.

The UK could be ready to bid farewell to 14 years of Conservative rule that saw five prime ministers, four general elections, and several referendums that caused significant turbulence, including the volatile Brexit, which has cost the British economy billions of Pounds. Critics also refer to several scandals during the Conservative rule, including the infamous Partygate during the Covid-19 pandemic when the Prime Minister in Downing Street (Boris Johnson administration) hosted a party breaking their own rules set for the rest of the country.

The Government mishandled many economic issues, botched up the revitalisation of the National Health Service, depriving it of much-needed funds, caused the lockdowns, which critics now say were unnecessary, and caused innumerable strikes by public sector



Flashback: Headlines from the 2020 lockdown that former Prime Minister Boris Johnson imposed severely hit the business, and the infamous Partygate scandal followed.

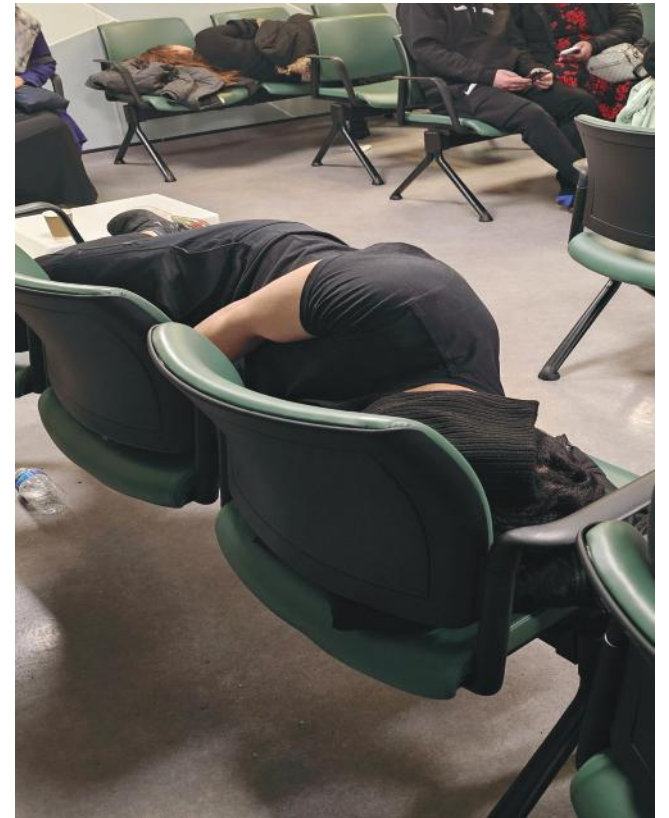
workers seeking better pay. At the same time, the Government of the day merely put up its hands, saying it had no money to give striking nurses, doctors, and public sector workers.

The shocking PPE Medpro scandal led to Michelle Georgina Mone, Baroness Mone, OBE, a Scottish businesswoman and life peer, admitting her links to the company that made big profits from a Government contract after her earlier denial of links to that company, stunning many ordinary Britons.

There were internal disputes in the Government. People have not forgotten how former Home Secretary Suella Braverman was shown the door and her continued aggressive opposition to her leader, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

There was also the involvement of senior Ministers such as Nadhim Zahawi, the former Chancellor and one-time Tory Party chairman, and his tax evasion issue and subsequent resignation rattling the opinion of many traditionally loyal Conservative voters.

The cost-of-living crisis has taken a heavy toll on the grassroots; every sector of the economy is going through turbulent times. In the coming months, there are possibilities of more



Chaos in the National Health Service Hospital Accident and Emergency units forced to wait as long as 20 hours to see doctors. Photo SHAMLAL PURI.



Not contesting... Former Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, a close ally of Rishi Sunak, quit the government after a probe into his alleged bullying. Photo Courtesy



Honk if you support us... On strike pickets, nurses in the East Midlands of Britain ask motorists to blow their horns to support them. Photo RCN.

Contd Page 13.

'Major non-NATO ally'

'Major non-NATO ally': What does Biden's new Kenya pledge mean?

Here's more about the non-NATO ally designation, promised to Kenya during President Ruto's Washington visit.

By:
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Worth Noting:

- During bilateral discussions between Biden and Ruto, the two countries decided to establish dialogue on artificial intelligence, collaboratively support Somali "antiterrorism" efforts and push for a ceasefire in Sudan.
- Ruto also affirmed that both countries are committed to the US-backed initiative to send a Kenya-led police force to Haiti, which is currently rife with gang violence. Biden defended his decision to withhold US forces from the Haiti mission.
- Biden and Ruto launched the US-Kenya Climate and Clean Energy Industrial Partnership, where the two will work with international financial institutions and multilateral trust funds to mobilise investment in clean energy.
- The two countries additionally announced collaboration in healthcare, between US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kenya's government to work towards the launch of the Kenyan National Public Health Institute.



United States President Joe Biden and President William Ruto

Here's more about the non-NATO ally designation, promised to Kenya during President Ruto's Washington visit.

United States President Joe Biden pledged to designate Kenya as a major non-NATO ally on Thursday, which will make Kenya the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to hold the designation. This was during Kenyan President William Ruto's three-day visit to the US. Biden described the decision as "a fulfilment of years of collaboration". "Our joint counterterrorism operations have degraded ISIS [ISIL] and al-Shabab across East Africa, our mutual support for Ukraine has rallied the world to stand behind the UN Charter, and our work together on Haiti is helping pave the way to reduce instability and insecurity," Biden told a news conference at the White House on Thursday. But what does a major non-NATO ally status mean?

What is a major non-NATO ally?

A major non-NATO ally (MNNA) refers to a country that is not part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), yet has a deep

strategic and security partnership with the US.

It is a designation that denotes a high level of trust, but falls short of involving commitments that full-fledged treaty allies agree to. In particular, this status would not bind the US and Kenya to mutual defence of each other, if either one of them were under attack.

What benefits do non-NATO allies receive?

The MNNA status entails certain economic and military benefits alongside benefits in areas of defence trade and security cooperation, but it "does not entail any security commitments to the designated country", the US Department of State website says. The designation will allow Nairobi to buy military technologies that would be harder for other countries to obtain from Washington. In addition to that, the State Department website enumerates other benefits, including:

- MNNA's are eligible for loans of materials and equipment for research, development or testing.
- US-owned War Reserve Stockpiles can be placed on MNNA territory.
- MNNA's can be considered for the purchase

of depleted uranium ammunition.

- The allies can enter a formal agreement with the US Department of Defense to carry out research and development projects. Additionally, firms of the MNNA can bid on contracts to repair and maintain US Defense Department equipment outside of the US. But the designation would not guarantee new defence agreements or weapon sales between Nairobi and Washington.

Which other countries has the US designated major non-NATO allies?

The US has currently designated 18 countries as MNNA's. These include Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, South Korea, Thailand and Tunisia. In 2022, Biden rescinded Afghanistan's status as an MNNA, 10 years after the designation was first announced.

What about other major US defence partners?

The US State Department says it treats Taiwan "as an MNNA, without formal des-

ignation as such" based on a 2002 statute — effectively giving the self-governing territory the benefits of that status without the legal recognition restricted to sovereign states.

This is because of the one China policy under which the US does not recognise Taiwan as an independent nation — even as it supports the territory economically and militarily. The relationship is fundamentally governed through the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act. In 2016, the US designated India as a Major Defense Partner, under this designation, India can get licence-free access to military and dual-use equipment regulated by the US Department of Commerce.

What else happened during Ruto's US visit?

Ruto arrived in Washington on Wednesday for a three-day visit. Here are the key developments that have taken place since:

- During bilateral discussions between Biden and Ruto, the two countries decided to establish dialogue on artificial intelligence, collaboratively support Somali "antiterrorism" efforts and push for a ceasefire in Sudan.

- Ruto also affirmed that both countries are committed to the US-backed initiative to send a Kenya-led police force to Haiti, which is currently rife with gang violence. Biden defended his decision to withhold US forces from the Haiti mission.

- Biden and Ruto launched the US-Kenya Climate and Clean Energy Industrial Partnership, where the two will work with international financial institutions and multilateral trust funds to mobilise investment in clean energy.

- The two countries additionally announced collaboration in healthcare, between US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kenya's government to work towards the launch of the Kenyan National Public Health Institute.

- Biden hosted a state dinner for Ruto on Thursday with about 500 guests including former President Bill Clinton and his wife and former presidential nominee, Hillary, as well as former President Barack Obama.

Source: Al Jazeera

UK News

Summer poll quells delay controversy but raises more questions: SUNAK STUNS BRITONS WITH SURPRISE JULY 4 SNAP GENERAL ELECTION AMID TORY FURY



By: Shamlal Puri
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Contd from Page 11

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mismanagement issues and scandals in the Government. Knowing their game is over, rather than getting humiliated, Tories are choosing to step down rather than get defeated.

There is a spate of resignations and defections, leaving the Conservatives weaker.

An increasing number of top Conservative MPs – 80 – so far, have stepped down this year. They include former Prime Minister Mrs Theresa May, former Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, Nadhim Zahawi, Sajid Javid, and the controversial Kwasi Kwarteng, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the short-lived Liz Truss Government in 2022 and Alok Sharma among many others.

Former Conservative MP Natalie Elphicke crossed the floor to Labour. Her colleagues Dan Poulter and Christian Wakeford also defected to Labour.

Philip Lee left the Conservatives to join the Liberal Democrats, the UK's third most influential political Party.

Thirty-nine MPs have left or been removed in the current parliamentary term. Official figures show that 120 MPs, including 80 from the Conservative Party, and the remainder from other parties, have stepped down and will not stand for re-election.

With sure signs of a crushing defeat in the polls, more Tory MPs could jump ship before July 4.

Rishi Sunak has found himself in a very odd position, but to fight, he must go on. He indicated a possibility of a hung parliament in which no single party has the majority. Observers scoffed at the idea, calling it a pipe dream rather than a reality. The Liberal Democrats, the partners in a hung parliament, have categorically stated that they would not consider partnering with the current Government in any such arrangement.

The fight now is between Rishi Sunak for the Conservatives and Sir Keir Starmer for the opposition Labour.

Voters are thinking of these top two but dull candidates. None of them have anything powerful to offer.

Labour thinks they are the government waiting. The Conservatives are hoping they can return to Downing Street.

This is not to suggest that one party is better than the

other. Labour is not short of its eccentricities, fallacies and past mistakes.

Delivering his election announcement speech on Wednesday, Sunak hoped that in these uncertain times, his record "shows that we have a plan and are prepared to take bold action necessary for our country to flourish".

In the last five years, our country has fought through the most challenging times since the Second World War. As I stand here as your Prime Minister, I can't help but reflect that my first proper introduction to you was just over four years ago.

"I stood behind one of the podiums upstairs in the building behind me. I told you that we faced a generation-defining moment and that we as a society would not be judged by some government action but by the small acts of kindness, we showed one another.

"And when I introduced the furlough scheme, I did so not because I saw a country simply in need of desperate help, albeit we were, but because I saw a country whose future hung in the balance."

He went to record his personal and the Party's successes in his years at the helm.

"I will forever do everything in my power to provide you with the strongest possible protection I can. That is my promise to you.

"I came to office, above all, to restore economic stability. Economic stability is the bedrock of any future success, whether that is rising wages and good jobs, investment in our public services, or the defence of the country. And because of our collective sacrifice and your hard work, we have reached two major milestones in delivering that stability, showing that when we work together, anything is possible.

"Our economy is now growing faster than anyone predicted, outpacing Germany, France and the United States. This morning, it was confirmed that inflation is back to normal. This means that the pressure on prices will ease, and mortgage rates will come down. This is proof that the plan and priorities I set out are working." All that he said was a good selling point to the public, but The public's response to his call to support his Party remains to be seen – July 4 is not far off.



Royal Mail staff went on strike during the Tory rule, hitting postal services and causing huge losses to businesses.



Rwanda: The Asylum deportation pact signed on 5 Dec 2023 by James Cleverly, UK Home Secretary (left), and Vincent Biruta, Rwanda Foreign Minister, has caused problems for Prime Minister Sunak.



Catalogue of painfully long delays in the NHS hospitals adds to the government's failures of the day. Photo SHAMLAL PURI.



High-profile Sajid Javid, a former Cabinet Minister, will not be standing in the 2024 election

Tanganyika and Zanzibar:

Tanganyika and Zanzibar: Tanzania's 60-year-old union may need a restructure

By: Nicodemus Minde.
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1



For six decades, the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar has withstood challenges. It has been celebrated as a success of the pan-African vision of a united Africa/FILE

Worth Noting:

- On 26 April 1964, two independent states, the Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar, merged to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Tanganyika had gained independence from Britain on 9 December 1961 with Julius Nyerere as its prime minister.

- Zanzibar, also a former British colony, had become an independent constitutional monarchy under Sultan Jamshid bin Abdulla on 10 December 1963. The African majority led a revolution against Arab control on 12 January 1964, establishing a new government led by Abeid Karume.

- The formalisation of the union was agreed in the Articles of the Union, which outlined 11 areas of cooperation between the two regions. These were the constitution, foreign relations, defence, police, emergency powers, citizenship and immigration, external trade, public service, tax related matters and harbours and civil aviation.

with challenges. In some cases, nationalist movements wanted to annex territory. In others, countries have split into two, such as Ethiopia-Eritrea (1993) and Sudan-South Sudan (2011). There are still many active separatist and nationalist movements across the continent. For six decades, the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar has withstood challenges. It has been celebrated as a success of the pan-African vision of a united Africa. But there are murmurs and disquiet over the nature, structure and the future of the union.

What led to the union?

On 26 April 1964, two independent states, the Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar, merged to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Tanganyika had gained independence from Britain on 9 December 1961 with Julius Nyerere as its prime minister.

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eration between the two regions. These were the constitution, foreign relations, defence, police, emergency powers, citizenship and immigration, external trade, public service, tax related matters and harbours and civil aviation.

The union was conceived in the midst of debates on pan-Africanism and the politics of the Cold War. After the Zanzibar revolution of January 1964, western powers such as the US and Britain labelled Zanzibar as Africa's Cuba. This was in reference to Cuba's proxy role in the rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union. Nyerere also saw Zanzibar as a security threat and once remarked that if his wish could be granted, Zanzibar would be towed further into the Indian Ocean. There were however socio-cultural and economic ties binding the people of Zanzibar and Tanganyika that justified the union formation.

The union is credited with construction of Tanzania's national identity. It has enhanced the social, economic and cultural interactions between residents of Zanzibar and the mainland. The constitution requires the sharing of the president and vice-president positions between the mainland and Zanzibar. Tanzania's current president, Samia Suluhu Hassan, is from Zanzibar. The ruling party, CCM, has often supported the current union format, which favours

its continued stay in power. The party's fear is that democratising the union could result to an opposition win. Zanzibar is one of the world's top tourist destinations, and as a result, both Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania have reaped substantial economic benefits from tourism.

Has the union eased tension between the regions?

There are always tensions between the two entities. Between 2011 and 2013 Zanzibari nationalism was at its peak. Sections were calling for secession. They were dissatisfied with the structure of the union and waning sovereignty, especially the mainland's influence on economic and political affairs in Zanzibar. This cooled down with the elevation of Samia to the presidency.

The ruling party has often ignored calls to deal with the union's squabbles. Lately, there has been clamour to bring back the government of Tanganyika. The opposition is questioning Samia's two main decisions that affect mainland Tanzania. The first is the eviction of Maasai people from their ancestral land of Ngorongoro and the second is the decision by the government to enter an agreement with the Dubai based DP World for the management of the Dar es Salaam port. The president being from Zanzibar, the opposition has accused her of auctioning mainland land. These claims highlight

the fragility of the union, which the opposition cites as grounds for demanding a new constitution.

From some of the published opinions and several interviews that I have had with political leaders, it appears many Tanzanians feel the union should be reformed to reflect contemporary realities.

A 2014 report by the Constitution Review Commission, set up to collect views and propose a new constitution, outlined emerging political and economic grievances from both entities. For example, many mainlanders see Zanzibar as a distinct entity, with its own president, national symbols like a flag and anthem, and a semi-autonomous government. On the other hand, Zanzibaris have criticised the lack of transparency in union finances and the absence of clear procedures for managing the union. These issues have still not been addressed.

What's ailing the union?

One of the major issues that has bedevilled the union has been its structure. It is a two-government system consisting of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania. Both governments are led by the ruling party, CCM, which has guarded the union as a sacrosanct entity that defines Tanzanian nationhood. In 1993, a section of main-

land legislators known as the Group of 55 (G55) pushed for a return of the government of Tanganyika. They wanted a three-tier government: one for each region and a union government. A presidential commission had, in 1991, recommended a similar structure. Two other commissions also recommended a three-tier government.

What needs to be done?

For the union to continue to exist, recommendations made by different commissions on its nature and structure should be implemented. The proposal for a three-tier government format with executive control in the two entities and a union president would go a long way in easing the union tensions. These recommendations were after all made from popular opinions from both sides of the union.

Alternatively, the union question should be subjected to a popular referendum. Referendums have been done in South Sudan, Catalonia, Quebec and elsewhere to determine people's views on independence.

Nicodemus Minde, Researcher, United States International University
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America

US calls for swift police deployment to Haiti after missionaries killed

US official says ‘Haiti cannot wait’ as Washington pushes for Kenya-led mission to help country tackle gang violence.

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- Missouri State Representative Ben Baker on Friday identified his daughter, Natalie Lloyd, and son-in-law, Davy Lloyd, as being among those killed.
- The pair had been working as full-time missionaries in the country, and Davy Lloyd was the son of Missions in Haiti Inc’s founders, David and Alicia Lloyd, who started the organisation in 2000.
- The identity of the third person killed has not been released.
- The United Nations and other humanitarian organisations have been calling for more support for the citizens of Haiti amid years of gang violence and political instability, which worsened after the 2021 killing of President Jovenel Moise.
- The most recent wave of unrest, which kicked off in February with gang attacks on police stations, prisons and other state institutions, forced Haiti’s unelected Prime Minister Ariel Henry to step down.



Haitian forces are seen in the country’s capital, Port-au-Prince, which has faced years of escalating gang violence and instability [File: Clarens Siffroy/AFP]

US official says ‘Haiti cannot wait’ as Washington pushes for Kenya-led mission to help country tackle gang violence.

The administration of United States President Joe Biden has called for the rapid deployment of a Kenyan-led security force to Haiti following the killing of three missionaries working with a US group in the violence-hit Caribbean country. The appeal on Friday came shortly after the non-profit Missions in Haiti Inc announced that three of its missionaries were fatally shot by armed gunmen on Thursday night in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince. The deaths are the latest in months of spiralling violence in Port-au-Prince, which remains largely under the control of powerful armed groups that have unleashed a wave of deadly attacks across the city. They also came as Kenyan President William Ruto wrapped up a visit to Washington, DC, where he met Biden and other senior US leaders to discuss a range of issues, including the long-stalled Haiti deployment.

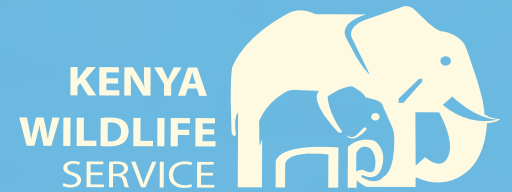
“The security situation in Haiti cannot wait,” a National Security Council spokesperson said on Friday, adding that Biden had pledged to support the “expedited deployment” of the Kenya-led force in talks with Ruto on Thursday. “Our hearts go out to the families of those killed as they experience unimaginable grief,” the spokesperson added, referring to the missionaries. Missouri State Representative Ben Baker on Friday identified his daughter, Natalie Lloyd, and son-in-law, Davy Lloyd, as being among those killed. The pair had been working as full-time missionaries in the country, and Davy Lloyd was the son of Missions in Haiti Inc’s founders, David and Alicia Lloyd, who started the organisation in 2000. The identity of the third person killed has not been released. The United Nations and other humanitarian organisations have been calling for more support for the citizens of Haiti amid years of gang violence and political instability, which wors-

ened after the 2021 killing of President Jovenel Moise. The most recent wave of unrest, which kicked off in February with gang attacks on police stations, prisons and other state institutions, forced Haiti’s unelected Prime Minister Ariel Henry to step down. An interim presidential council has since been appointed to lead the country, but major concerns and uncertainty persist. The UN humanitarian coordinator in Haiti earlier this month warned that “hundreds of thousands of people, including many women and children, are caught in violence, which shows little sign of abating”. As of mid-March, more than 360,000 Haitians were internally displaced across the country, according to the UN, and at least 1,500 people have been killed in gang violence since the beginning of the year. Yet while many Haitian civil society leaders and citizens say the country’s depleted and ill-equipped police force needs help to restore security, the looming deployment of Kenyan-led foreign forces

continues to raise questions. Kenya has committed 1,000 police officers to the UN-backed mission, which is being largely financed by the US and aims to counter the gangs. The deployment is set to eventually comprise up to 2,500 personnel. But it remains unclear when the mission will begin after officials had said it could be launched to coincide with Kenyan President Ruto’s visit to the US. Citing two unnamed sources, the Reuters news agency reported on Thursday that the deployment had been delayed. Daniel Foote, a former US special envoy to Haiti who has been critical of the Biden administration’s policies, also told Al Jazeera earlier this week that the mission’s mandate is unclear. “Do they have arrest authority? Are they going to be offensively going against the gangs, or are they going to be protecting infrastructure and not moving around? Nobody knows,” Foote said on Thursday after Biden and Ruto held a news conference at the White House. Many Haitians also remain

wary of outside intervention after past foreign missions failed to bring stability or address systemic problems in the country. Most recently, a UN peace-keeping force in Haiti was linked to a deadly cholera outbreak and sexual abuse allegations. Pressed on the new police deployment to Haiti during Thursday’s news conference, Ruto said Kenya “believes the responsibility of peace and security anywhere in the whole world, including Haiti, is the responsibility of all nations”. The Kenyan president promised the deployment would “break the back” of gangs in the country.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies



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Diaspora

Resources ramped up to build ‘Digital China’

China will ratchet up resources to speed up the construction of digital infrastructure, bolster the digital transformation of the economy and society, and deepen reforms related to the market-oriented allocation of data elements, as part of a broader push to develop new quality productive forces and advance the building of a “Digital China”, officials and experts said.

By: China Daily
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Worth Noting:

- Liu also highlighted the importance of promoting the development of smart cities and digital transformation of urban areas, as well as accelerating reforms related to the market-oriented allocation of data elements.
- China unveiled a plan for the overall layout of the country’s digital development last year, vowing to make important progress in the construction of a “Digital China” by 2025. By 2035, China will be at the global forefront of digital development.
- The total data output in China reached 32.85 zettabytes in 2023, an increase of 22.44 percent year-on-year, while the added value of core industries of the digital economy accounted for 10 percent of GDP, according to a report on Digital China development released by the NDA on Friday.



A visitor experiences a high-speed virtual reality motorcycle at the Strait International Conference and Exhibition Center during the 7th Digital China Summit in Fuzhou, Fujian province on Thursday. The summit, running from Friday to Saturday, features an interactive area of 56,000 square meters. [Wang Dongming / China News Service]

China will ratchet up resources to speed up the construction of digital infrastructure, bolster the digital transformation of the economy and society, and deepen reforms related to the market-oriented allocation of data elements, as part of a broader push to develop new quality productive forces and advance the building of a “Digital China”, officials and experts said. Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang said more efforts should be made to give full play to China’s advantages in terms of its massive data scale and rich application scenarios, and unleash the value of data elements so as to create new growth momentum for the country’s high-quality development.

Ding, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 7th Digital China Summit, which kicked off on Friday in Fuzhou, Fujian province. He stressed the need to improve independent inno-

vation capacities in digital technologies, make breakthroughs in core technologies in key fields such as integrated circuits and artificial intelligence, and enhance the resilience and security of industrial and supply chains. China will make more efforts to accelerate the development of core industries of the digital economy, build digital industry clusters with international competitiveness, and promote the digital and intelligent transformation of manufacturing, Ding added.

Liu Liehong, head of the National Data Administration, the country’s top data governance regulator, called for faster construction of data infrastructure and basic systems for data, vigorous development of the digital economy and improved digitalization of public services. Liu also highlighted the importance of promoting the development of smart cities and digital transformation of urban areas, as well as accelerating reforms related to the market-oriented allocation of data elements.

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Wang Jiangping, vice-minister of industry and information technology, said the ministry will push forward the development of new-generation information technologies including artificial intelligence, cloud computing and big data, and promote deeper integration of digital technologies with the real economy.

China has made remarkable achievements in building digital infrastructure. Statistics from the ministry

show that the country had built more than 3.65 million 5G base stations by the end of March, with the number of 5G mobile phone users reaching 874 million across the nation.

Wu Jianping, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said the emergence of innovative digital technologies has laid a solid foundation for unleashing the huge value of data elements, while underlining the significance of safeguarding data security, which is a prerequisite to ensure orderly development of the data elements market.

Noting that new cybersecurity challenges have appeared along with the rapid development of AI

technology and the accelerated application of data elements in more scenarios, Qi Xiangdong, chairman of Chinese cybersecurity company Qi-Anxin Technology Group, said the company has rolled out a large language model targeting the cybersecurity industry to fend off rising potential cyberattacks.

Qi said cybersecurity and AI are inextricably linked, while AI has greatly lowered the threshold of cyberattacks and raised some concerns about data leakage and malicious misuse of data. He called for efforts to ensure the safe use of AI technology and to invest more in the training of high-caliber cybersecurity talent.



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Diaspora

Ivorian cocoa farmers 'barely survive' while chocolate company profits soar

Farmers in Ivory Coast, the source of 45 percent of the world's cocoa beans, battle climate change and market inequality.



A farmer works at a cacao farm in Daloa, Ivory Coast [File: Ange Aboa/ Reuters]

Worth Noting:

- This is what has happened in recent years in the country, and increasingly so during the latest harvest season that began in October 2023.
- The top cacao producers in the world – Ivory Coast followed by its neighbour, Ghana – have been severely affected by the El Nino weather pattern.
- The climate phenomenon, characterised by warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, has been bringing drier conditions to the West Africa region.
- Additionally, climate change-induced hotter temperatures and altered rainfall patterns have further affected cocoa harvests.
- “A few seasons ago, one hectare [2.5 acres] would yield about 600 kilos of cacao. Nowadays, it barely produces 300 kilos,” Akoua says.

Farmers in Ivory Coast, the source of 45 percent of the world's cocoa beans, battle climate change and market inequality.

It's 11am in Aboude, a village in southern Ivory Coast, and Magne Akoua has already been working on his cacao farm for several hours. The 65-year-old moves slowly and methodically from one tree to the next, scrupulously shunning the scorching sun.

“We have to check on our fruit daily. Every three months, it becomes ripe and we can harvest it. But harvest hasn't been good at all lately,” he says.

Akoua has been a farmer for more than 40 years since he decided to leave a low-level administrative job in Abidjan, the country's economic capital, to run a small piece of family land on the outskirts of his native Aboude.

Cacao – the plant whose pods are harvested into cocoa, eventually becoming chocolate – is an intricate agricultural product that is particularly vulnerable to its natural environment.

“I love cacao. It's what I know best. But it's very difficult to work with,” Akoua explains. “It gets contaminated by pests. It needs a perfect balance between rainfall and heat to thrive, otherwise, its roots get flooded and rot or they simply dry up. This means that we get fewer pods and fewer pods means fewer cacao beans.”

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‘We barely survive’

The struggle to make ends meet is not new.

“Cacao farming requires a lot of physical work and time. We can't afford more manpower, so we [with the boys in the family] do everything ourselves,” Akoua says. “We barely survive doing all of this.”

But the everyday challenges are made more acute in a hugely unequal market where production shortfalls mean farmers struggle to make ends meet while surging chocolate prices help international companies' profits to soar.

Also in Aboude village, farmer Christian Kouassi describes such hardships.

As a member of the agriculture union in the locality, he is concerned about cacao farmers getting a fair deal for the work they put in to harvesting.

Kouassi has been advocating for farmers to become a more proactive part of the sector's value chain.

“We have absolutely no say in the price of the fruit that we produce. This has to change somehow. As a union, we're concerned with making cacao more sustainable and producing it in a way that benefits the community,” he says.

“The government recently

raised the price for a kilogramme of cacao, it's a good step. But more needs to be done to help us and our livelihoods,” he adds.

On April 2, Ivory Coast unveiled the new price for the mid-crop season spanning from April to September 2024. The price per kilogramme of cocoa beans is now set at 1500 CFA francs (\$2.48), marking a 50 percent increase.

This record-high price followed the surge in prices on the New York Stock Exchange in February. Cacao prices hit a record high of \$5,874 per tonne on the New York commodities market.

Price stabilisation

In 2021, Ivory Coast and Ghana introduced a premium of \$400 per tonne known as the “decent income differential”. The purpose was to guarantee farmers a minimum income irrespective of fluctuations in the price of exported cocoa beans.

However, Ivorian cacao producers are still hopeful for further increases in the upcoming season.

In the West African country, government authorities, along with several regulatory bodies and institutions, play a pivotal role in determining the price of cocoa.

The Coffee-Cocoa Council (Conseil du Cafe Cacao) is the key entity tasked with regulating cocoa prices and supervising the cocoa industry in the nation.

Typically, at the outset of each cocoa season, the government makes public announcements regarding cocoa prices, considering a range of factors including global market rates, production expenses, and feedback from cacao farmers and other stakeholders. The adoption of a stabilisation system effectively means that producers earn a set income per

kilogramme sold, despite all of these external factors.

“There is a guaranteed threshold for cacao producers. Traders that deal with multinationals see their profit margins vary, which is not the case for farmers. It's a system that makes sense when you consider the instability of commodity prices – including cacao – on the international market,” Souleymane Fofana explains.

Fofana started exporting cacao in 2017 when he created his company, Cote d'Ivoire Commodities. As an exporter and mill operator, he has a bird's eye view of the sector and understands its complexities.

“There are a lot of moving parts. For example, the environment's evolution ... Over time cocoa orchards age and become less productive, which makes it hard for farmers to sustain their production. Not to mention, cacao is not a part of the average Ivorian person's diet. Chocolate is a luxury delicacy that most people don't purchase. Our market remains the Western market at the end of the day,” he tells Al Jazeera.

International companies vs local economies

According to a Grand View Research market analysis report, the global chocolate market value was estimated at \$119.39bn in 2023 and is anticipated to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.1 percent from 2024 to 2030.

In 2023, United States-based Mars Wrigley Confectionery was the leading chocolate and cocoa manufacturer worldwide, with net sales of \$22bn. Ferrero Group and Mondelez rounded out the top three companies, both exceeding \$10bn in net sales. Meanwhile, according to a new Oxfam analysis, the collective fortunes of the Ferrero and Mars families surged to \$160.9bn in 2023. This is more than the combined gross domestic products (GDPs) of top cocoa producers Ivory Coast and Ghana. Ivory Coast specifically accounts for 45 percent of the global production of the “brown gold”.

“It's a huge anomaly. And there needs to be a thorough reflection on the national level to fix these gaps and to increase profit for our country and all of the sector's stakeholders,” Fofana says.

“We have a handful of local chocolatiers that make chocolate from our Ivorian cacao

beans. It's great and all, but we have to be realistic. We don't have the capacities and industrial capabilities to compete with giant multinationals that have grown their brand through decades of efficient advertising and a lot of capital,” he tells Al Jazeera.

“What we can do, however, is expand our list of clients, open up to other markets that also want to process and transform cacao beans, like countries in the MENA region for instance,” he adds.

“Who does cacao belong to?” Fofana specifically questions the pertinence of the Federation of Commerce of Cacao, an entity that was created in 2002 to – as it describes its mission – “develop a unique and robust commercial framework for the cocoa market, enabling harmonisation of contracts and providing education services and programs”.

The cacao exporter believes that the FCC gatekeeps business opportunities from countries like Ivory Coast through its registration system.

“Companies have to register with the FCC which is headquartered in London. It makes you wonder ‘Who does the cacao actually belong to?’

“Most of our client companies are American and European. But the world is changing, and partnership horizons should expand with it. We should sell our cacao to any country that is keen on chocolate,” he concludes.

Back in Aboude, Akoua and his family rise faithfully every morning to farm the precious cacao, but they do not consume any chocolate. The farmer cannot fathom going to a shop to spend his hard-earned income on a chocolate bar – which sells for about 1,500 CFA francs (\$2.48) each, the same amount he would earn for a full kilogramme of cocoa beans.

“In the end, we can try and diversify our use of our land and produce other crops. We already try. But our leaders have to make sure that we – at the source – benefit from all the money these big multinationals make,” he says.

“Our cacao is clearly important to them and their consumers. We should be able to reap the benefits of that.”

Source: Al Jazeera

Diaspora

Electrification of bodies

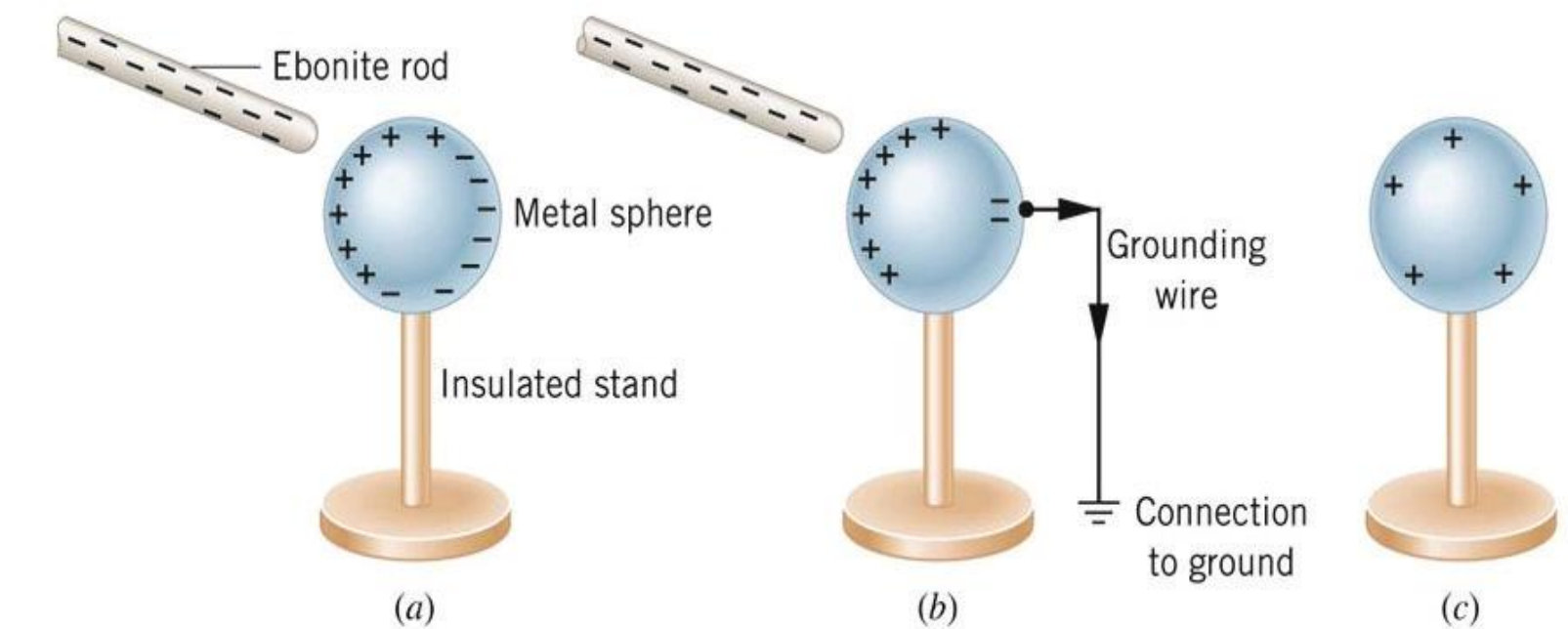
Law of conservation of electric charge. Under normal conditions, microscopic bodies are electrically neutral, because the positively and negatively charged particles that make up atoms are bound together by electric forces and form neutral systems.



By: Madyarova Matluba .
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Worth Noting:

• Charge is denoted by q and its unit is Coulomb (C). There are two types of electric charge. Benjamin Franklin proposed to conventionally call them “positive” (+) and “negative” (-) charges. It is known from the molecular-kinetic theory that all bodies are composed of atoms. The word atom is derived from the Greek word meaning “indivisible”. Simply put, the ancient Greeks believed that all bodies are composed of indivisible particles. On this basis, the term atom was created. But later it was known that atoms can also be separated into components. In 1911, Ernest Rutherford discovered the “planetary” model of atomic structure. According to this model, an atom is an electroneutral particle consisting of a positively charged nucleus and negatively charged electrons moving around it.



Abstract: Law of conservation of electric charge. Under normal conditions, microscopic bodies are electrically neutral, because the positively and negatively charged particles that make up atoms are bound together by electric forces and form neutral systems. If the electrical neutrality of the body is violated, then such a body is called an electrified body. In order to electrify a body, an excess or deficiency of electrons or ions of the same sign must be formed in it.

Key words: electricity, element, negative, positive, atom, electric charge, proton, neutron, nucleus, hydrogen atom. Such phenomena are observed in human life that cannot be explained according to the laws of mechanics, molecular physics and thermodynamics. For example, we can observe that when an air-inflated bubble is rubbed against fur and brought close to crumpled paper or other light objects, they are drawn into the bubble. Such phenomena are called charging (electrification) of bodies. The charge of objects can be strong or weak. Therefore, a physical quantity that characterizes the amount of electricity is introduced - a physical quantity called charge. Charge is denoted by q and its unit is Coulomb (C). There are two types of electric charge. Benjamin Franklin proposed to conventionally call them “positive” (+) and “negative” (-) charges. It is known from the molecular-kinetic

theory that all bodies are composed of atoms. The word atom is derived from the Greek word meaning “indivisible”. Simply put, the ancient Greeks believed that all bodies are composed of indivisible particles. On this basis, the term atom was created. But later it was known that atoms can also be separated into components. In 1911, Ernest Rutherford discovered the “planetary” model of atomic structure. According to this model, an atom is an electroneutral particle consisting of a positively charged nucleus and negatively charged electrons moving around it. Electron charge is $q_e = -1.6 \cdot 10^{-19}$ C. Its mass is $m_e = 9.1 \cdot 10^{-31}$ kg. Electron charge is the smallest elementary charge and can also be denoted by the letter e . Charges of the same sign repel, and charges of different signs attract. It is in this case that the atomic nucleus and its electrons attract each other and the electrons move around the nucleus. The kernel itself is divided into components. That is, it consists of positively charged protons and uncharged neutrons. Masses of proton and neutron are almost equal to each other and are 1836 times greater than the mass of electron: $m_p = m_n = 1836 \cdot m_e = 1.66 \cdot 10^{-27}$ kg. So the mass of one proton or one neutron is equal to $1 \text{ u} = 1.66 \cdot 10^{-27}$ kg. In addition, atomic mass is embodied in its nucleus. Because the mass of electrons is very small. Therefore, it is sufficient to calculate the nuclear mass

when calculating the atomic mass. The number of electrons in an atom is equal to the number of protons in the nucleus. Therefore, the atom is electroneutral, that is, the total sum of charges is zero. Each element is represented by a chemical symbol. Here: X -element, A -mass number (total number of particles in the nucleus) or atomic mass; The number of protons in the Z -nucleus (nuclear charge), the order number of the element in the periodic system. Then the equation $A = N + Z$ is appropriate, N is the number of neutrons. Accordingly, the number 1 element of the periodic system, the nucleus of the hydrogen atom consists of one proton (no neutrons). The number two element helium (He) atom has two protons and two neutrons in its nucleus. Two electrons move around the nucleus. If an atom loses an electron as a result of an external influence, it becomes a positively charged atom, that is, a positive ion. If it receives an additional electron from the outside, it becomes a negative atom, that is, a negative ion. For example, when a helium atom loses one electron, it becomes positively ionized He^+ . If it loses two, it is doubly ionized: He^{2+} . If a hydrogen atom receives one extra electron, it becomes a negatively ionized H^- . The study of electricity began with conducting simple experiments. Let's try such an experiment. Let's scatter pieces of paper cut with scissors on the table. Let's take a plastic comb, clean it well and dry it. Then

let's comb our oil-free dry hair and bring it closer to the pieces of paper. Then we observe that the pieces of paper are stuck to the comb. A similar phenomenon can be observed by rubbing a ballpoint pen against a piece of wool, affecting scraps of paper, other light objects, and even a thin stream of water. Let's cut the chocolate-wrapped celery metal paper 2 cm wide and wrap it around a pencil to make a cylinder. Then let's make a hole in its end and hang it with a thread. If we bring a glass rod close to a cylinder suspended by rubbing against the silk, it will be attracted to the rod, and after touching the rod, it will be pushed away from it. Let's bring an amber rod rubbed on wool to a second cylinder suspended by a string. After the cylinder is attracted to the amber rod and touches it, it is pushed away from it. The reason for this is that the cylinders become electrified after touching the sticks. Now let's move the sticks closer to the cylinders. It can be observed that the cylinders are drawn back to the rods.

We draw the following conclusions from the experiments:

1. Electrified objects attract other non-electrified objects, for example, small pieces of paper, hair.
2. Objects charged from the same electrified rods repel each other. Charged objects from glass and amber rods are attracted to each other. So, a glass rod rubbed against silk has one type of electric charge, and an am-

ber rod rubbed against fur has another type of charge. There will be electric charges. French scientist Sh. At the suggestion of Dufe and the American scientist B. Franklin, he studied the condition of the first type of charge. How to explain the existence of electromagnetic forces in nature? All bodies contain charged particles. In the normal state, objects are electrically neutral (since the atom is neutral) and electromagnetic forces do not appear. The body is charged if it has an excess charge of any character: Negatively charged - if there is an excess of electrons; Positively charged - when there is a lack of electrons. To summarize: Electrification of organs is one of the methods of obtaining charged bodies, for example, through contact). In this case, both objects are charged, the charges are opposite in sign but equal in magnitude. The interaction of bodies, having charges of the same or different signs, can be shown in the following experiments. We electrify an ebonite rod by rubbing it against fur and touch it to a metal sleeve suspended by a silk thread. Charges of the same sign (negative charges) are distributed on the sleeve and the ebonite rod. When a negatively charged ebonite rod is brought close to a charged sleeve, the sleeve can be seen to be repelled by the rod. If we now bring a (Positively charged) glass rod rubbed on the silk to the charged sleeve, the sleeve will be attracted to it.

Strikes continue in Gaza, as UN court orders Israel to halt Rafah assault

The ruling was in response to a request by South Africa in part of a wider case accusing Israel of genocide.

By: Reuters .
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Worth Noting:

- Israel has repeatedly dismissed that accusation as baseless and had signalled it would ignore any ruling to halt its offensive by the court, which has no enforcement powers. It says it has no choice but to attack Rafah to root out the last battalions of Hamas fighters it believes are sheltering there.
- Residents and Palestinian media reported a series of strikes hitting roads and houses in the Shaboura neighbourhood in central Rafah shortly after the ICJ ruling was read out in The Hague.
- Israel launched its assault on Gaza following a Hamas-led attack on southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7 that killed 1,200 people and saw more than 250 hostages seized, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, Israel's incursion has killed more than 35,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities.



Smoke rises during an Israeli air strike, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, May 24, 2024. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem

Israeli forces stepped up military strikes on Gaza on Friday, residents and medics said, with planes bombing targets in the southern city of Rafah even as the U.N.'s top court ordered Israel to halt its offensive there. Heavy fighting was also reported in Jabalia, in the north, where Israel's military said it had recovered the bodies of three hostages killed during the Hamas-led attacks on Oct. 7 that triggered the war. In Rafah, where an escalating Israeli assault has sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from what was one of the few remaining places of refuge, residents reported intensifying aerial and ground bombardment in the south and centre of the city that borders Egypt. As the fighting raged, the International Court of Jus-

tice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, said the situation in Rafah was now "disastrous" and ordered Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive". The ruling was in response to a request by South Africa in part of a wider case accusing Israel of genocide. Israel has repeatedly dismissed that accusation as baseless and had signalled it would ignore any ruling to halt its offensive by the court, which has no enforcement powers. It says it has no choice but to attack Rafah to root out the last battalions of Hamas fighters it believes are sheltering there. Residents and Palestinian media reported a series of strikes hitting roads and houses in the Shaboura neighbourhood in central Rafah shortly after the ICJ ruling was read out in The Hague.

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BODIES RECOVERED

In northern Gaza, medics said at least five Palestinians were killed when houses were hit in Jabalia and more were believed to be trapped under rubble, but that the area could not be reached due to the intensity of the bombardment. The Israeli military said it had recovered the bodies of three hostages taken into Gaza after they were killed on Oct. 7. It said the bodies of Hanan Yablonka, Michel Nisen-

baum and Orion Hernandez Radoux were recovered overnight in a joint operation by the army and the intelligence services in Jabalia. Israel says its twin goals in Gaza are bringing back the remaining hostages and destroying Hamas. "We will not stop fighting for their freedom," said military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari in a televised statement announcing the recovery of the three bodies. "Every decent country would do the same." Simultaneous Israeli assaults on the northern and southern edges of Gaza this month have caused a new exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fleeing their homes, and have cut off the main access routes for aid, raising the risk of famine. Israel had said its forces cleared Jabalia, the largest of

Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, months earlier in the war. But it returned there this month saying it needed to prevent Islamist militants regrouping, and the area has seen intense fighting in recent weeks. Residents said on Friday tanks had destroyed the local market and bulldozers continued to raze shops and property in Jabalia's narrow alleys. Hamas's armed wing said its fighters had engaged three tanks there. Tanks also advanced close to the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital, where medics said Israeli fire had caused the suspension of operations at the last functioning medical facility in northern Gaza Strip.

Chad's Deby sworn in as president as Allamaye Halina named new PM

Inauguration of Mahamat Idriss Deby follows disputed election and marks an end to three years of military rule.

Inauguration of Mahamat Idriss Deby follows disputed election and marks an end to three years of military rule.

Chad's newly elected president, Mahamat Idriss Deby, has been sworn in to succeed his late father after three years as an interim leader under military rule in the northcentral African country.

Shortly after, the country announced that Allamaye Halina would assume the post of prime minister after Succes Masra announced his resignation from the position this week.

Speaking at an inauguration ceremony in the capital in N'Djamena on Thursday, which followed contested elections earlier this month, Deby said: "To my brothers and sisters who did not choose me ... I would like to say that I respect your choice, which contributes to the vitality of our democracy."

Deby won a sweeping 61 percent of the May 6 vote that international NGOs said was neither credible nor free.

He was proclaimed transitional president in April 2021 after rebels killed his father, Idriss Deby, who had himself ruled Chad since a coup in the early 1990s.

Deby was quickly endorsed as transitional leader by an international

community led by France, whose forces in recent years have been removed by military regimes in former colonies Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. France currently has 1000 soldiers in Chad.

The swearing-in on Thursday marked the end of three years of military rule in oil-rich Chad, one of Africa's poorest countries, making official what the opposition has denounced as a Deby dynasty, accusing the clan and its allies of controlling the main institutions of power.

New prime minister

Following the inauguration, Chad named Halina, who was previously its ambassador to China, the new prime minister in a decree read out on state television.

Masra, who resigned from the post on Wednesday, was Deby's main rival in the election.

He had only served as prime minister since the beginning of the year, having returned to the country under a reconciliation agreement after a period in exile following a crackdown on protests against military rule.

The opposition leader came second in the election with 18.54 percent of the vote, unsuccessfully challenging the result on allegations of fraud.



Chad President-elect General Mahamat Idriss Deby, centre, arrives for his inauguration at the Palace of Arts and Culture in N'Djamena, on May 23, 2024 [Joris Bolomey/AFP]

After the Constitutional Council rejected his bid, he called on supporters to "remain mobilised" but "peaceful".

Eight African heads of state and for-

eign dignitaries, including Franck Riester, France's minister for foreign trade and Francophonie, attended Deby's swearing-in ceremony.

The presidential term runs for five

years and can be renewed once.

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies

climate protests

Over 170 arrested as climate protests target TotalEnergies and fund manager

The boss of TotalEnergies told shareholders Friday that new oil fields had to be developed to meet global demand, as the annual meetings of the French energy giant and one of its biggest shareholders were picketed by climate activists.

Police said they detained 173 people among hundreds who gathered outside the Paris headquarters of Amundi, one of the world's biggest investment managers and a major TotalEnergies shareholder.

Climate activists also gathered hours before the TotalEnergies annual general meeting opened. Greenpeace members unfurled a "Wanted" banner calling its chief Patrick Pouyanne "the leader of France's most polluting company".

The banner was quickly taken down by police.

Several hundred activists belonging to Extinction Rebellion gathered outside Amundi for its general meeting.

A few dozen protesters forced their way into Amundi's tower block, daubing graffiti on the walls and smashing some windows, police said. Amundi said eight of its security staff were injured.

The activists say TotalEnergies is contributing to global warming and the destruction of biodiversity

through its gas and oil activities.

Pouyanne told shareholders that higher oil prices prompted by insufficient fossil fuel output "would quickly become unbearable for the populations in emerging countries, but also in our developed countries". Demand for oil was growing in line with the global population, he said. But Pouyanne said TotalEnergies would pursue its "balanced strategy" of developing both fossil fuel and low-carbon energy production. TotalEnergies had proved it was possible "to be a profitable, or even the most profitable, company while pursuing a transformation" toward cleaner energy, he said.

At Friday's meeting, nearly 80 percent of shareholders approved the company's climate strategy, with more than 75 percent also voting to renew Pouyanne as CEO for three years.

Pouyanne, who last month floated the idea of a New York listing for the company, told shareholders there was "no question" of TotalEnergies leaving France.

He said in April that there was "a case" to move from the Paris CAC 40 index to New York in search of higher valuations and larger markets.

French President Emmanuel Ma-



cron, asked by Bloomberg if he would be "happy" with such a move, responded: "Not at all and I would be very surprised" if it came to pass.

AFP



By: Munyal Markus Manunyi
@themtkenyatimes

Ankwasa Harlord, a young Ugandan writer, has said his inspiration to venture into writing, stems from too much propaganda and injustice taking place in his home country, Uganda.

Harlord, who is 23-year-old, said he began writing at age 15, after noticing some disturbing occurrence surrounding sexual violence and other vices in Uganda. In this interview with You & Literature, he cited a particular instance which triggered him to pick up his pen and begin to voice out through writing.

Excerpt...

Kindly introduce yourself.

I'm Ankwasa Harlord, a Ugandan poet/author of two books, "Walk My Path" and "The Unspoken Crime Scenes", an anthology of African poetry/short stories on Sexual Violence. I am the Marketing Manager of Poets Association Of Uganda (PAU), serving as the Deputy Secretary at Uganda Poets Against Sexual Harrasment, Assault And Rape (UPASHASAR). I'm also the President, International African Writers Association (IAWA UG) Ugandan Branch. I am 23 years of age, born on 18th February 2001, in South West Uganda (Kabale).

What inspired you to start writing?

My country is such an inspiration for one to be a writer. There exist a lot of injustices, twists, propaganda, sexual violence, extra-judicial killings, tribalism, corruption, unemployment and fake news all over the place.

The need to give your own account of how you view society inspires you to put them into writing for a larger audience, including those yet to be born, as reference for debate. However, at one point, the only source of inspiration was when I read a lady's status: "I'll Marry A Poet".

Can you specifically mention some few instances of injustice that triggered your writing career?

The assassination of Felix Kaweesi, on 17th March 2017 when he left home for duty, 'sex for marks' transaction that had gained ground in key uni-



Ankwasa Harlord.

versities such as Makerere University. The silent treatment given to all these cases of injustice are what prompted me to take writing so serious to expose such vices and no wonder my works talk more on vices like sexual violence.

Do you think your voice is already being heard or not?

I'm so glad that my advocacy has gotten the attention of various people and writers alike, especially writers like me that attend my weekly online sessions on topics in line with Sexual Harrasment, Assault And Rape where I and the Uganda Poets Against Sexual Harrasment, Assault And Rape (UPASHASAR) and Poets Association Of Uganda (PAU), invite different experts to speak with our online audience. And this coming September, we will be embarking on physical sessions in schools and other key institutions.

Also, I have been interviewed by The Kenyan Times, The Star and The Daily Monitor newspapers in Kenya and Uganda respectively, hence benchmarking the ears given my advocacy.

What's the government of your country doing about sexual vio-

lence? Or isn't it bothered?

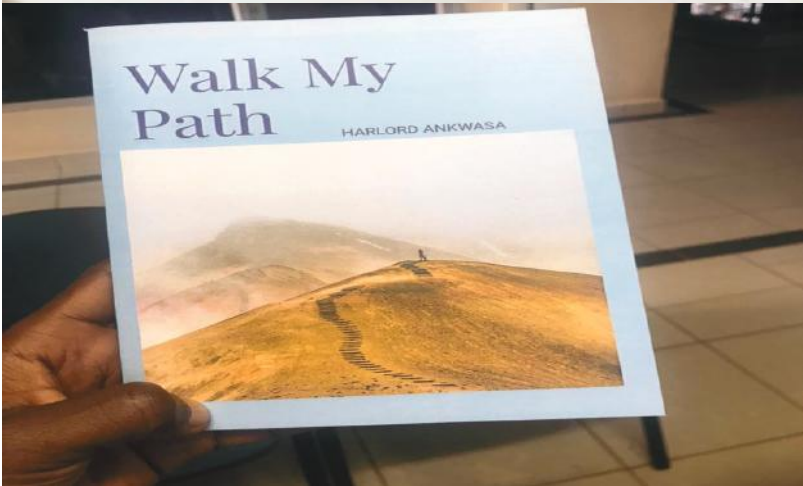
Is the government bothered or not? Is a question that can stir a serious debate amidst my fellow citizens, and can be overly politicized to whosoever deem fit, or seem to benefit.

In my very humble opinion, the government has done little or nothing to ensure the safety of women and all victims of sexual violence in the country. The statistics say it all, about 60% of Ugandan women are reported to have experienced some sort of sexual violence in their lives. Out of 400 reported cases of sexual violence, only about 5 cases get justice. In the cases that were pardoned by the state this year (2024), about 60% of the pardoned offenders were of sexual related cases such as defilement and rape.

Also, according to UN Women, 95% of Ugandan women are reported to have suffered physical or mental sexual violence.

What are your ambitions in life as a writer?

My ambition as a writer is to speak up and break the silence on the persistent vices of the world. It is the duty of a writer to speak up against any form



of injustice. It is my ambition to also document the culture of my people and inspire the present/future generations into safeguarding our culture.

What is your worst nightmare as a writer?

A writer's worst nightmare, well this question is so real and scary too, but to be sincere, facing a writer's block and rejection of your work on the merit of them not being so good is a nightmare to me.

At what age did you start writing?

I have been a writer since my early high school days but it was in 2018 (age 15) that I took writing seriously, making it a means to communicate my thoughts and feelings to the world. I started viewing writing as a medium of communication and expression of one's views on the world at large.

What genre of literature do you specialise in?

I specialize in poetry, I can also write essays, short stories and a bit of drama.

What are your accomplishments as a writer?

As a writer, my key accomplishment is having my work read both home and abroad. I'm glad that my books and poetry have graced the international stage on most online bookstores like Amazon, Thrift, Barnes and Noble, to

mention but a few.

My works have been published in various international anthologies like The New Best African Poets 2020 that have been adapted by various universities as a study tool of African poetry. I have been interviewed by home newspapers like Daily Monitor, The Kenyan Times, The Star. I am only grateful for how far I have gone!

And what are your challenges as a writer?

Getting an audience ready to give you a listening ear and the platform to connect with your audience, is the greatest challenge for any writer in my own opinion. Especially on the African continent!

What is your advice for upcoming writers?

My advice to the upcoming writers is front passion and handwork as a tool to ignite the writer in them. Handwork is a really crucial part for a writer, since "Everyone can write, yet not everyone is a writer!"

Thank you for your time Harlord

I am really grateful for having been given this opportunity and platform to share my experiences as a writer, thanks very much to you Mrs Munyal and the entire team.