

The 22-day-old British Government of the new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer

UK Growth

Britons have placed high hopes on the Starmer Government's five years in power:



King's traditional Speech to Parliament reveals agenda to rebuild the country where the Tories flopped:

NEW PRIME MINISTER STARMER TAKES THE BRAKES OFF BROKEN BRITAIN AS THE SCENE IS SET TO BOOST GROWTH

By: Shamlal Puri
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The 22-day-old British Government of the new Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, is not wasting any time on plans to beef up the economy and reach parts of development that the Conservatives had either failed to achieve in 14 years of power or did not wish to achieve.

Britons have placed high hopes on the Starmer Government's five years in power, many passionately believing that this Government will be better than the previous ex-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said: "Now is the time to take the brakes off Britain. For too



King Charles III reads the Speech in the House of Lords in which he outlined the Labour Government's agenda for 2024-25, watched by Queen Camilla Photo Institute of Government.

long people have been held back, their paths determined by where they come from - not their talents and hard work.

"I am determined to create wealth for people up and down the country. It is the only way our country can progress, and my Government is focused on supporting that aspiration.

Today's new laws will take back control and lay the foundations of real change that this country is crying out for, creating wealth in every community and making people better off - supporting their ambitions, hopes and dreams.

The State Opening of Parlia-

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Desert Locusts: Igad targets frontline member states to curb transboundary pests' invasion

IGAD



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Dozens arrested in Uganda anti-government protests

Ugandan capital Kampala Africa



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Global South applauds China's reform benefits and future

President Xi Jinping Asia



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BRICS+ develops legislators' dialogue amid plans to establish common parliament

BRICS+



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Closer cooperation emphasised during 7th China-Africa People's Forum



Harris tells Netanyahu 'it is time' to end war in Gaza

US Vice-President Kamala Harris - who's expected to be the Democratic nominee for November's presidential election - has held what she called "frank and constructive" talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Striking a tougher tone than Pres-

ident Joe Biden, Ms Harris said she made clear her "serious concerns" about casualties in Gaza, telling Mr Netanyahu how Israel defended itself mattered. "It is time for this war to end," she said after their face-to-face talks at the White House.

Ms Harris also stressed the need for a path to a two-state solution, while calling on Americans to be aware of "nuance" on the conflict. Earlier on Thursday, Mr Netanyahu met Mr Biden, who stepped down from his re-election campaign on Sunday.

Mr Netanyahu's meetings at the White House came a day after he gave a fiery speech to Congress, vowing "total victory" against Hamas, as

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Ruto Commits To Deliver On Resolution Of Graft Cases In 6 Months

By: Presidential Communication Service
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Worth Noting:

- The President emphasised the government's focus on the prudent use of public funds to ensure Kenyans receive value for their money.
- He said that the government has redirected funds previously earmarked for renovation of offices, seminars and vehicles to projects that benefit the people.
- The President also announced that the government will, in similar amendments to the law, address the challenge of tax expenditure to reduce or eliminate funds spent on tax refunds, pointing out that the process is opaque.
- This will save the country money that will be used for development. He urged leaders and Kenyans to unite and focus their energy on transforming the country.



President Ruto said the legal amendments are aimed at cementing integrity and dealing firmly with corruption/PCS

The government will shortly be proposing changes to the relevant law to seal the loopholes that undermine the fight against corruption, President William Ruto has said.

The President said the Executive will work together with the criminal justice system to ensure corruption cases are resolved within six months. He said it will no longer be possible for the corrupt to use injunctions to evade prosecution or delay justice. "We cannot continue tolerating those who steal from the public to go to court and obtain injunctions while the cases drag on for years," he pointed out.

Speaking during an inspection of development programmes in Mombasa and Kilifi counties, President Ruto said the legal amendments are aimed at cementing integrity and dealing firmly with corruption.

He was accompanied by

the Speaker of the Senate Amason Kingi, Governors Abdullswamad Nassir (Mombasa), Gideon Mung'aro (Kilifi), Fatuma Achani (Kwale), Issa Timamy (Lamu) and Godhana Dhadho (Tana River), and MPs and MCAs.

Protecting resources

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money that will be used for development. He urged leaders and Kenyans to unite and focus their energy on transforming the country.

At the same time, President Ruto said the government has been investing in the blue economy at the Coast to enhance residents' earnings.

Already, the government is improving infrastructure at five fish landing sites in the counties of Lamu, Tana River, Kilifi, Mombasa and Kwale in a KSh1.2 billion project. "Value addition facilities complete with coolers will reduce losses and enhance the earnings of the fishing communities," he stated.

Developing fishing infrastructure

At the same time, plans to build three fish markets in Likoni, Malindi and Kibuyuni are at an advanced stage and so is the

construction of the National Mari-Culture Resources and Training Centre in Shimoni.

To show the government's determination to grow the blue economy resources, President Ruto disclosed that the government has licensed the first deep-sea vessel for industrial fishing. "Our goal is to ensure that the blue economy enhances our country's income from KSh20 billion a year to KSh120 billion," he said. In Mombasa, the President issued KSh1.7 billion in grants to 612 fishing groups from Mombasa, Tana River, Kwale, Lamu and Kilifi that will benefit 19,000 residents.

"The aim is to uplift the living standards of fishing communities by increasing their earnings," he explained.

In Watamu, Kilifi County, he laid the foundation stone for the KSh50 million Watamu Market, one of the eight

being built in the county.

In the ongoing KSh27 billion Last Mile Connectivity programme, Kilifi County has been allocated KSh1 billion to connect an additional 15,000 residents to electricity.

He added that the KSh2 billion Baricho Water Project will significantly address water challenges in the region.

Governor Nassir said he had been opposing the President and his administration but is now working closely with the government to transform Mombasa County.

He praised government efforts to strengthen the blue economy for the benefit of the people.

The Mombasa Governor expressed confidence in the Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet nominee Hassan Joho, saying he understood the challenges facing the sector.

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Mama Judith Ongoro



MEDICAL APPEAL

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Open Letter To President

MP John Paul Mwirigi's Open Letter To President Ruto

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- They have exploited innocent young Kenyans, turning them into tools for their nefarious agenda. Many of the young people are unaware of the real motive behind these demonstrations.
- Upon careful observation, I have noticed that a significant number of those mobilizing for these protests on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) do not even live in Kenya. Their primary goal is to see President William Ruto fail despite his efforts to streamline the economy and set Kenya on a path to prosperity.



President William Ruto with MP John Paul Mwirigi during the 2022 election campaigns.

Mr President, as an elected leader under the Kenya Kwanza Government, I feel a profound obligation to work for the betterment of the people of Kenya. Recent events have prompted me to address the nation on the ongoing demonstrations and their implications. In the past few weeks, we have witnessed a series of protests initially against the Finance Bill, urging President William Ruto to refuse to sign it in its entirety. In response to these protests, the President listened to the people's voices and sent a memorandum to the National Assembly to withdraw the entire Bill. But the demonstrations have persisted as demands

followed other demands, including the dissolution of the Cabinet. Once again, the President complied with the demands. Despite these actions, the demonstrations continue, now calling for the resignation of the President. It has become clear to me that neither the Finance Bill nor the Cabinet was the issue. The root cause lies deeper: There are individuals with a thirst for power organizing and manipulating these protests for their selfish benefit. They have exploited innocent young Kenyans, turning them into tools for their nefarious agenda. Many of the young people are unaware of the real motive behind these demonstrations.

Upon careful observation, I have noticed that a significant number of those mobilizing for these protests on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) do not even live in Kenya. Their primary goal is to see President William Ruto fail despite his efforts to streamline the economy and set Kenya on a path to prosperity. President Ruto has made significant strides in stabilizing the economy. This financial year was set to be a turning point, a year of substantial progress. These detractors are threatened by the President's success and are determined to see him falter. They do not wish to see Kenya flourish under his leadership.

The shadowy figures are indifferent to the challenges facing our young people, including unemployment, and are threatened by the job creation policies and programs that President Ruto has introduced. They are opposed to hardworking Kenyans benefiting from government policies, particularly in sectors such as health, agriculture, water, mining, and devolution. Mr. President, Kenya has many enemies who do not wish our country well. This is your moment to reclaim Kenya from these evil people and set it on a trajectory to prosperity. Do not succumb to further demands. Some have mistaken your kindness

for weakness. They believe they can dictate how you should lead. Kenya needs a strong leader who will not be swayed by those with ulterior motives.

As a leader elected in the party you lead, I stand firmly behind you, Mr. President, until we deliver the promises we made to Kenyans during the 2022 election campaigns.

As legislators, we are prepared to vet and appoint the new Cabinet Secretaries you have nominated to facilitate the effective delivery of our commitments to the people. It is crucial for all leaders to unite and act decisively. We must give President Ruto the time and space to lead. He is a performer, and the 20 months he has been in office have proven this. Many doubted our government's ability to manage debt, yet we have proven them wrong by meeting our obligations and strengthening our currency.

The real cowards are those who refuse to give our President the chance to deliver on his promises. By 2027, Kenyans will judge us based on our performance. However, demanding the President's resignation is neither possible nor justified.

We have witnessed his dedication and capability. It is time to rally behind him for the sake of our nation's future.

Thank you.

*Hon John Paul Mwirigi
MP, Igembe South Constituency*

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Apostolic Nuncio roots for unity as KCCB urges dialogue

By: PHIDEL KIZITO
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The Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya Archbishop Hubertus van Megen has urged for national unity as the only way to drive inclusive development.

Archbishop van Megen who spoke during the installation of Bishop Peter Makau as the Bishop Coadjutor of Isiolo, the Nuncio asserted the church's commitment to foster unity.

"The only danger I see these days is the temptation to fall back to ethnic rivalry and identity. In order for a country to really come together we have to go beyond that," he said.

The Nuncio called for tolerance and calm among Kenyas, stating that there is a lot that brings Kenyans together than what separates them.

Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) Chairperson Bishop Maurice Muhatia who spoke at the event also urged the youth to engage the government in structured dialogue to resolve grievances.

"We appeal to the youths to embrace structured dialogue in order for their concerns to [be] taken into consideration by relevant authorities," Bishop Muhatia appealed.

Urgent reforms

KCCB reiterated its support for anti-graft efforts urging a coordinated response to tame the vice.

"Corruption continues to deny Kenyans essential services and must therefore be eradicated at all levels," Muhatia stated.

In apparent reference to President Ruto's decision to nominate four ranking members of the opposition ODM party in Cabinet, KCCB asserted that the dialogue should be devoid of sharing of positions.

The Conference acknowledged the need to address concerns raised by Gen Z protestors and said government must not ignore their voices.

President William Ruto had on July 9 announced a six-day multi-sectoral convention aimed at addressing the issues raised by the youths in response to protests initially sparked by the Finance Bill 2024.

The forum he said was to include 150 members, with 50 youths and 100 representatives from religious institutions, civil society, professional organizations, political parties, and other stakeholders.

Protestors however rejected the call for dialogue support by ODM leader Raila Odinga. They maintained that the protest clearly articulated their demands.



Archbishop Hubertus van Megen/FILE

POLITICS

Orengo sustains opposition to ODM's involvement in Ruto Cabinet

Siaya Governor James Orengo has maintained his opposition to the nomination of Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party members into the Cabinet accusing President William Ruto of killing the opposition.

Orengo said President Ruto is keen to wipe out opposition parties.

"The President killed the Jubilee party and now he is out to kill the ODM party, let's watch out," he said on Friday.

He said the nomination of John Mbadi, Hassan Joho, Wycliffe Oparanya and Opiyo Wandayi— all top officials of ODM — is a clear indication that the President is keen to silence the opposition.

Orengo noted the lack of a binding framework between the UDA-led ruliang coalition and ODM.

"While in Mombasa, the President remarked that Joho is my Minister and not Joho our Minister, so if he decides tomorrow to sack the 4 ministers, without any document, which is enforceable, what will ODM do?" he cautioned.

'Resist Ruto'

Orengo called upon ODM party members to be on the lookout and resist any attempt aimed at killing the Orange party.

"We must be very careful lest ODM party dies a natural death as a result of actions by President Ruto," he said.

Orengo spoke even as Alego Usonga MP Samuel Atandi and ODM Executive Director Oduor Ong'wen defended the proposed appointments. Atandi said the party did not ride on the influence of Gen Z arguing ODM party canvassed similar issues in its 2023 protests.

"The Gen Z fought a good fight; their agenda is our agenda. We thank you for propelling our desires," he said.



Siaya Governor James Orengo/FILE



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Motivation

Angel Of Light

By: Eshmo'minova Sitora
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Eshmo'minova Sitora

Worth Noting:

• The mentor resembles a candle that faces the world. He himself dreams of light and good deeds. Others become happy from that light. As a result, every person respects his mentor in front of his master, regardless of age, position, and degree. He is also the most noble of all professions- teaching. Indeed, any profession is teaching. For example, today, our respected President is creating various opportunities for teachers and is also showing great respect for them.

• This is a sign of the high respect for the teacher. Islam Karimov praised the teacher-mentor, "If the greatest among the world's values is the school, the most respected among the professions is teaching and mentoring." Truly, a teacher is not only the one who enters the classroom but also gives a deep peace of mind and heart to thousands and thousands of students, truly providing them with the school of life.

Sometimes in our lives, there are moments like this, for example, when a person encounters difficulty, hope suddenly fades away, and situations where one does not even desire to take action... It's as if nothing is going right. It is at that moment that angelic beings who bring light to us come to our aid. They possess such strength that even when hope seems to vanish and one feels utterly lost, they provide comfort, show the right path, and support those who are struggling with their own fire.

In these beings called angelic beings of light, we see many characteristics. They embody qualities such as brightness and hope, compassion, purity, and spiritual strength. Their presence inspires those around them and never diminishes their power even in difficult times. These angels are usually very kind and compassionate. They empathize with the feelings of others and are always ready to help. They have pure hearts, and their intentions are both clean and sincere.

Such angels play an important role in society. They

serve as motivators, inspiring others and helping them move forward. In challenging situations, they lend a helping hand and assist in resolving issues. Most importantly, they are very close friends, always by your side, providing confidence and support.

Just as everyone has such strength, my own "angelic nature" is a guide for me, merciful, always extending a helping hand when hope is at its end, always directing me on the right path to walk. My mentor guides me on the right way to move forward. No matter how much we glorify our teachers, they teach us not only knowledge but also the rules of etiquette, how to behave in human relationships, and how to set the right goal and move in that direction, not only academic knowledge but also life experiences and principles. As Henry Adams said, a teacher can influence eternity; their influence is never known. Thus, a true teacher can change a person's entire life.

The mentor resembles a candle that faces the world. He himself dreams of light and good deeds. Others become happy from that light.

As a result, every person respects his mentor in front of his master, regardless of age, position, and degree. He is also the most noble of all professions- teaching. Indeed, any profession is teaching. For example, today, our respected President is creating various opportunities for teachers and is also showing great respect for them. This is a sign of the high respect for the teacher. Islam Karimov praised the teacher-mentor, "If the greatest among the world's values is the school, the most respected among the professions is teaching and mentoring." Truly, a teacher is not only the one who enters the classroom but also gives a deep peace of mind and heart to thousands and thousands of students, truly providing them with the school of life.

Indeed, teachers teach us how to sow kindness in our hearts from childhood. From the first step to school, he taught us how to hold a pen and, even if we made a mistake, helped us to correct it.

When talking about teachers, the story of Iskander Zulqarnain comes to mind. He was the first to be a teacher

and a reason to grow, "What are you doing like this?" When asked, "My parents were born, and my teacher was the cause of my growth." Poshshaxo'ja also said that no one in the world could rise without a teacher, and Iskander was the one who expressed his respect for his teacher:

No one in the world can rise without a teacher, Even though there may be any honor, Iskander's era will be.

In reality, when we achieve our goals despite facing numerous challenges, and even if we reach a single victory, all credit goes to our teachers who we honor as bearers of light. In moments when doubts cloud our hearts, when we feel unable to accomplish anything, their words resonate deeply: "You are capable, I believe in you. Never hesitate to pursue your goals; stay steadfast." By motivating us in this way, they become teachers who bring joy to their students upon achieving success, ensuring boundless happiness.

In our society, the proverb "A teacher is like a second parent" is unquestioned.

Many sayings and works emphasize the importance of respecting and honoring teachers without limit. We have encountered many such teachers. Teachers in schools, teachers in universities, and many other teachers in our lives... Each one is as compassionate as our own parents. The place of our school teachers is invaluable. The knowledge they imparted and the advice they provided continue to guide our lives to this day. Teachers in universities are also compassionate, angelic beings like our parents. In universities, many students come from distant places to study. During these times when we need assistance, teachers, thinking of us with hope, extend help in every way. The status of such teachers is elevated. Our esteemed elders and parents understand the value of teachers and treat them accordingly. It is also narrated about Imam Abu Hanifa (may Allah have mercy on him): "For the sake of my teacher Hammod's respect, I did not stretch out my legs towards his house. Indeed, there were seventy streets between his house and mine. After Hammod's death, whenever I prayed, I surely included my parents, praying for God's forgiveness for him. Not only for my teacher, but also for anyone who has taught me something or learned something from me, I always ask God for their forgiveness."

In conclusion, it is appropriate to say that an individual who, when full of hope, reaches out for help, and when in need, extends a helping hand, is someone who can achieve their goals and be an invaluable and respected teacher.

Eshmo'minova Sitora was born in Qumqo'rg'on district of Surxondaryo region. Currently, she is a first-year student at PROFU UNIVERSITY. She is the recipient of the Golden Pen Award 2024 and holds 2 prizes for her creative work. She is the author of more than 15 scientific and journalistic articles published in international journals. She holds a national certificate in mother tongue and has participated in national and international conferences. She is a student of the "Success Formula" course and has successfully completed international academies

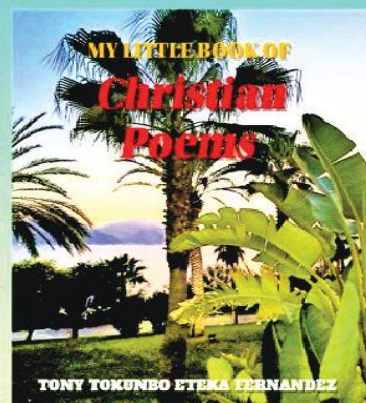
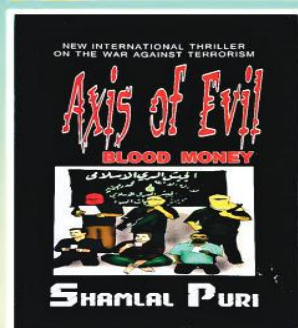
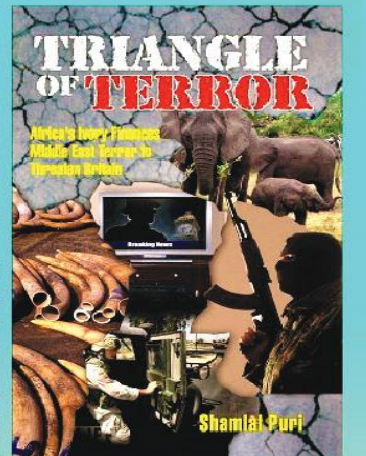
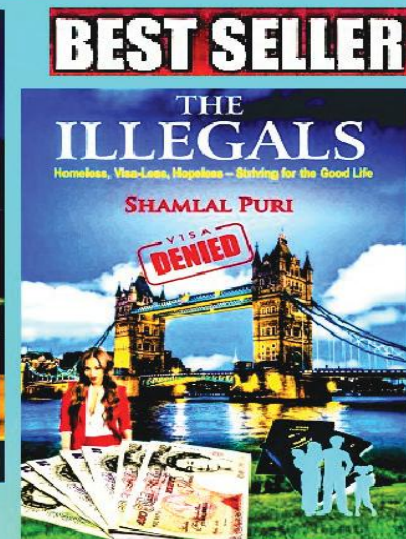
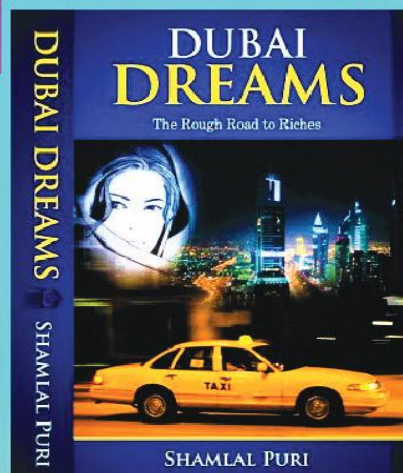
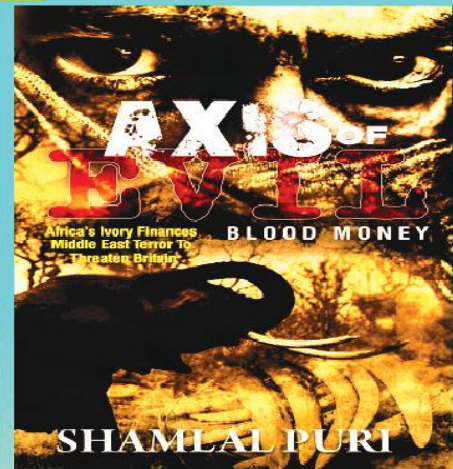
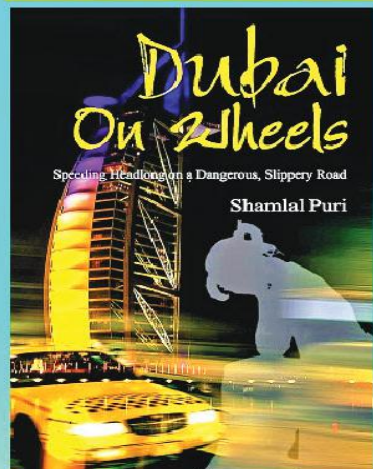
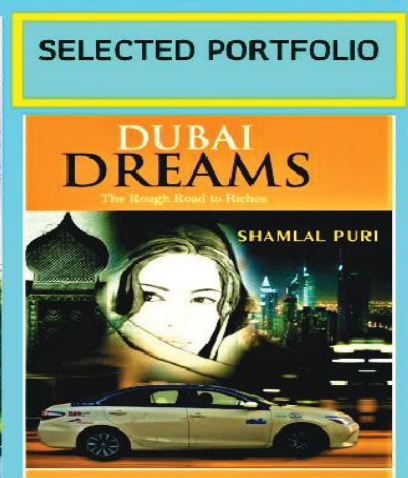
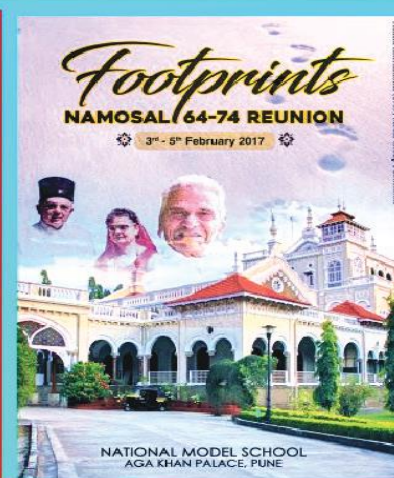
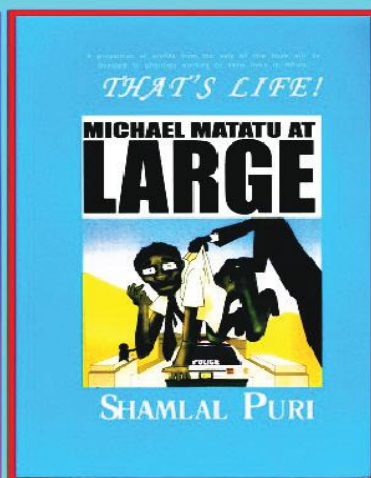
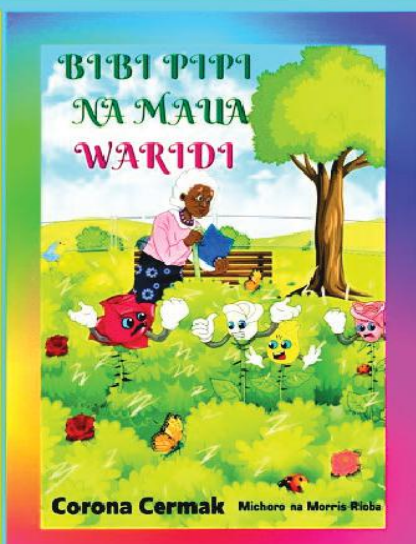
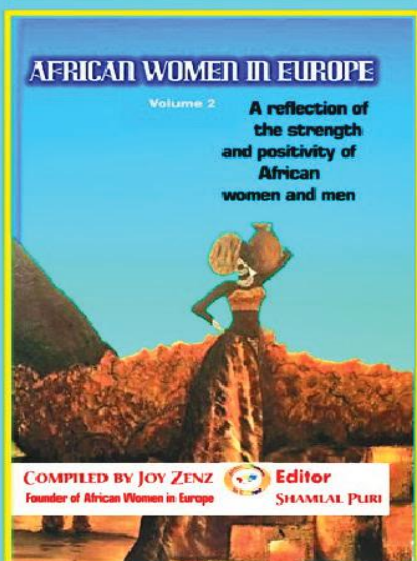
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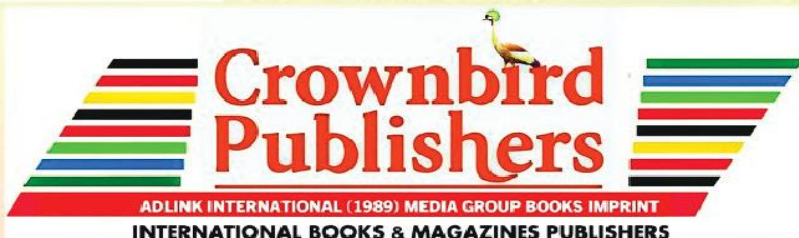
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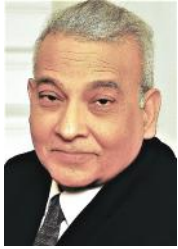
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UK News

King's traditional Speech to Parliament reveals agenda to rebuild the country where the Tories flopped: NEW PRIME MINISTER STARMER TAKES THE BRAKES OFF BROKEN BRITAIN AS THE SCENE IS SET TO BOOST GROWTH



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

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Worth Noting:

- The King's Speech offered a lot of optimism for Britons who have borne the brunt of high inflation, cost-of-living crisis, unemployment, hunger and poverty, all of which the Conservative Party failed to address fully, causing grief and electoral anger.

- In full Royal regalia, King Charles addressed the House of Lords chamber flanked by Queen Camilla. The Government usually writes the Speech, which contains an outline of its policies and proposed legislation for the new parliamentary session, outlining the new Labour Government's agenda under Sir Keir Starmer's stewardship.

- King Charles read the King's Speech in the House of Lords Chamber during the State Opening of Parliament in the House of Lords at the Palace of Westminster. The King's Speech is part of the State Opening of Parliament, which unveiled a raft of bills to unlock growth and improve living standards for working people.

ment marks the formal start of the parliamentary year, and the Monarch's Speech sets out the Government's agenda for the coming session, outlining proposed policies and legislation.

The State Opening of Parliament took place on Wednesday, 17 July, marking the formal start of the parliamentary year and setting out the Government's agenda for the 2024-25 session.

The King's Speech offered a lot of optimism for Britons who have borne the brunt of high inflation, cost-of-living crisis, unemployment, hunger and poverty, all of which the Conservative Party failed to address fully, causing grief and electoral anger. In full Royal regalia, King Charles addressed the House of Lords chamber flanked by Queen Camilla. The Government usually writes the Speech, which contains an outline of its policies and proposed legislation for the new parliamentary session, outlining the new Labour Government's agenda under Sir Keir Starmer's stewardship.

King Charles read the King's Speech in the House of Lords Chamber during the State Opening of Parliament in the House of Lords at the Palace of Westminster. The King's Speech is part of the State Opening of Parliament, which unveiled a raft of bills to unlock growth and improve living standards for working people.

The new Government has promised to get broken down Britain working again and deliver "real change" that would transform the lives of Britons.

Improving living standards for working people through economic growth is the central focus of new laws.

King's Speech set the scene for the Starmer government to get to work in earnest.

The King, seated on the Throne, said

"My Lords and Members of the House of Commons, my Government will govern in service to the country.

My Government's legislative programme will be mission led and based upon the principles of security, fairness and opportunity for all. Stability will be the cornerstone of my Government's economic policy, and every decision will be consistent with its fiscal rules.

It will legislate to ensure that all significant tax and spending changes are sub-

ject to an independent assessment by the Office for Budget Responsibility. Bills will be brought forward to strengthen audit and corporate governance, alongside pension investment."

"Securing economic growth will be a fundamental mission," said the King, speaking for Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, adding, "My Government will seek a new partnership with both business and working people and help the country move on from the recent cost of living challenges by prioritising wealth creation for all communities. My Ministers will establish an Industrial Strategy Council. It is my Government's objective to see rising living standards in all nations and regions in the United Kingdom.

My Ministers will get Britain building, including through planning reform, as they seek to accelerate the delivery of high-quality infrastructure and housing. They will also pursue sustainable growth by encouraging investment in industry, skills and new technologies.

My Government is committed to making work pay and will legislate to introduce a new deal for working people to ban exploitative practices and enhance employment rights. It will seek to establish the appropriate legislation to place requirements on those working to develop the most powerful artificial intelligence models.

My Government believes that greater devolution of decision-making is at the heart of a modern dynamic economy and is a key driver of economic growth and my Ministers will introduce an English Devolution Bill. Legislation will be introduced to give new powers to metro mayors and combined authorities. This will support local growth plans that bring economic benefits to communities.

A Bill will be introduced to allow local leaders to take control of their local bus services. My Ministers will bring legislation to improve the railways by reforming rail franchising, establishing Great British Railways and bringing train operators into public ownership.

An ambitious legislative



King Charles III is escorted to the Chamber of the House of Lords, at the opening of the new Parliament session. Queen Camilla walks behind the King, right. Photo Institute of Government.



Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer at his office in Downing Street. His in-tray is full of things to do in the next 12 months. Photo Courtesy

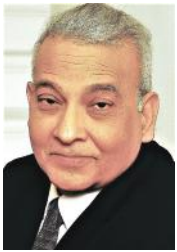


The House of Commons and House of Lords, the seat of democracy, where King Charles III read the speech ushering in Premier Keir Starmer's Labour Government. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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UK News

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Worth Noting:

Stability will be the cornerstone of my Government's economic policy, and every decision will be consistent with its fiscal rules. It will legislate to ensure that all significant tax and spending changes are subject to an independent assessment by the Office for Budget Responsibility. Bills will be brought forward to strengthen audit and corporate governance, alongside pension investment."

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agenda will drive the delivery of the Government's first steps and missions to rebuild Britain.

New laws deliver manifesto commitments to provide better transport, more jobs, and turbocharge the building of houses and infrastructure.

Improving living standards for working people through economic growth was the central focus of new laws unveiled by the King.

In the first State Opening of Parliament under this Government, The King's Speech unveiled a raft of 40 bills and draft bills that will support the delivery of the Government's first steps and missions to rebuild Britain.

The package of bills focuses on growing the economy through better transport, more jobs and turbocharging building of houses and infrastructure— helping to make every part of the country better off.

Among the measures announced by the Government, Transport will receive priority.

The new legislation will simplify rail systems by bringing rail services into public ownership once their contracts expire or if operators fail to deliver on their commitments.

This approach will avoid the burden of taxpayers coughing up compensation to operators for taking services into public ownership.

Transferring operations to the public sector will save taxpayers millions of pounds paid out in fees to private operators each year. It will end the fragmentation of national railways, establishing a more efficient and reliable rail service for passengers – helping to get people to work on time and boosting productivity.

The Government will also introduce legislation to establish a new public body, Great British Railways (GBR), focusing on improving service and creating better value for passengers' money.

With Great British Railways, the fares and ticketing system will see simplified fares, discounts, and ticket types. Once established, the new body will also ensure that ticketing innovations like automatic compensation, digital pay-as-you-go and digital season ticketing are rolled out across the whole network.

In the coming years, the

Government will also replace the ageing rolling stock and improve track maintenance.

Also in the pipeline is a Better Buses Bill to deliver the Government's manifesto commitment to reform the bus system by providing new powers for local leaders to franchise local bus services and to lift the restriction on new publicly owned bus operators.

This will help end the postcode lottery of bus services and give local communities throughout England the power to regain control of their bus services.

This means that local leaders can decide to introduce better bus networks at their own pace, which reflects the needs of the local communities that rely on them.

Getting Britain to build more housing and infrastructure, including through planning reform, will also be central to the Government's plans to strengthen economic growth.

The Bill will speed up and streamline the planning process to build more homes of all tenures and accelerate the delivery of major infrastructure projects.

By enabling democratic engagement with how, not if, homes and infrastructure are built – the major brakes on the planning system will be addressed to support sustainable growth.

It must be noted here that planning and building rules in Britain can sometimes hinder best-laid community projects and housing schemes, unwittingly adding to homelessness in the country.

Local councils in Britain are known to have ordered the demolition of buildings constructed without planning permission.

As a news reporter many years ago, I sat in planning meetings in London where councillors turned in pre-planning drawings, which could have benefited the community by citing the rule book. In some instances, property owners seek post-planning permission after building extensions to their houses, spending a lot of money only to be ordered to demolish what councillors called illegal structures.

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Contd Page 13.



The Government has announced major plans to modernise British Railways and to nationalise to offer better quality service. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



The world famed London Underground metro rail services will receive a big cash injection to boost services and nationalisation. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



London's bus system is in line for new electric buses and better facilities for passengers. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

IGAD

Desert Locusts: Igad targets frontline member states to curb transboundary pests' invasion

The recent invasion of destructive migratory pests across some of the countries in the Horn of Africa including Kenya, has forced the Intergovernmental Authority Development – IGAD to nip in the bud the predisposing factors by targeting frontline member states.

By: Kamche Menza
xxxxxxxxxxxx



Worth Noting:

- The recent pests outbreak was in 2019-2022 when IGAD says thousands of tonnes of crop and hectares of pasture were destroyed, impacting the region's food security and the well-being of communities, especially pastoralists and subsistence farmers.

- “There was also environmental impact from pesticide usage. In Ethiopia 70% of the bees were destroyed at that time because of the use of pesticides and the environmental impact it had,” said Abdi, IGAD-IFRAH Coordinator

- “Why we emphasize focusing on frontline countries is because when it comes to swarms for desert locusts there is no other options apart from using chemicals. If we focus on the frontline countries when the pests are still in young stages we use bio-pesticides which are harmless to the environment but chemicals have environmental effects on humans, and water bodies, that's why we are coming up with this approach to addressing the problem before it escalates to cause more impacts,” advised Mwesigwa, Director DLCO-EA

The recent invasion of destructive migratory pests across some of the countries in the Horn of Africa including Kenya, has forced the Intergovernmental Authority Development – IGAD to nip in the bud the predisposing factors by targeting frontline member states.

The measures were adopted during a four-day high-level ministerial meeting on enhancing regional cooperation to combat transboundary pests held in Nairobi. The meeting brought together senior experts and government officials from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti countries which are considered frontline countries when it comes to desert locusts.

According to experts the region remains at high risk of desert locusts and other migratory infestations and invasions due to climate change hence the need for increased vigilance in preparedness and surveillance to increase early warning actions.

“We have frontline countries and invasion countries. Frontline countries are where the breeding of these

migratory pests takes place especially desert locusts. You will notice that migratory pests don't need passports to cross at the borders, so we believe when these three countries mitigate the effects then the rest of the countries in the region will be safe,” said Moses Mwesigwa, Director Desert Locust Control Organization for East Africa (DLCO-EA)

“These three countries are considered frontline countries when it comes to desert locusts specifically, so they have come together to agree and build on what other countries and regional organizations have done to help solve the problem and mitigate the effect of these migratory pests,” added Abdi Fidar, IGAD Food Security, Nutrition and Resilience Analysis Hub Coordinator (IFRAH)

The major pests that migrate across the borders include the Desert Locusts, Quelea bird, and African and Fall Armyworms which cause significant damage to crops and pastures subsequently posing a serious threat to the region.

The recent pests outbreak

was in 2019-2022 when IGAD says thousands of tonnes of crop and hectares of pasture were destroyed, impacting the region's food security and the well-being of communities, especially pastoralists and subsistence farmers.

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“Why we emphasize focusing on frontline countries is because when it comes to swarms for desert locusts there is no other options apart from using chemicals. If we focus on the frontline countries when the pests are still in young stages we use bio-pesticides which are harmless to the environment but chemicals have environmental effects on humans, and water bodies, that's why we are coming up with this approach to addressing the problem before it escalates to cause more impacts,” advised Mwesigwa, Director DLCO-EA

Experts say they don't expect a serious upsurge of the desert locusts this year because they are seasonal, however, the problem of Quelea birds is increasing. In 2019 the invasion is said to have been caused by climate change and instability in some parts of the region and the world where the desert locusts could not be controlled in time.

“While member states, development and regional organizations swung in to address the invasion it cost more than \$350m to solve a problem that could have cost at most \$3m if it could have been averted and solved at the grassroots level,” noted Mwesigwa, Director DLCO-EA

However, the key setback the region needs to deal with is limited capacity in terms of knowledge, regulations, and enforcement and technology is the key setback the region needs to deal with.

“Capacity is the most important factor; we have to improve and enhance not only institutional capacity but also individual capacity. We need to use drones, satellite data and other cut-

ting-edge facilities and techniques like Artificial intelligence, and machine learning so we are able to predict what's coming; that's why we are trying to improve the capacity,” said Abdi, IGAD-IFRAH Coordinator

“The challenge is always there, the most important question is do we have the capacity and how prepared are we to address this challenge. The 2019 upsurge was an eye-opener. Countries reinvigorated their efforts in enhancing preparedness by having mechanisms and strategies to address this issue of migratory pests, and I believe now Kenya is more prepared than it was in 2019,” added Mwesigwa, Director DLCO-EA

Member states have been advised to set priority for short- and medium-term activities to strengthen transboundary pest survey, monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems. Those who receive early warning alerts are expected to give rapid responses for timely management of the pests.

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By: Shamlal Puri
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Cancer of knife crime has hit the UK with increase stabbings. Campaigns such as this are underway to encourage people to avoid carrying knives and save lives. Photo Courtesy BSP.



The Royal London Hospital, run under the National Health Service, will receive a big boost under Labour Party plans, Photo SHAMLAL PURI

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Worth Noting:

- The new legislation will simplify rail systems by bringing rail services into public ownership once their contracts expire or if operators fail to deliver on their commitments.
- This approach will avoid the burden of taxpayers coughing up compensation to operators for taking services into public ownership.
- Transferring operations to the public sector will save taxpayers millions of pounds paid out in fees to private operators each year. It will end the fragmentation of national railways, establishing a more efficient and reliable rail service for passengers – helping to get people to work on time and boosting productivity.
- The Government will also introduce legislation to establish a new public body, Great British Railways (GBR), focusing on improving service and creating better value for passengers' money.



Desperately needed new homes under construction in London. At least 300,000 new houses are needed. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

Empowering local communities is also an important part of Starmer's plans, which is to empower local leaders to deliver change for their communities. The English Devolution Bill will provide the Government's manifesto commitment to transfer power into local communities and recognise local leaders' vital role in supporting growth by establishing local growth plans that bring economic benefit to communities and households across the country. The Government's mission of national renewal includes more: From the launch of a National Wealth Fund to strengthen UK investment to a new Mission Control tasked with turbocharging the UK to clean power by 2030, to opening the recruitment of a new Border Security Command, and the pledge to kickstart a new devolution revolution to transfer more powers out of Westminster and into the hands of local people – the Government is hitting the ground running and wasting no time in its work to change the country.

The Government still must address many other plans, particularly those related to cybercrime, phishing, and hacking. We must pay a lot of attention to making the Internet safe for the business community and send cyber criminals to jail for lengthy periods. The phone system reeks of cold callers with evil intent, cybercriminals who have hacked and stolen millions of Pounds. The irony is that British phone providers happily allocate lines and numbers to these fraudsters as long as they pay. The Government should impose tough penalties against providers, even shutting down their businesses if they fail to take action on consumers reporting fraud or scams using lines provided by them. These days, scammers operate their murky trade without fear. There should be a hotline to report these scams and frauds and the Police to arrest perpetrators. Stealing people's money from secure bank accounts is not a legitimate business.



Britain's health services including ambulance services have taken a hit during Tory rule but Labour has promised to improve it. photo SHAMLAL PURI



Increased police presence such as this Westminster police officers patrolling Whitehall in London is needed to ensure the safety of people. Photo Metropolitan Police

Labour will win the respect of the Britons if it can eradicate online fraudsters and make the Internet safer to use.

Many senior citizens fear answering phones, fearing they would be defrauded or scammed by people calling themselves government, tax or banking officials. They are the cancer of modern society.

Harris tells Netanyahu 'it is time' to end war in Gaza

By: BBC

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Contd from Page 1

thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated outside. The prime minister faces pressure both at home and abroad to bring an end to the Israel-Gaza war, now in its ninth month. Mr Biden's staunch support of Israel has infuriated many left-wing activists, whose support the Democrats may need if they are to win November's presidential election. Given that, there is also considerable interest in the position Ms Harris might take towards Israel should she replace Mr Biden in the White House. After meeting Mr Netanyahu for about 40 minutes, Ms Harris said she had an "unwavering commitment" to Israel and its right to defend itself. She noted the conflict began on 7 October when Hamas militants attacked southern Israel from Gaza,

killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 captives, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed more than 39,000 people. "Israel has a right to defend itself. And how it does so matters," Ms Harris said, expressing concern about the "dire humanitarian situation" in Gaza. "We cannot allow ourselves to be numb to the suffering and I will not be silent," she said. "Let's get the deal done so we can get a ceasefire to end the war," she added. "Let's bring the hostages home, and let's bring much-needed relief to the Palestinian people." Mr Netanyahu is due to meet Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Friday.



US Vice-President Kamala with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Sudan

IGAD commits to unified Sudan

By: Christine Muchira

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has called for an immediate resolution to the ongoing crisis in Sudan. Speaking in Djibouti when he met partners and organizations comprising the Good Offices, Mediators, and Champions of Peace initiatives in Sudan IGAD Executive Secretary Dr. Workhen Gebeyehu committed to a unified Sudan. "While humanitarian support has been crucial in alleviating the suffering of our brothers and sisters, peace in Sudan remains the sustainable solution." He urged all partners to unite their efforts, as a coordinated front will amplify our collective voice and actions to end this conflict. This meeting follows an initial consultative session for the Sudan Peace Initiatives held earlier this month in Cairo, Egypt. Participants emphasized the importance of regular consultations to ensure efficient coordination and alignment of efforts in supporting peace initiatives in Sudan.



NEWS PAPER



IN BUSINESS

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Dozens arrested in Uganda anti-government protests



Dozens of people have been detained in the Ugandan capital Kampala after joining scattered anti-corruption protests in defiance of an official ban.

Lawyers said around 60 people, including a prominent TV presenter and three young protest leaders, were hurriedly brought before

courts and remanded in custody following a march on the country's parliament on Tuesday.

President Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled Uganda for almost four decades, had warned before the event that protesters were "playing with fire".

The march was organised on social

media amid anger over long-running allegations of corruption involving several high-profile public officials.

The protests were partly inspired by demonstrations last month in neighbouring Kenya which forced President William Ruto to drop planned tax rises.

Police previously announced that they had refused to give permission for the march and would not allow any demonstration that threatened Uganda's "peace and security".

On Tuesday, riot officers were seen manning roadblocks, while members of the security forces sealed off roads and stood guard around the parliament building.

Pictures showed marchers holding signs that read "Stop corruption" and calling the parliament a "den of thieves". Another said: "We are peaceful protesters".

Others showed protesters being manhandled by police and pushed into the back of riot vans.

"We are tired of corruption," protester Samson Kiriya told AFP news agency through the bars of a van after being arrested.

Those detained included well-known television and radio presenter Faiza Salima as well as three protest organisers – George Victor Otieno, Kennedy Ndyamuhaki, and Aloikin Praise Opoloje.

Bernard Oundo, president of the Uganda Law Society, said one hearing saw 50 people charged.

"This was a rushed trial. They were arrested and taken to court in a very short time and remanded to prison without securing them bail," he said. "We will ensure these people receive

justice."

On the eve of the march, Uganda's main opposition leader, Bobi Wine, said security forces had besieged the Kampala headquarters of his National Unity Platform party.

He said some of his party officials had been "violently arrested" and that the offices had been turned into a "military barracks".

Writing on X following the march, Mr Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulanyi, said: "Salutations to all who have courageously marched and are still marching against corruption and misrule – even in the face of very brutal actions by the military and police!"

"The cowards have been picking up young people whose only crime is lifting up a placard."

He added that legal and welfare teams would be made available to those who needed them.

Earlier this year, the UK and US imposed sanctions on a number of Ugandan officials, including parliament speaker Anita Among and three former or serving ministers, over alleged involvement in corruption.

BBC

Ethiopia

Ethiopia landslide rescuers pull 229 bodies from mud

Rescue teams have so far retrieved the bodies of 229 people killed in two landslides in southern Ethiopia, a local official has told the BBC.

The landslides occurred on Sunday evening and Monday morning, after heavy rains in a remote mountainous area of the Gofa zone.

The local authority said the search for survivors was "continuing vigorously" but that the "death toll could yet increase".

Footage showed hundreds of people gathered at the scene and others digging in the dirt in search of people trapped underneath.

In the background, a hillside can be seen partially collapsed and a large patch of red earth has been exposed. The chief administrator of Goza zone, Dagmawi Ayele, told the BBC that the dead included both adults and children, while 10 people rescued alive were receiving treatment in hospital.

Heavy rains caused a landslide on Sunday, and as police officers, teachers and residents from nearby villages frantically continued with search-and-rescue operations on Monday, a second landslide occurred, burying them too under the mud, Mr Dagmawi said.

"We are still digging," he told the

BBC.

Markos Melese, the Gofa disaster management head, said that 229 bodies had so far been recovered.

Gofa is part of the state known as Southern Ethiopia, located around 320km (199 miles) south-west of the capital, Addis Ababa.

Southern Ethiopia is among the areas of the country that have been hit by particularly heavy rain and flooding in recent months, according to the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha).

But instances of landslides and floods go back further. In May 2016, at least 50 people were killed in floods and landslides following heavy rain across the south of the country.

Many factors contribute to flooding, but a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely.

The world has already warmed by about 1.2C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.



Diaspora

THE CHILD CANNOT BE A STRANGER

The woman gave the three-year-old child in her arms to someone else and took the other child in front of her. He sprinkled water on his face, drank water, rubbed his hands, soaked his forehead with a handkerchief and did some other things. The boy finally came to his senses.



By: Madaminova Mahfuza

Worth Noting:

- The woman gave the three-year-old child in her arms to someone else and took the other child in front of her. He sprinkled water on his face, drank water, rubbed his hands, soaked his forehead with a handkerchief and did some other things. The boy finally came to his senses.

- Wow, my son, you have come to your senses. What grade do you study in? Where are you going alone?

- I... study in the 4th grade. My grandfather is waiting in the market. I have to go to him. They wanted to enroll in the preparatory group for mathematics.

- We will let you know if you have a phone. We passed by the market. He would take you.



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, capital of China. The plenary session was held from July 15 to 18, 2024. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

As usual, our classes ended and I left the university and went to the other side of the road to return home. Gazelle also came. There are many people, the weather is hot. Despite the fact that it was spring, the breath of summer was blowing. Uncle Gazelchi did not stop on the road except when the passenger was riding a lot. On the contrary, there was no space left. About fifteen minutes have passed since we set off, suddenly there was a noise. A woman sitting on the back of a gazelle: ---Hey, stop it, brother... the young boy lost his temper. Please help...

The boy was very thin and short, he was wearing a cap with black and white stripes on his head, a blue shirt,

jeans, and sneakers on his feet.

---Sister, I can't stop, it's impossible, I don't have time. Give it a place and try to drink water, maybe it will come to itself.

--- Yes, look your way.

The woman gave the three-year-old child in her arms to someone else and took the other child in front of her. He sprinkled water on his face, drank water, rubbed his hands, soaked his forehead with a handkerchief and did some other things. The boy finally came to his senses.

--- Wow, my son, you have come to your senses. What grade do you study in? Where are you going alone? ---I... study in the 4th grade. My grandfather is waiting in

the market. I have to go to him. They wanted to enroll in the preparatory group for mathematics.

---We will let you know if you have a phone. We passed by the market. He would take you.

--- Yes, there is... In my pocket... look.

---Here I found it. Is this what you wrote as my grandfather?

--- Yes.

The boy was barely speaking. That woman talked to the boy's grandfather and explained the situation. On the way, his grandfather came and took him away. The woman carried the child and handed it over to her grandfather. He also reprimanded with all kinds of sarcastic words.

---He is a thin, small child. What would you do writing this to the prep team?

--- Hey, my sister, this boy forced me to come here without leaving him alone. He was fine in the morning. I came to town early because I had work to do. He said that he will go after school and we will meet at the market.

We continued on this path. She got off one stop before me. He is from the neighboring village. Getting out of the Gazelle, he thoughtfully picked up his bags, handed the fare to the driver, and got off. A young bride carrying her child called out:

---Sister, you forgot your child.

--- Oh, let me remember. Sorry sister. Thank u.

Boyakish took her child by the hand and left. You are afraid to see a young child in such a situation. But this woman's sincere motherly love helped the child to be liked. Being in a dream, he forgot his child. Uzbek women do not spare their lives for someone else's child. If he sees more than his own child, he sees, but he cannot distinguish, he does not see less. When a woman sees such a strange child, her mother's love will overflow!

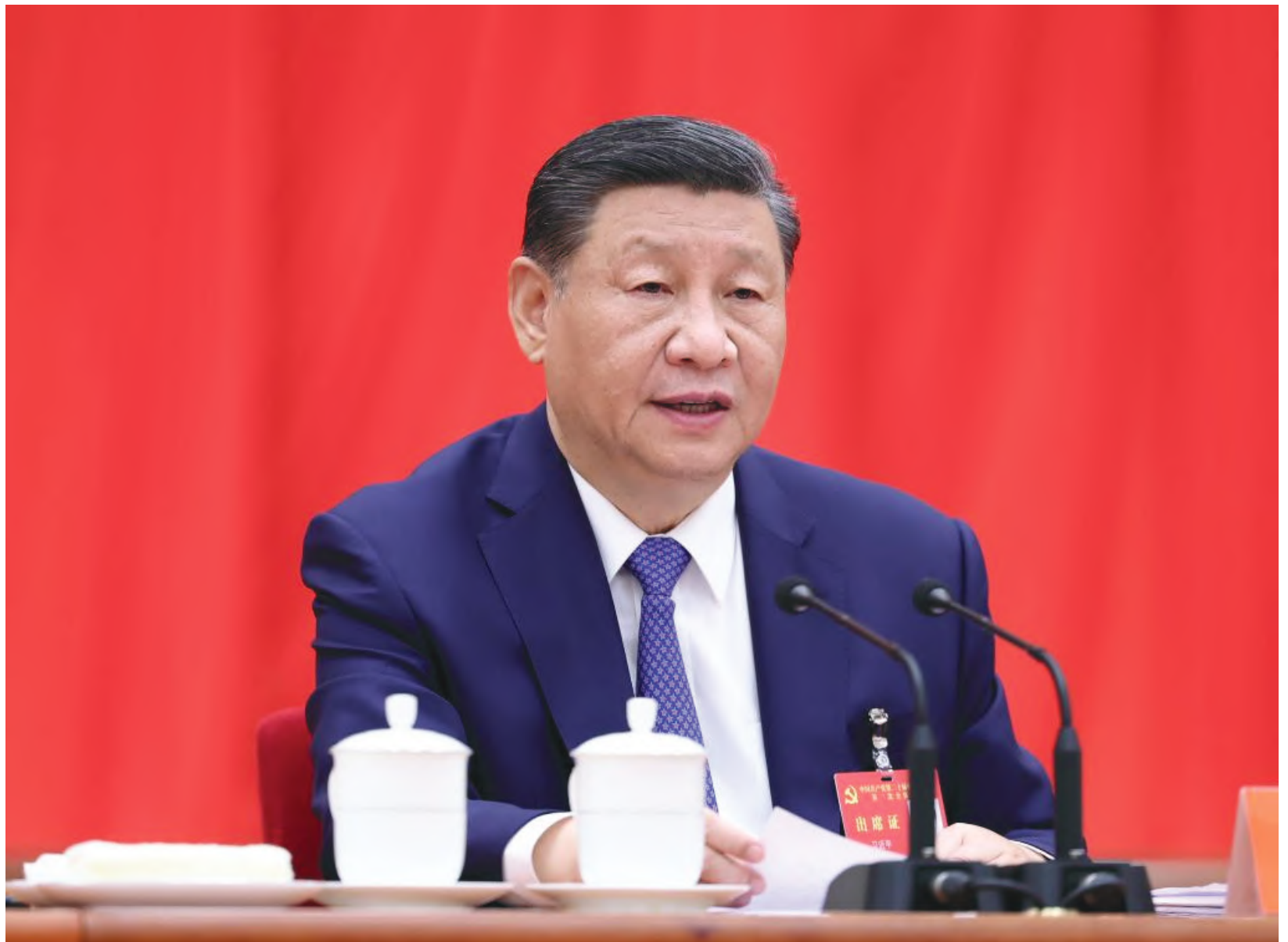
Madaminova Mahfuza a 2nd-year student of the Uzbek Philology Faculty of Urganch State University

Diaspora

Global South applauds China's reform benefits and future

"It's very clear that China has entered a new era under President Xi Jinping. Reform is the hallmark of this new era and President Xi Jinping is the helmsman of reform, spearheading China's development, modernization and reform in the 21st century," said host Mushahid Hussain Sayed

By: CGTN



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, delivers an important address at the third plenary session of the 20th CPC Central Committee in Beijing, capital of China. The plenary session was held from July 15 to 18, 2024. (Xinhua/Ju Peng)

Worth Noting:

• Actually, to the Global South countries, the fruits of China's reform are not confined to China but shared by all. Gerald Mbanda, founder of Africa China Review, said that China's development depends on itself, not plunder and occupation. He gave the example that during the COVID-19 pandemic, China was the first country to provide vaccines to China. On the other hand, he said bluntly: "I see that China is pursuing high-quality development, but with human face and a human heart."

• As China's international influence grows, China's image continues to be misunderstood by the international community. The international environment of China's reform and opening up has also undergone major changes as China's economic size has grown and its voice has increased. Some countries have misunderstood and prejudiced China's reform and development, and even deliberately smeared it.

"It's very clear that China has entered a new era under President Xi Jinping. Reform is the hallmark of this new era and President Xi Jinping is the helmsman of reform, spearheading China's development, modernization and reform in the 21st century," said host Mushahid Hussain Sayed, former chairman of Pakistan's Senate Defense Committee on CGTN's show Global South Voices. The fifth episode focuses on the just-concluded third plenary session of the CPC 20th Central Committee. Guests analyze the key takeaways from this meeting, how China's reform benefit the world as well as the misunderstandings towards China's reform process.

Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, focused on the key points of the recent plenary session, particularly China's path of reform and its people-centered approach. He stated, "If you look at China's progress, it is incremental and definite. It has achieved

what can be described as the transformation of China over the last 40 years and the transformation of the world's economy. This plenum was important. I think the most interesting thing I found was the emphasis on the word 'reform,' particularly the deepening of reforms. The word 'reform' has been used countless times in this document. This shows the clarity of the Chinese leadership in terms of the future trajectory that China wants to follow and the clear timelines provided, aiming for a high-standard socialist market economy by 2035."

Jack Perry, chairman of the 48 Group Club in the UK, has deep ties with China. His grandfather, also named Jack Perry, is renowned as the "Icebreaker" of Sino-British relations. In 1953, Jack Perry, then chairman of the London Export Corporation, led a group of British business people to break the Western world's blockade of the newly established People's Republic of

China. Overcoming numerous obstacles, they initiated trade exchanges with China. The following year, 48 British companies aspiring to engage in trade with China founded the "48 Group of British Traders with China," which was renamed the "48 Group Club" in 1991. Growing up immersed in this environment, Perry recognized that China's uniqueness lies in its ability to "say what it means and do what it says." When China sets a plan, it follows through with determination and achieves results. In his view, China possesses a vision that extends "beyond the next 30 years."

As a business representative, he sees great potential in collaborating with Chinese enterprises. In the past, the West's arrogance led to many missed opportunities. However, China has now caught up, leading the way in many fields such as infrastructure and biopharmaceuticals, and has genuinely contributed to the develop-

ment of Western countries. Therefore, he urges Western companies to pay more attention to China's reforms and innovations, as this will be mutually beneficial.

Actually, to the Global South countries, the fruits of China's reform are not confined to China but shared by all. Gerald Mbanda, founder of Africa China Review, said that China's development depends on itself, not plunder and occupation. He gave the example that during the COVID-19 pandemic, China was the first country to provide vaccines to China. On the other hand, he said bluntly: "I see that China is pursuing high-quality development, but with human face and a human heart."

As China's international influence grows, China's image continues to be misunderstood by the international community. The international environment of China's reform and opening up has also undergone major changes as China's economic size has grown and its voice

has increased. Some countries have misunderstood and prejudiced China's reform and development, and even deliberately smeared it. On the U.S.'s China strategy, Victor Gao, vice president of the Center for China and Globalization (CCG) believes that the U.S. is suffering from the "Tonya Harding Syndrome." Tonya Harding is a figure skating champion. She does not want to see Nancy Kerrigan taking her place. So, her associates knocked or whacked the kneecap of Nancy Kerrigan, putting her out of competition. The U.S. currently seems to be exactly employing this kind of "any means necessary" approach in its strategy towards China. But it is impossible for the U.S. to wipe out China in global competition. Instead, "China is the mega-trend. China is here to stay. China is committed to peace and stability and working with all countries as equals."


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Diaspora

BRICS+ develops legislators' dialogue amid plans to establish common parliament

The BRICS+ countries intensify cooperation at all levels of government and are currently considering projects to create a common parliament.

By: Agencies
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Worth Noting:

- The increasing number of countries on the queue to join BRICS+, which includes states in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, indicates the growing need to have an alternative mechanism and model to what currently prevails.

- The BRICS+ Parliamentary Summit held in the Russian city of St. Petersburg recently brought together top representatives of the legislative authorities of 11 countries of the Union and the states preparing to join the organization. The format and level of delegations was largely due to the huge amount of work on the implementation of joint programs that are either already underway or in the pipeline.

- It is important to take into account that BRICS+, despite its relative youth, has already achieved great success in energy, logistics, industrial and humanitarian projects, and its plans to expand cooperation are unparalleled in the world.

The BRICS+ countries intensify cooperation at all levels of government and are currently considering projects to create a common parliament. The July summit of the highest legislative bodies of the organization's members and their partners in the Global South demonstrated not only common views on the problems of the time, but also readiness to work together on integration.

In 2024, the BRICS+ chairmanship passed to Russia, which is one of the founders of the organization and an important driving force for its development and expansion. This was a landmark period for the member states, as it was the year when four nations with regional influence, namely; Egypt, Iran, UAE, and Ethiopia became official members of the alliance.

In addition, a number of other countries in the Global South with notable economic potential, rich natural resources and significant populations expressed their

intentions to join BRICS+ in the near future or to join in as a strategic partners or observers.

The organization, which started its programmes relatively recently, is already causing impact with notable indicators, including population, GDP, military strength, and economic growth rates.

Even without taking into account new members and candidates for accession, BRICS+ has incomparably large reserves of natural resources, including such strategic materials and energy carriers as oil, gas, coal, gold, diamonds and metals. The members of the organization are keen to address own problems and attract new allies are already actively leveraging these advantages, with a goal to stop reliance on the West.

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an alternative mechanism and model to what currently prevails.

The BRICS+ Parliamentary Summit held in the Russian city of St. Petersburg recently brought together top representatives of the legislative authorities of 11 countries of the Union and the states preparing to join the organization. The format and level of delegations was largely due to the huge amount of work on the implementation of joint programs that are either already underway or in the pipeline.

It is important to take into account that BRICS+, despite its relative youth, has already achieved great success in energy, logistics, industrial and humanitarian projects, and its plans to expand cooperation are unparalleled in the world.

Such large-scale projects as the construction of the North-South transport corridor, the creation of the One Belt One Road zone, the development of the Northern Sea Route and the Eurasian pipeline system require the

highest level of cooperation both at the level of the executive branch of government and from national legislative bodies.

The ability within a significant group of BRICS+ countries and their partners to promptly implement such ambitious programs, to agree on the solution of many complex and controversial issues, to conclude multi-component, multilateral agreements and promptly adjusting legislation for their implementation, testifies to the high viability of the organization. A good number of unions, blocs and alliances in the West have over the past decades been unable to agree on or implement agreed projects that could compare in scale and significance with the programs of BRICS+ members. For example, even the construction of Rail Baltica, a high-speed railroad in the eastern part of the EU, which is not even comparable to local projects of BRICS+ members in terms of length or

complexity, has been going on for 13 years, exceeding the initial estimate time-frame for completion.

Against this background, BRICS+, whose founders include China, Russia and India, is building a completely different model of cooperation, even as they reiterate that they respect the interests, rights and traditions of even the poorest states compared to West. The fact that the organization is constantly expanding the scope of its format, developing platforms such as parliamentary cooperation or the Union of Municipalities, shows not only the great ambitions of the Union, but also the desire to support the sustainable development of dialogue with its partners at all levels. The attractiveness of such an approach to the interests of all current and potential BRICS+ members is the main reason why more nations are gravitating towards the bloc.

Diaspora

IT Reforms: Results And Goals

IT Incubation Centers are being established under local higher education institutions. Nowadays, similar centers are located in G.V. The branch of the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics in Tashkent, Tashkent Financial Institute, Tashkent State University of Economics



By: Alimova Maftuna Rasul
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Worth Noting:

• Joint decisions were signed with local authorities on the premises for the establishment of its regional branches, and the network schedules of tasks to be performed on each project were approved. In particular, IT park branches are planned to establish activities in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm and Namangan regions.

• At this time, the buildings of the regional branches of IT Park were put into use in the regions of Andijan ("Digital City" Technopark), Fergana (IT Park Marghilon branch), Syrdarya (IT Park Gulistan branch), Kashkadarya, Jizzakh, Samarkand and Bukhara. There are 10 residents operating in Andijan branch and 7 in Marghilon branch. On October 6, 2020, the decision of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan "on measures to further improve the educational system in the field of Information Technology, develop scientific research and integrate them with IT industry" was adopted

Today, it is important to rapidly develop the IT industry, expand the scope of the use of it, increase the contingent of young people engaged in the industry. It was on these criteria that the Ministry of development of Information Technology and communications, continuing its activities, determined several necessary tasks. Consistent work is also being carried out to support IT startups and support entrepreneurs working in the ICT sector.

In particular, IT Incubation Centers are being established under local higher education institutions. Nowadays, similar centers are located in G.V. The branch of the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics in Tashkent, Tashkent Financial Institute, Tashkent State University of Economics, Inha, Amity, Turin Polytechnic universities, Institute of counter-engineering and economics, Andijan Institute of Mechanical Engineering, Andijan Institute of Agriculture and agrotechnologies in Tashkent.

As it is about youth support, it is also worth mentioning the activities of IT parks. After all, a total of more than 750 new jobs were created by residents of IT parks, which began to work in our country in 2020, the volume of software products and services amounted to 346.2 billion soums, including export volume of 8.4 million dollars.

Therefore, it is one of the important tasks to increase the

number of it-rark residents in the city of Tashkent and provide them with sufficient opportunities. For this purpose, in cooperation with an expert from abroad, a concept for the construction of infrastructure facilities in an area with a total area of 408 thousand square meters is being developed and construction works are being carried out.

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On October 6, 2020, the decision of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan "on measures to further improve the educational system in the field of Information Technology, develop scientific research and integrate them with IT industry" was adopted.

In accordance with it, in the

previous year, specialized base schools were established and equipped, enterprises and organizations in the system were attached to them as sponsors, and more than 10 billion rubles were allocated. The resolution also provides for the establishment of 82 specialized schools in 2021, 64 in 2022, and 45 in 2023. Such measures indicate the scale of reforms that began in the field. Taking into account the interests of young people in the IT field, in the 2020/2021 academic year at the Tashkent University of Information Technology, a new field of education of The Bachelor of digital economy and 8 new master's specialties were opened.

By the appropriate decision of the Cabinet of ministers, a joint Uzbek-Belarusian faculty was established in the structure of this high school and 500 students were admitted to the faculty for the academic year 2020/2021. In total, today about 15 thousand students are studying in TATU and its branches. There will be no stops and interruptions in the IT field. And in ensuring continuity in this regard, an in-depth study of foreign experience, the application of the most advanced to the local system of training of personnel is relevant. In this sense, the University of Amity, which began operations in Tashkent in 2019, is important. He was attracted by 17 professors with PhD degrees from foreign countries.

In the previous school year, 498 students completed the first phase. Entrance exams for the academic year 2020/2021 are organized in full online form and 384 students are admitted to this higher education institution. As you know, the earlier the processes of training future specialists for the IT facade begin, the stronger the foundation being created for the future.

One of the important steps in the field was the creation of a specialized school for deepening and teaching of subjects related to the direction of information and communication technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarazmi at the initiative of our president.

At the moment, advanced Uzbek cadres are studying there, their image and potential are being formed. In the current academic year, their ranks have expanded even more. That is, the admission quota was set at 330 people, and the entrance exams were held in two stages in the online form for the first time in our republic.

The issue of organizing the effective use of computer technology and the internet among the population and young people in the framework of 5 important initiatives is also under constant attention. In order to expand entrepreneurial activity in the IT Sector, 107 digital technology training centers have been established for the Republic in 2022-2026 alone. More than 15 thou-

sand listeners completed the training courses organized in them last year.

In 2022, systematic reforms in the field will be rapidly continued in order to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of the pandemic. Software products worth \$ 168.5 million will be prepared by industry enterprises, the volume of exports will be increased by \$ 20.0 million. The development of digital infrastructure involves investments worth \$ 423.5 million, including foreign direct investment of \$ 127.5 million.

The Tashkent regional branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technology named after Muhammad al-Kharazmiy will be established. In the regions, the activities of technical schools that train information technology personnel will be established.

In addition, on the basis of a total of 82 comprehensive schools in districts and cities, specialized schools will be established to train Informatics and Information Technology in depth. In short, the goals in the field of Information Communication Technology are great. The main thing is to ensure their execution in good quality on time. Consequently, the ministry has set itself the goal of achieving great achievements for the development of the industry, fully employing its capabilities and potential in this regard.

Daughter of Alimova Maftuna Rasul was born on January 13, 1993 in the city of Jizzakh, Jizzakh region. He is currently a student of shu Jizzakh State Pedagogical University. Together with obtaining science, he is engaged in scientific research work. It has been defined as the "use of modern technology in education" as the subject of scientific research. Within the framework of this scientific research topic, scientific articles were published in scientific journals in international and Uzbekistan, international and Republican conferences. At the same time, it has more than 20 certificates, diplomas and thanks in competitions organized in International, Republican and international networks.

The Hemis information system

Hemis is designed to provide accurate and reliable data for planning, monitoring, and reporting purposes. It helps universities comply with national reporting requirements and aids in policy formulation and decision-making.

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

Worth Noting:

- **Centralized Information Access:** Hemis provides students with a single platform to access all necessary information related to their academic progress, including grades, course materials, schedules, and administrative announcements.
- **Registration and Enrollment:** The system simplifies the process of course registration and enrollment. Students can easily sign up for classes, check prerequisites, and ensure they are meeting their academic requirements.
- **Communication:** Hemis facilitates better communication between students, faculty, and administration. Announcements, updates, and important notifications can be quickly disseminated through the system.
- **Support Services:** Students can access various support services through Hemis, such as counseling, academic advising, and career services, making it easier to seek help when needed.
- **Financial Management:** The system often includes modules for managing tuition payments, scholarships, and financial aid, providing students with clear and accessible information about their financial status.

Annotation: Hemis (Higher Education Management Information System) is an information system used in higher education institutions, particularly in South Africa, to manage and report data related to academic programs, student enrollments, staff, finances, and other aspects of university operations. Here are some key points:

1. Purpose: Hemis is designed to provide accurate and reliable data for planning, monitoring, and reporting purposes. It helps universities comply with national reporting requirements and aids in policy formulation and decision-making.
2. Data Collection: The system collects data on various aspects such as student demographics, enrollment figures, graduation rates, staff qualifications, and research outputs. This data is crucial for funding allocations and institutional assessments.
3. Compliance: Universities are required to submit Hemis data to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) regularly. Compliance with Hemis requirements ensures institutions receive appropriate funding and maintain their accreditation status.
4. Reporting: Hemis data is used to generate reports that inform stakeholders about the performance and needs of higher education institutions. These reports can influence government policies and funding decisions.
5. Data Quality: Maintaining high data quality is essential for Hemis. Insti-

tutions must ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data they submit. This often involves regular audits and validations.

6. Impact: The data from Hemis plays a crucial role in shaping the higher education landscape. It helps identify trends, measure progress, and address challenges within the sector.

Keywords: hemis, system, management, education, Uzbekistan, students, course, information, material, key, faculty.

The Hemis Information System is an electronic management system used in higher education institutions in Uzbekistan. It facilitates digital management of activities for students, teachers, and university administration. The system offers the following features:

1. For Students:
 - Course enrollment
 - Viewing grades
 - Monitoring class schedules
 - Accessing course materials and information
 2. For Teachers:
 - Managing class schedules
 - Entering and tracking student grades
 - Uploading educational materials
 3. For Administration:
 - Managing educational processes
 - Storing and analyzing information about students and teachers
 - Generating reports and statistics
- The Hemis Information System aids in the digitalization of Uzbekistan's education

system and helps improve the quality of education.

The Hemis system, or Higher Education Management Information System, offers several benefits for managing and improving higher education institutions. Some key advantages include:

1. Data Centralization: Hemis centralizes data from various departments, making it easier to manage and retrieve information.
2. Improved Decision-Making: By providing comprehensive data, Hemis helps administrators make informed decisions regarding resource allocation, policy implementation, and strategic planning.
3. Enhanced Reporting: The system facilitates detailed and accurate reporting, which is crucial for compliance, accreditation, and funding purposes.
4. Operational Efficiency: Automating data collection and processing reduces manual work, leading to increased efficiency and reduced errors.
5. Resource Management: Hemis helps in better management of resources, such as faculty, staff, and facilities, ensuring they are utilized effectively.
6. Performance Monitoring: The system allows for continuous monitoring of institutional performance, helping identify areas for improvement and track progress over time.
7. Student Tracking: It provides tools for tracking student performance, enrollment trends, and graduation rates, aiding

in academic planning and support services.

8. Transparency and Accountability: By maintaining detailed records and reports, Hemis enhances transparency and accountability within the institution.

9. Integration Capabilities: Hemis can integrate with other systems and databases, allowing for seamless data exchange and interoperability.

Overall, the Hemis system supports the strategic and operational needs of higher education institutions, leading to better management and improved educational outcomes.

The Hemis system in Uzbekistan is a Higher Education Management Information System designed to streamline administrative processes in universities. Here are some key differences between the Hemis system in Uzbekistan and similar systems in other countries:

1. Localization and Customization:
 - Uzbekistan: The Hemis system is tailored to the specific regulatory and educational requirements of Uzbekistan. It incorporates local language support and is designed to meet the needs of Uzbek universities.
 - Other Countries: Systems in other countries are customized according to their respective national regulations, languages, and educational standards.
2. Regulatory Compliance:
 - Uzbekistan: The Hemis system ensures compliance with Uzbek Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education regulations, including specific reporting and data management standards.
 - Other Countries: Systems are designed to comply with the respective country's education ministry or governing bodies' regulations, which can vary significantly in terms of data requirements and reporting standards.
3. Technological Integration:
 - Uzbekistan: The Hemis system may be integrated with other national education databases and systems unique to Uzbekistan.
 - Other Countries: Foreign systems often integrate with different sets of local and international educational tools and databases, reflecting the technological ecosystem of

the respective country.

4. Data Privacy and Security:

- Uzbekistan: The Hemis system must adhere to Uzbek data privacy laws and regulations, which dictate how student and staff data is managed and protected.

- Other Countries: Data privacy and security standards vary widely; for example, European countries follow GDPR, the US follows FERPA, and each country may have specific legal requirements for data handling and security.

5. User Interface and Experience:

- Uzbekistan: Designed to be user-friendly for Uzbek administrators, faculty, and students, with interfaces often available in Uzbek and Russian.

- Other Countries: User interfaces are developed to cater to the linguistic and cultural preferences of the country's users, which can impact design, accessibility, and functionality.

6. Functionality and Features:

- Uzbekistan: Focused on meeting the needs of Uzbek higher education institutions, including specific modules for student enrollment, academic records, and financial management tailored to local practices.

- Other Countries: Features and functionalities are developed to meet the diverse needs of their educational systems, which can include broader or more specialized modules depending on local demands.

7. Implementation and Support:

- Uzbekistan: Local support and training are crucial for effective implementation, often provided by the developers familiar with the Uzbek education system.

- Other Countries: Implementation and support services are tailored to the local context, often involving different models of training, support, and system customization.

Overall, while the core purpose of managing and streamlining higher education administrative processes is consistent, the specific implementations of such systems can vary significantly based on local needs, regulations, and technological

The Hemis information system

The system collects data on various aspects such as student demographics, enrollment figures, graduation rates, staff qualifications, and research outputs. This data is crucial for funding allocations and institutional assessments.

By: Sirojiddinov Asliddin
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Worth Noting:

- **Advanced Data Analytics:** Utilizing AI and machine learning to provide predictive analytics, trend analysis, and actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and students.
- **Real-time Data Integration:** Seamless integration of data from various sources such as academic institutions, government databases, and international education platforms to ensure up-to-date and comprehensive information.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** Intuitive dashboards and interfaces that make it easy for users to access, visualize, and interpret data.
- **Personalized Learning and Support:** Tools that offer personalized recommendations for students based on their academic performance, interests, and career aspirations.
- **Enhanced Security and Privacy:** Robust security protocols to protect sensitive educational data and ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

landscapes.

The Hemis (Higher Education Management Information System) system is primarily used for managing and improving the administration and delivery of higher education. It helps institutions collect, store, and analyze data related to student enrollment, academic performance, faculty, finances, and other key operational areas. The main reason for using Hemis is to support decision-making, policy development, and strategic planning by providing accurate and comprehensive data, which ultimately enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of higher education institutions.

The Hemis (Higher Education Management Information System) is a comprehensive system designed to streamline and enhance the management of higher education institutions. It is particularly convenient for students in several ways:

1. **Centralized Information Access:** Hemis provides students with a single platform to access all necessary information related to their academic progress, including grades, course materials, schedules, and administrative announcements.
2. **Registration and Enrollment:** The system simplifies the process of course registration and enrollment. Students can easily sign up for classes, check prerequisites, and ensure they are meeting their academic requirements.
3. **Communication:** Hemis facilitates better communication between students, faculty, and administration. Announcements, updates, and important notifications can be quickly disseminated through the system.
4. **Support Services:** Students can access various support services through Hemis, such as counseling, academic advising, and career services, making it easier to seek help when needed.
5. **Financial Management:** The system often includes modules for managing tuition payments, scholarships, and financial aid, providing students with clear and accessible information about their financial status.
6. **Feedback and Evaluation:** Hemis can be used for collecting and analyzing student feedback on courses

and instructors, helping improve the quality of education and addressing student concerns promptly.

7. **Personalized Experience:** With data on individual student performance and preferences, Hemis can offer personalized recommendations for courses, study materials, and extracurricular activities.

Overall, the Hemis system helps create a more organized, efficient, and student-friendly environment in higher education institutions.

The future Hemis (Higher Education Management Information System) could potentially have the following features:

1. **Advanced Data Analytics:** Utilizing AI and machine learning to provide predictive analytics, trend analysis, and actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and students.
2. **Real-time Data Integration:** Seamless integration of data from various sources such as academic institutions, government databases, and international education platforms to ensure up-to-date and comprehensive information.
3. **User-Friendly Interface:** Intuitive dashboards and interfaces that make it easy for users to access, visualize, and interpret data.
4. **Personalized Learning and Support:** Tools that offer personalized recommendations for students based on their academic performance, interests, and career aspirations.
5. **Enhanced Security and Privacy:** Robust security protocols to protect sensitive educational data and ensure compliance with data protection regulations.
6. **Interoperability:** Compatibility with other educational and administrative systems to facilitate smooth data exchange and integration.
7. **Mobile Accessibility:** Mobile-friendly platforms that allow users to access information and perform tasks on-the-go.
8. **Collaboration Tools:** Features that support collaboration among educators, students, and administrators, such as shared workspaces, communication tools, and project management capabilities.
9. **Reporting and Compliance:** Automated reporting

features that help institutions meet regulatory requirements and track compliance effortlessly.

10. **Feedback Mechanisms:** Tools for collecting and analyzing feedback from students and staff to continuously improve the system and educational processes.

11. **Resource Management:** Modules for managing educational resources, including facilities, staff, and budgets, to optimize the allocation and utilization of resources.

12. **Global Reach:** Capabilities to support international collaboration and exchange programs, making it easier for institutions to engage with global partners.

By incorporating these features, a future Hemis information system could significantly enhance the management, administration, and quality of higher education.

Data Collection in Hemis

1. **Student Data:**
 - Enrollment: Hemis tracks detailed enrollment data, including the number of students registered in various programs, their demographics (age, gender, race), and their study modes (full-time, part-time, distance learning).
 - Academic Performance: Information on student progress and outcomes, such as completion rates, dropout rates, and academic performance, is collected.
 - Graduation: Data on the number of graduates, their qualifications, and the time taken to complete their studies.
2. **Staff Data:**
 - Academic Staff: Information on the number of academic staff, their qualifications, teaching loads, and research outputs.
 - Support Staff: Data on administrative and support staff, including their roles, qualifications, and employment status.
3. **Financial Data:**
 - Funding: Details on various funding sources, including government subsidies, student fees, and external grants.
 - Expenditures: Information on how funds are allocated and spent across different departments and projects.
4. **Research Data:**
 - Outputs: Data on research outputs such as publications, patents, and con-

ference presentations.

- Funding: Information on research funding, including grants and contracts.

Reporting in Hemis

1. **Annual Reports:**

- Universities submit annual reports to the DHET, detailing their performance across various metrics. These reports are used to monitor compliance with national standards and policies.

2. **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**

- Hemis data helps track KPIs such as student success rates, staff-to-student ratios, and research productivity. These indicators are essential for assessing institutional performance and identifying areas for improvement.

3. **Funding Allocation:**

- The data collected through Hemis is used to determine the allocation of government funding. This includes block grants, earmarked funds for specific programs, and performance-based funding.

4. **Policy Formulation:**

- Hemis reports provide valuable insights for policymakers. They help in the formulation of education policies, setting strategic priorities, and addressing sector-wide challenges.

5. **Institutional Planning:**

- Universities use Hemis data for internal planning and decision-making. It helps in resource allocation, program development, and strategic planning to enhance institutional performance and student outcomes.

Ensuring Data Quality

1. **Validation Processes:**

- Institutions must regularly validate their data to ensure accuracy and completeness. This involves cross-checking records, correcting errors, and updating information as needed.

2. **Audits:**

- Periodic audits are conducted to verify the integrity of the data submitted to Hemis. These audits help identify discrepancies and areas where data management practices can be improved.

3. **Training:**

- Staff involved in data collection and reporting receive training to understand Hemis requirements and best practices for data management.

Conclusion

The Hemis (Higher Education Management Information System) plays a critical role in the management and reporting of data within higher education institutions. By systematically collecting and analyzing student data, Hemis provides valuable insights into enrollment trends, academic performance, and graduation rates. This information is essential for institutional planning, resource allocation, and compliance with national educational standards. Through detailed data collection methods, such as registration systems and academic records, Hemis ensures comprehensive coverage of student demographics, program details, and academic outcomes. The subsequent analysis and reporting of this data support both internal and external stakeholders, informing key decisions and policy formulations. The effectiveness of Hemis hinges on the accuracy, completeness, and security of the data collected. Rigorous validation processes, regular audits, and strict data security measures are crucial in maintaining the integrity of the system. By addressing these challenges, institutions can leverage Hemis to enhance student support services, improve program offerings, and ultimately foster a more efficient and effective higher education environment. In summary, Hemis is an indispensable tool that aids higher education institutions in South Africa in achieving their strategic objectives, ensuring quality education, and meeting national requirements. Its comprehensive approach to data management supports informed decision-making and continuous improvement across the sector.

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

Closer cooperation emphasised during 7th China-Africa People's Forum

Beijing says China will share with Africa her experience of achieving modernization and work together to find solutions to challenges.

By: Eric Biegon
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Worth Noting:

- “Chinese experience shows that modernization is not westernization. Countries should explore paths to modernization that suit their local conditions and the trend of the ties for the benefit of the people,” he added
- Mr Li reiterated that China will share with Africa her experience of achieving modernization and work together to find solutions to challenges.
- He said the two sides should prioritize strengthening exchanges at all levels particularly focusing on pertinent topics such as poverty alleviation, education, and youth employment.
- According to Li, China and Africa should strengthen cooperation across the board, and work hand in hand to implement major projects that benefit our people.
- “We should leverage the strength of the multi-faceted, multi-layered institutionalized exchanges between China and Africa. We also need to step up exchanges in culture, and tourism and explore new cooperation areas such as the digital economies, and e-commerce,” he said

The Seventh China-Africa People's Forum and China-Africa Young Leaders Forum were jointly held in Hunan, China, just days after the conclusion of the Third Plenary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in Beijing. Addressing the Forum in Changsha, Li Hongzhong, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Member of Politburo of the Communist Party of China noted that the plenary confirmed that China will advance reform, opening up, and Chinese modernization and that Africa has a major stake in it. “China achieving modernization will bring new opportunities and offer new development pathways to African countries,” he said. Li noted that while China is advancing the building of a great nation and rejuvenation through Chinese modernization, Africa is also

building a peaceful unified, and prosperous continent through solidarity and unity. He said China stands ready to work with African leaders and political parties to implement important projects and improve governance capacity through closer collaboration and exchanges. “Chinese experience shows that modernization is not westernization. Countries should explore paths to modernization that suit their local conditions and the trend of the ties for the benefit of the people,” he added. Mr Li reiterated that China will share with Africa her experience of achieving modernization and work together to find solutions to challenges. He said the two sides should prioritize strengthening exchanges at all levels particularly focusing on pertinent topics such as poverty alleviation, education, and youth employment. According to Li, China and

Africa should strengthen cooperation across the board, and work hand in hand to implement major projects that benefit our people. “We should leverage the strength of the multi-faceted, multi-layered institutionalized exchanges between China and Africa. We also need to step up exchanges in culture, and tourism and explore new cooperation areas such as the digital economies, and e-commerce,” he said. “Let us advance development, and the importance of shared interests and mutual benefit. China and Africa are fellow companions in a journey towards modernization. Belt and Road Cooperation, Chinese medical teams, Covid vaccine sharing among other projects bear witness into China Africa Cooperation and a fine example of south to south cooperation,” he added.

Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

Li said the two sides should leverage the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and seek greater synergy with the 2063 Agenda to elevate ties between them. Under this framework, he said China will work shoulder to shoulder with African countries with the spirit of shared values for humanity to implement the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative. He said FOCAC has been of immense benefit to the people of Africa. “Since the launch of FOCAC Forum 24 years ago, trade between China and Africa has grown Chinese investments in Africa by nearly 100 times,” he said. “Many Road projects, railways, expressways. Hydropower stations, and stadiums, built by Hunan companies have had a great impact in Africa. The China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo has been held three times in Changsha

bringing more quality African products to the Chinese market. These projects have delivered tangible benefits to the Chinese and African people,” added Li. This year marks 75 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China. During this period, Li said the Chinese nation and the Chinese people have experienced transformative changes. “Reform and opening up has enabled China to catch up with the times in great strides and bears the success of Chinese modernization,” he said. The China Africa People's Forum, launched in 2011, is organized by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges. It is a platform for institutionalized people-to-people exchanges aimed at promoting cooperation between Chinese and African people. Kenya hosted the first session in 2011 in Nairobi.