

Britain's diaspora communities had not forgotten that dark day nearly half a century ago

Britain Fighting

The riots are over (for now):



Shattered lives as gang warfare and street stabbing sprees in UK create safety fears:

IS BRITAIN FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST SOARING KNIFE CRIME?

By: Shamlal Puri
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Britain has been fighting a knife crime pandemic for many years that shows little sign of being brought under control despite the intervention of the Police, leaving many shattered lives and causing fear among many peace-loving, vulnerable Britons who fear going out about their daily lives.

Britain's long-term cancer of knife crime was thrust into the spotlight following the July 29 stabbing and the killings of three innocent girls under ten



Sad reminder of the evil of knife crime... These innocent angels lost their lives in a senseless stabbing spree in Southport in July, left to right, Alice DaSilva Aguiar, nine; Bebe King, six; and Elzie Dot Stancombe, seven

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WHO seeks \$135 million to defeat mpox P 4

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Beyond Vows: 23 Keys to Unlocking the Secrets ...

News Backpage
Ukraine is losing the plot in Africa

Aid teams cite huge challenges in tackling new Sudan cholera outbreak

Protecting war-weary people in Sudan from a second deadly cholera outbreak is proving a huge challenge for aid teams after more than 16 months of heavy fighting, combined with flooding and ongoing access obstacles, they reported on Friday. "The needs are huge in Sudan; we

are talking about people dying of hunger, we have conflict, we have protection issues, we have displacements on a daily basis; the needs are just huge," compounded by several weeks of heavy rainfall, said Kristine Hambrouck, UNHCR Representative in Sudan.

Famine 'ongoing'
In addition to cholera, famine is still "ongoing" in Zamzam camp near El Fasher town, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). It said that 658 cases have been reported since the latest outbreak

was declared on 12 August, with 28 deaths. The last outbreak of cholera in May saw more than 11,300 cases and at least 300 deaths.

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First session of international cybersecurity training program concludes in Moscow

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President Xi has scheduled important bilateral events with African leaders who will be attending the FOCAC Summit Asia



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Somalia warns Ethiopian Airlines over 'sovereignty violations' the Somali Civil Aviation Authority

Africa



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Africa plans to adopt agri-food systems approach when Malabo Declaration ends in December 2025

By: Judith Akolo
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Worth Noting:

- The objectives of the new strategy include; Intensify sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade, Boost investment and financing in transforming agri-food systems, Ensure food and nutrition security across the continent, Advance inclusivity and equitable livelihoods, Build resilient agri-food systems that can withstand and adapt to various shocks and stressors and Strengthen agri-food systems governance.
- Dr. Bahiigwa notes that through leadership and ownership of the Kampala Declaration once adopted, it will be integrated into National and Regional Development Plans and to ensure its success, there will be need for improved resource mobilization as well as streamlining the involvement of non-state actors and strengthening parliamentary oversight.



With over 20 years of the existence of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), the African continent now plans to adopt an agri-food systems approach so as to be able to achieve sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems transformation. In his presentation during the Validation workshop of the Ten -Year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035), in Kampala, Uganda, the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the African Union Commission (AUC) Dr. Godfrey Bahiigwa, said that through the new action plan, the continent will be able “to create millions of local jobs, raise incomes, build social cohesion, and improve socio-economic

stability.” Dr. Bahiigwa said the Malabo Declaration which was launched in Malabo in Equatorial Guinea in 2014 comes to an end in December 2025, he noted that once the Kampala Declaration is adopted during the Extraordinary Summit set for Kampala in January next year, “the first thing that we need to do, collectively is to domesticate the Kampala Declaration into National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs),” he said and added, “we did not do very well on that with the Malabo Declaration.” The objectives of the new strategy include; Intensify sustainable food production, agro-industrialization, and trade, Boost investment and financing in transforming agri-food systems,

Ensure food and nutrition security across the continent, Advance inclusivity and equitable livelihoods, Build resilient agri-food systems that can withstand and adapt to various shocks and stressors and Strengthen agri-food systems governance. Dr. Bahiigwa notes that through leadership and ownership of the Kampala Declaration once adopted, it will be integrated into National and Regional Development Plans and to ensure its success, there will be need for improved resource mobilization as well as streamlining the involvement of non-state actors and strengthening parliamentary oversight. The Director of Agriculture and Rural Development says that among the nota-

ble successes of the CAADP from 2003 to 2024 having had the Maputo Declaration and the Malabo Declaration in 2014 that ends next year in December, some of the impactful initiatives have included the establishment of the Biennial Review process, “which has been a key tool for mutual accountability and tracking agricultural progress,” says Dr. Bahiigwa. The Maputo Declaration which was agreed upon by African Heads of State and Government in Maputo Mozambique in 2003 called on member states to allocate at least 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture with the hope of achieving productivity growth of at least six percent annually. Its successor the Malabo Declaration which was

agreed on by African Heads of State and Government in Malabo in Equatorial Guinea in 2014 put emphasis on commitments including; Recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process, Recommitment to enhance investment finance in Agriculture, Commitment to Ending Hunger by 2025, Commitment to Halving Poverty, by 2025, through inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation, Commitment to Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services, Commitment to Enhancing Resilience in livelihoods & production systems to climate variability and other shocks and Commitment to Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results.

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Mama Judith Ongoro



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Mpox

WHO seeks \$135 million to defeat mpox

By: Christine Muchira/Release
xxxxxxxxxxxxWorth
Noting:

- **Tedros said the global outbreak first emerged in 2022, with more than 100,000 confirmed cases reported since then. While the virus continues to circulate at low levels, Africa has seen an unprecedented increase and expansion.**
- **Transmission is mainly centred in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where there have been more than 16,000 suspected cases, including 575 deaths, this year alone.**
- **The surge is being driven by two separate outbreaks of two strains of the mpox virus, or clades, and in different parts of the country.**

The current mpox outbreak “can be controlled and can be stopped”, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized on Friday, announcing an action plan that calls for \$135 million over the next six months.

“Responding to this complex outbreak requires a comprehensive and coordinated international response,” WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told Member States, as cases spread beyond Africa to Europe and Asia. The briefing was held just over a week after he declared that mpox was a public health emergency of international concern.

New mpox virus strain

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Rapid spread

The rapid spread of a new offshoot, clade 1b, was the main reason behind his decision to declare mpox a global public health emergency on 14 August.

“In the past month, cases of clade 1b have been reported in four countries neigh-



© UNICEF/Jospin Benekire A community outreach worker raises awareness about mpox in Kamanyola, South Kivu province, DR Congo.

bouring DRC, which had not reported mpox before: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. This week, cases have also been reported in Thailand and Sweden,” he said.

We can stop mpox

In response, WHO and partners have developed a plan to stop outbreaks of human-to-human transmission of mpox through coordinated efforts at the global, regional, and national levels. “Let me be clear: this new mpox outbreak can be controlled and can be stopped,” Tedros insisted.

“Doing so requires concerted action between international agencies and national and local partners, civil society, researchers and manufacturers, and you, our Member States.”

He stressed that response must be anchored in equity, global solidarity, community empowerment, human

rights, and coordination across sectors.

Strategic response plan

The Global Mpox Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SRSP) focuses on implementing comprehensive surveillance and response strategies, as well as advancing research and equitable access to medical countermeasures.

“Our initial estimates are that the SPRP requires approximately \$135 million over the next six months for the acute phase of the outbreak. That amount will likely increase as we update the plan in light of growing needs,” Tedros said.

He added that a dedicated WHO funding appeal will be released early next week.

Leadership, preparedness and coordination

The SPRP also calls for minimizing zoonotic transmission and empowering

communities to actively participate in outbreak prevention and control.

At the global-level, emphasis is on strategic leadership, timely evidence-based guidance, and access to medical countermeasures for the most at-risk groups in affected countries.

In this regard, WHO is working with a range of international, regional, national and local partners and networks to enhance coordination across the key areas of preparedness, readiness and response.

WHO regional offices have also established Incident Management Support Teams (IMSTs) to lead preparedness and response activities, while staffing is being scaled up in affected countries.

Preventing transmission, saving lives

Additionally, the Regional Office for Africa, in collab-

oration with the African Centres for Disease Control (CDC), will jointly spearhead the coordination of mpox response efforts, given that needs on the continents are greatest.

Meanwhile, health authorities at the national and sub-national level will adapt strategies to current epidemiological trends.

Tedros noted that WHO has so far released roughly \$1.5 million from a contingency fund for emergencies, with more allocations expected in the coming days, “until funding from donors for the response comes in.”

He said the agency “will coordinate the global response, working closely with each of the affected countries, to prevent transmission, treat those infected, and save lives.”

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Polisario elements disrupt TICAD9 Ministerial preparatory meeting in Japan

By: Dismas Otuke
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The Ministerial Preparatory Meeting for the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), scheduled for August 24-25, 2024 in Tokyo, which got underway today, has experienced major disruptions jeopardizing the success of the event. This is after the meeting of senior officials from Japan and African member countries of the United Nations, which was dedicated to the preparation of TICAD9, saw the break-in of certain Polisario elements not invited by Japan, who were able to enter Japanese territory as well as the conference hall thanks to Algerian travel documents and visas issued to them as members of the Algerian delegation.

According to a video sequence that has gone viral, a Polisario separatist is clearly seen secretly putting up a sign in the name of the so-called Sahrawi republic.

In response to this attempt to undermine the work of the preparatory meeting, the Japanese side made it clear that Japan, the host country, had extended invitations to take part in TICAD9 only via its Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and exclusively to African countries that are members of the United Nations, which do not include the pseudo-Rasd or the Polisario.

Japan has also reiterated its official position, which does not recognize the pseudo-rasd.

This is not the first time that the Polisario has used such underhand maneuvers to present itself at an international meeting involving its african strategic partner causing disruption in an attempt to sabotage the smooth running of this international event.



Japan

Japan affirms its non recognition of the Polisario front at TICAD9

By: Dismas Otuke

Japan once again reiterates its position on the participation of the pseudo-rad and reiterates its non-recognition of this entity.

As part of its strategy aimed at imposing its recognition by Tokyo, the Polisario Front and Algeria once again attempted, this Saturday, the intrusion of Polisario elements inside the conference room hosting the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9).

“This incident prompted the Japanese Minister Delegate to make a statement, before the whole of Africa and the whole world, clearly recalling that Japan does not recognize the puppet entity and that its intrusion does not change Japan’s position.

In this context, the Japanese Minister stated: “Concerning the entity (Polisario), Japan does not recognize it as a nation. Its presence has no impact on Japan’s position”.

With this statement, Tokyo has once again doomed to failure the attempts by Polisario separatists to impose their presence at this international conference and assert a pseudo-recognition of a puppet entity by Japan.





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Relationship

Beyond Vows: 23 Keys to Unlocking the Secrets of a Truly Fulfilling Marriage Today



By: Capital Lystyle
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1. Marriage is not for quitters: Marriage is not a sprint but a marathon. Embrace challenges and believe that perseverance is the key to a lasting relationship.

2. You will feel proud of yourself looking back knowing that you honored your vows: Through the highs and lows, you will back on the years together with a sense of accomplishment. Take pride in the commitment that you make to each other on their wedding day.

3. If you do marriage right, it will bring out the best in you and in your spouse: A healthy marriage is a journey of mutual growth. You inspire each other to become better individuals, bringing out the best in themselves and each other.

4. Sex is important but not the only thing in marriage: While intimacy is an integral part of the relationship, you two understand the emotional connection, communication, and shared experiences are equally important.

5. When younger, make love as much as you can, enjoy it. A time is coming when all you have are memories:

Embrace passion and enjoy the physical aspect of the relationship. As time passes, you cherish these memories, knowing that the intensity might change but the love could deepen.

6. Friends will come and go, you will know so many people as a married person, but keep your spouse your priority: You will encounter numerous people throughout the journey, but always make sure that the relationship remains the top priority amidst the comings and goings of friends.

7. Don't stay together for children, eventually they will leave you two. What will you have to hold? Recognizing that children will eventually build lives of their own, focus on maintaining a strong connection beyond parenthood.

8. Growing old doesn't mean you cannot make your spouse feel special, keep making his/her heart beat: Even as wrinkles etch on your faces and silver adorned the hair, continue to make each other feel cherished. Understood the importance of keeping the flame alive.

9. Do not harden your heart, otherwise marriage will be too great a burden: Do not let bitterness take root. Choose forgiveness over resentment, ensuring that the love remains resilient.

10. Do not hold grudges, otherwise

stress will kill you: Understand the toll of unresolved conflicts, and learn to forgive and chose to let go of grievances, easing the burdens that can otherwise weigh you down.

11. Even though you two are married, don't forget to build yourself, and work on your goals as an individual. Don't lose you: While prioritizing marriage, pursue also your own personal growth. Encourage each other to chase dreams, because a thriving partnership requires two fulfilled individuals.

12. Not every advice is good advice. Discern: Amidst the sea of opinions, learn to discern what advice is beneficial for your unique relationship. Acknowledge that not every piece of guidance applies to your journey.

13. Love your spouse the best way you can, not as a reward to your spouse for treating you right, but because you have personally chosen to: Love is not transactional; it is a choice. Love each other unconditionally, not as a response to actions but as a commitment u willingly embrace.

14. It is not for you to say you are a good husband/wife but for your spouse to say I have a good husband/wife: Understood that the true measure of your roles as husband and wife is to lay in the perception of the other.

Aim to be the partners your spouse is proud to call their own.

15. Don't work too hard chasing after money for your family that you lose your family: In the pursuit of providing, be mindful not to sacrifice the very essence of your union. Work to live rather than live to work, and understand that true wealth lay in the love you share.

16. Praying for your spouse is your personal responsibility that you cannot delegate to another person: Spirituality played a crucial role in their lives. Individually take the responsibility to pray for each other, fostering a connection that goes beyond the physical and emotional realms.

17. Start each day with warm words and the tone of the day will be good: Every morning, begin the day with expressions of love and gratitude. Setting a positive tone early on paves the way for harmony throughout the day.

18. Don't be scared of aging, be scared of aging without a purpose or a legacy in mind: Embracing the inevitability of aging, focus on creating a meaningful legacy, ensuring that the wisdom and love you cultivate will endure beyond your years.

19. As you work, think about retirement. Save, invest, plan. You will not always have the energy you have:

Understanding the impermanence of youth, plan for the future, ensure financial stability and security in your golden years.

20. Mothers, don't hurt your children with words. Mummy wounds are difficult to heal from: Understood the weight of your words and chose them carefully, mindful of the lasting impact they could have on your children. Be a source of comfort rather than pain.

21. Remember what you sow in your younger years of marriage, you will reap in your older years: Sow seeds of love, respect, and commitment early in your marriage, reap the rewards as you navigate the later stages of life.

22. You may pretend to the outside world you two are happy but behind closed doors, you two know the true state of your union. Stop living a public lie, have true love: Be transparent with each other, ensuring that your love is genuine and not a facade for the outside world. Value authenticity over societal expectations.

23. If you feel like quitting; step back, breathe, be objective and most likely you will realize you don't have to quit. Don't always trust feelings, wait them out: In moments of doubt, give each other space to breathe. Understand the transient nature of emotions and chose patience over hasty decisions.

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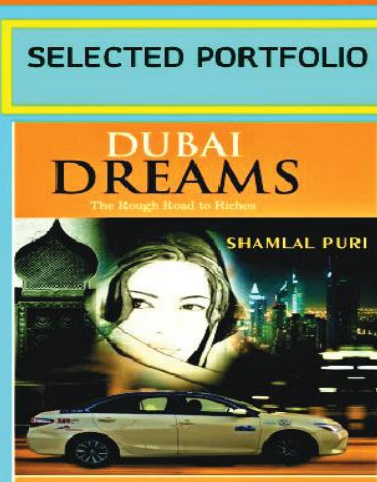
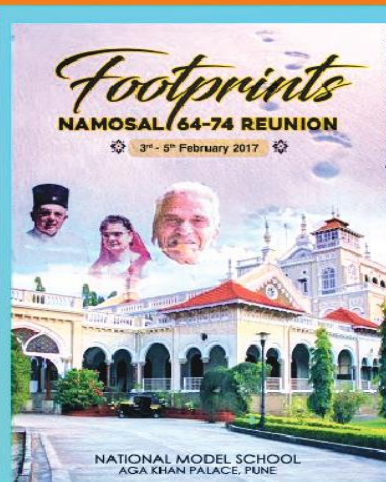
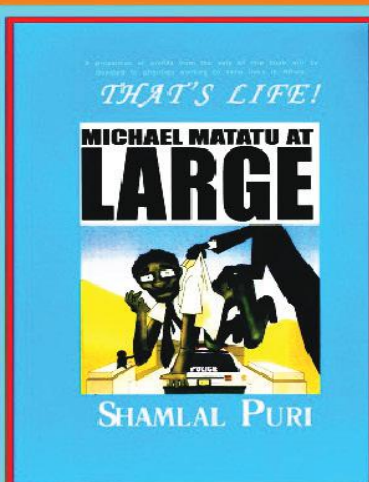
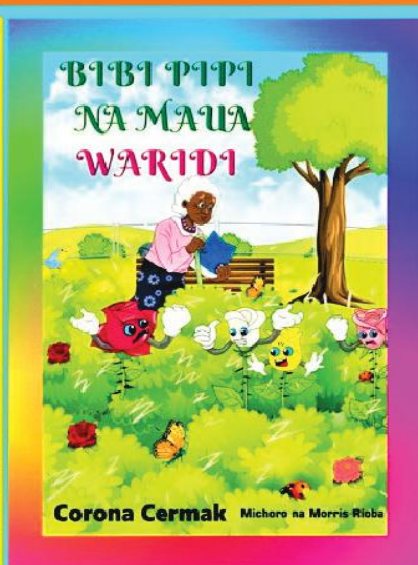
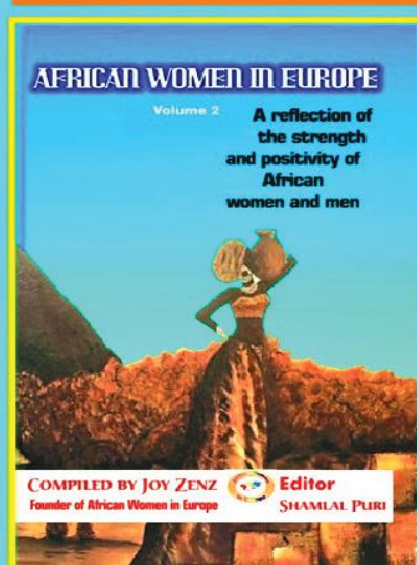
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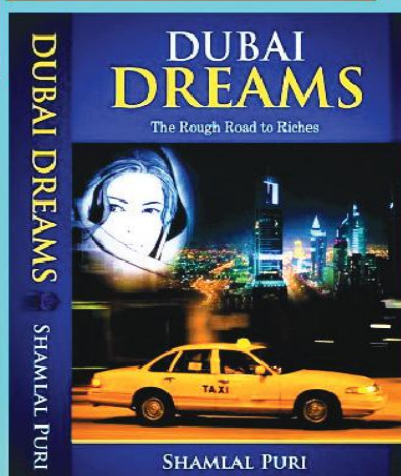
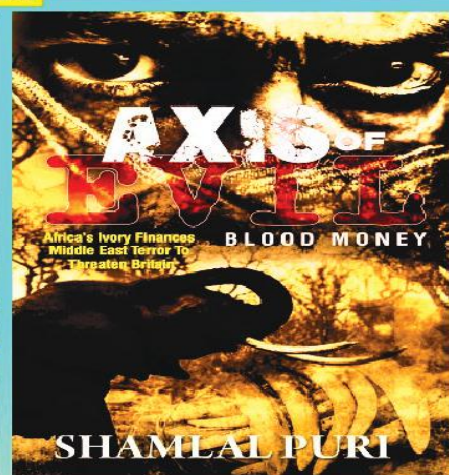
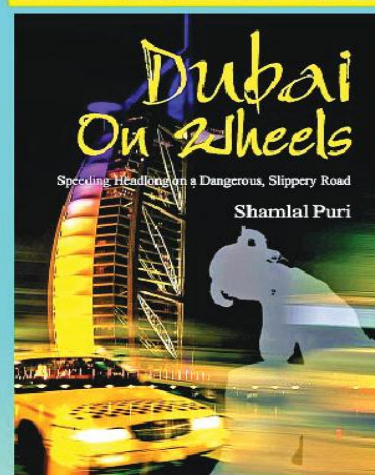
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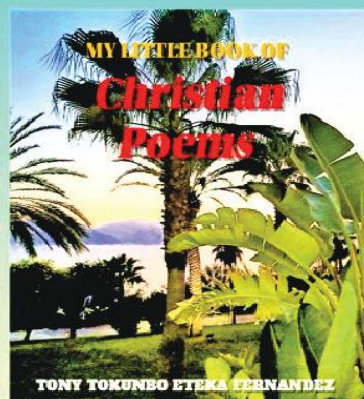
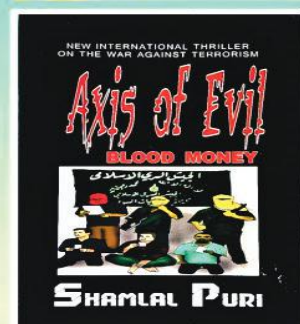
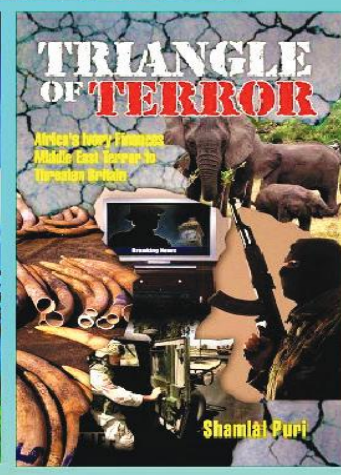
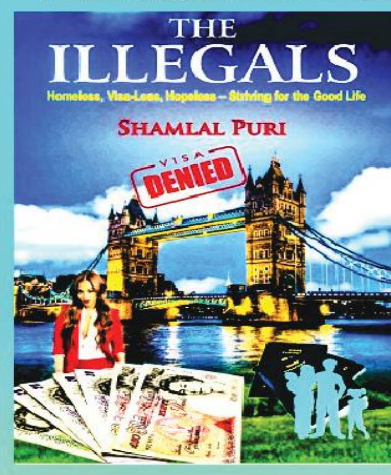
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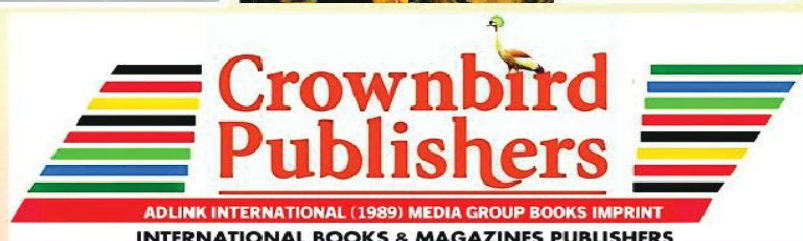


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UK News

Shattered lives as gang warfare and street stabbing sprees in UK create safety fears: IS BRITAIN FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST SOARING KNIFE CRIME?



By: Shamlal Puri
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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Britain's diaspora communities had not forgotten that dark day nearly half a century ago, when on June 4 1976, an 18-year-old Sikh teenager, engineering student Gurdeep Singh Chaggar, was stabbed outside the Victory Pub in the predominantly West London Asian suburb of Southall and left in a pool of blood by a group of violent far-right white racists who were in the town to cause trouble.
- Police did not acknowledge that it was a racist stabbing and murder.
- The racial violence of that era still haunts the town's people, and Chaggar's name is mentioned reverently as a martyr.
- Half a Century later, the scourge of knife crime remains as an increasing number of Britons go around daily armed with sharp blades and do not hesitate to lash out at the slightest provocation.



Gone but not forgotten... Gurdeep Singh Chaggar was 18, aspiring to be an engineer when he was stabbed in 1976 in Southall, west London, in a racist attack. He was innocent. Today, he would have been 66.

in Southport, Merseyside and injuring eight others by a crazed Rwandan-British diasporan teenager armed with a kitchen knife.

The consequent riots brought home once again the threats posed by people carrying knives and using them to cause death and destruction in the country.

The riots are over (for now), as are the in-depth academic discussions on the causes of the midsummer madness that engulfed the United Kingdom for two weeks.

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Half a Century later, the scourge of knife crime remains as an increasing number of Britons go around daily armed with sharp blades and do not hesitate to lash out at the slightest provocation.

Angry drivers have lashed out with knives at other motorists in road rage incidents

or shopping car parks. People are stabbed so frequently these days that the scenario is scary.

The public says the Police are powerless to stop the rising number of knife attacks on vulnerable people.

To be fair to the Police, they are working to stop criminals carrying knives. Still, they cannot achieve satisfactory results because of their internal problems and a heavy workload of pending criminal cases under investigation.

The devastating figures of the latest cases show 50,510 knife-enabled offences in the year ending 2023, according to the UK's Office of National Statistics (ONS). Instead of decreasing, the Office of National Statistics paints a grim figure showing that in England and Wales, knife crime has increased by 78% in the last decade. This is hardly reassuring to the British public.

Parents have lost their children, and older people have been stabbed in the streets and their homes, leaving families devastated.

The streets of the United Kingdom are unsafe as there is plenty of evidence from the official figures to prove that knife crime has claimed thousands of people, and the attacks continue regularly.

A new nationwide knife ban comes into force next month



More than 100 knives were handed to South Wales Police, who were clamping down on knife crime recently Photo South Wales Police



Knife crime has no place in British society, and the Police emphasise this and the consequences of arrest and imprisonment, as seen in this poster.



Knife crime is growing in the UK, and the authorities are struggling to control the number of injuries and deaths, which continue to increase annually.



Cancer of knife crime has hit the UK with increased stabbings. Campaigns such as this are under-way to encourage people to avoid carrying knives and save lives. Photo Courtesy BSP

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UK News

Shattered lives as gang warfare and street stabbing sprees in UK create safety fears: IS BRITAIN FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST SOARING KNIFE CRIME?



By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
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Worth Noting:

- Office under the Conservative Government launched a £1.35million advertising campaign to reduce knife crime, targeting 10-to 21-year-olds.
- The then Home Secretary Amber Rudd said at the time: “The emotional stories at the heart of the new Knife Free campaign powerfully drive home a far-reaching impact it can have on a young person’s life if they make the misguided decision to carry a knife.”
- The then Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, Victoria Atkins, said at the time the campaign highlighted the tragic consequences of carrying a knife and challenged the idea that young people are safer if they had one.
- Critics looking at that campaign in 2024 believe it did not fully achieve the desired results, though it may have affected a small section of under-21-year-olds.



Diasporaans are not only victims of knife horror but they also are involved in knife crime...Fayaz Khan, 69, of Burnley, was jailed for 15 years for a horrific stabbing of a man and a woman, leaving them with serious injuries

when people in possession of zombie-style knives – weapons with blades more than eight inches with a serrated cutting edge and machetes are being urged to hand them into Police stations until September 23 and claim compensation. Ironically, the problem of knife crime goes back decades. However, knives and sharp objects were included on the Government’s banned list only as late as 2016, and the authorities, instead of prohibiting all knives, banned only those with images depicting violence on the handles! Manufacturers got around this with knives designed specifically without images! People with violence on their minds did not have to get inspiration on how to use it from the violent image on the handle! Zombie knives and machetes will be banned from September 24 under the Offensive Weapons Act passed by the Conservatives while in power. Under this Act, anyone found with zombie-style knives and machete will be jailed. The Government says there is no legitimate need for a weapon in homes or streets. The new Government also says this is the first step in its plan to reduce knife crime in the next ten years. The next phase will follow it to outlaw ninja swords. While the Government’s efforts to combat knife crime are to be lauded, there is little comfort for the families of those who have lost the lives of their loved ones in senseless stabbings. One of the most troubling

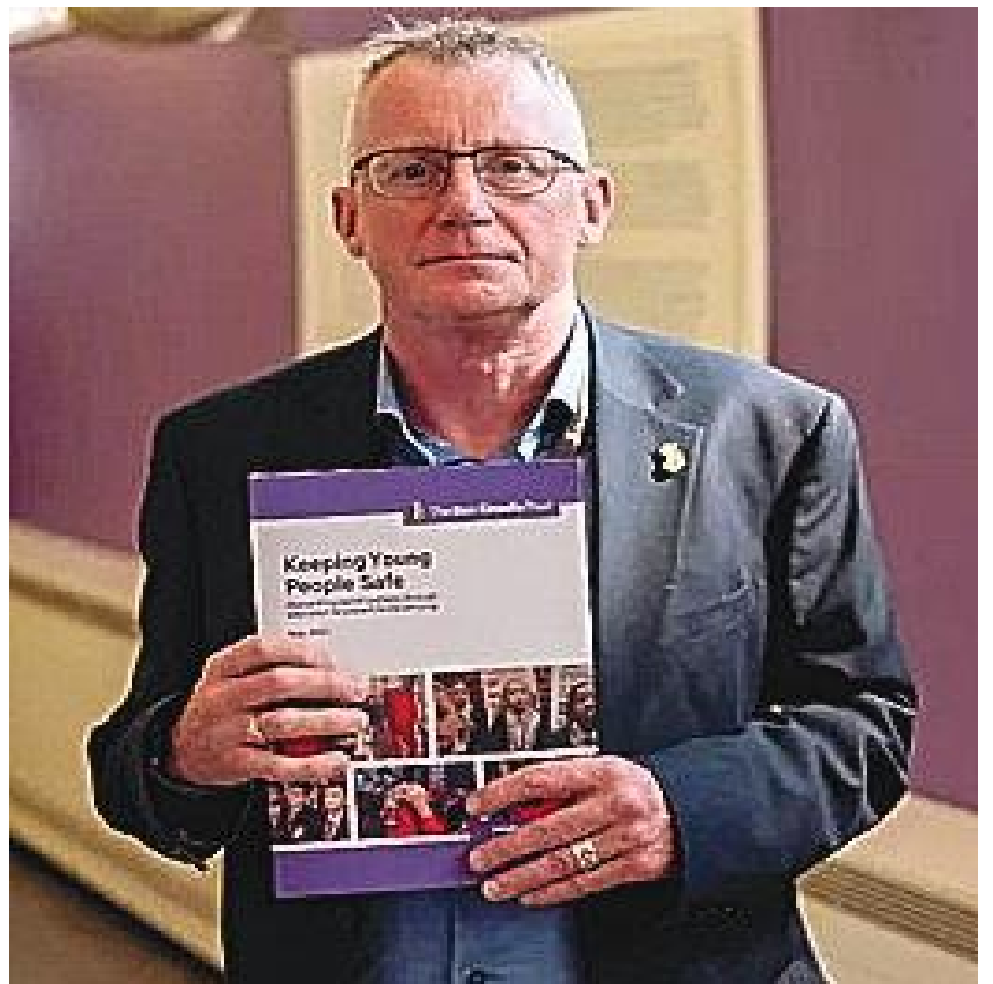
cases in recent years was that of an 18-year-old Caribbean diasporan student, Stephen Lawrence, 31 years ago. The teenager was stabbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, by a group of White youths in an unprovoked, racist attack on April 22 1993. Stephen was later pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital with two five-inch wounds to his arm and chest. His killers were free for a long time because the Police botched the investigation. Police began a surveillance operation on the prime suspects and made several arrests, but the Crown Prosecution Service later discontinued the prosecution, citing insufficient evidence. There was a miscarriage of justice when his killers were acquitted at the time. The Lawrence family vociferously continued to seek justice for their innocent son. Nineteen years later, in 2012, two of his killers – David Norris and Gary Dobson – were jailed for life. Lawrence was murdered by a group of five or six racists, but only two of his killers have faced justice. Things have hardly changed since Steven Lawrence’s death. These days, young people believe that carrying a knife is normal. Schoolchildren have been known to carry these offensive weapons to school, and often verbal duels in the playground and to show off their bravado have



Stephanie Marie, 19, was a young mum who was stabbed to death in Crawley, London, on August 18. Photo British Transport Police



Teenager Steven Lawrence was stabbed in London in 1996, but the authorities botched the investigation. Two killers were jailed 19 years later - in 2012 after the Lawrence family relentlessly sought justice. Photo courtesy.



Patrick Green, CEO of Ben Kinsella Trust, is concerned about the growing incidences of knife crime in the UK and hopes the Government will resolve this

Contd Page 13.

First session of international cybersecurity training program concludes in Moscow

During the closing ceremony, it was announced that Positive Technologies and SGU, an Indonesian technical university, have formed a strategic partnership.

By: KBC Digital

Positive Hack Camp, the international camp organized by Positive Technologies with the support of the Russian Ministry of Digital Development, has concluded in Moscow. Over the course of two weeks, 70 cybersecurity specialists from around the world learned from leading Russian experts who shared practical expertise in cybersecurity and IT infrastructure protection.

At the closing session, Positive Technologies and SGU (Indonesia) announced the launch of a collaboration aimed at training Indonesian cybersecurity professionals.

Positive Hack Camp, an international training program focused on practical cybersecurity, kicked off in August 2024. The training event will be held annually. A total of around 70 specialists from 20 countries, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil, and South Africa, participated in the inaugural session of the training program hosted by Positive Education and CyberEd.

“Our company has extensive expertise in cybersecurity, including practical cybersecurity of major international events. Today, we see a

growing demand for our expertise from multiple countries. The cybersecurity industry worldwide needs strong players capable of training and developing professional talent to create a global result-driven cybersecurity system. Positive Hack Camp is a vital educational project aimed at training local cybersecurity professionals, created to contribute to the development of a global cybersecurity community and the fight against cyberthreats,” said Yuliya Danchina, Positive Technologies Customer and Partner Training Director, Head of Positive Education. On the final day of the international camp, the Indonesian technical university SGU and Positive Technologies announced their strategic partnership by signing a memorandum. The objective of this partnership is to collaborate on implementing educational programs that will help increase the number of skilled cybersecurity experts in Indonesia.

“The rapid adoption of digital technologies is outpacing the development of cybersecurity in many parts of the world. We highly appreciate that Positive Technologies, a world-leading information security company, is willing to share its experience and knowledge with us. We look forward to seeing high-level



el professionals emerge in our country, and we are happy to partner with a company with such extensive hands-on experience in this area,” said Dr. Dipl.-Ing. Samuel P. Kusumocahyo, rector, SGU.

In addition to educational projects, Positive Technologies hosts major annual events such as the international cybersecurity festival, Positive Hack Days, and the Standoff Cyberbattle. These events serve as platforms for cybersecurity experts from different countries to exchange

experiences and ideas. For example, in May 2024, PHDDays Fest 2 attracted approximately 200 international attendees from 17 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

The Standoff Cyberbattle provides an opportunity for cybersecurity professionals to explore phigital twins of real IT infrastructures and enhance their skills in detecting vulnerabilities and countering cyberattacks. As an expansion of this event, a spin-off of the cyberbattle was held

for the first time in June 2024 as part of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. This spin-off featured 42 teams from 21 countries in Central and South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Throughout its nine years of existence, Standoff has attracted more than 4,500 cybersecurity experts. These experts have formed 200 teams from 30 countries, reflecting the global participation and impact of the event.

Russia, Ukraine

Russia, Ukraine swap 115 prisoners each

By Reuters

Russia and Ukraine exchanged 115 prisoners of war from each side on Saturday after the United Arab Emirates acted as an intermediary. It is the first such exchange since Ukraine launched a surprise attack into Russia's Kursk region on Aug. 6, the biggest attack inside Russian territory by a foreign power since World War Two.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the Russian servicemen swapped were captured in the Kursk region.

All released Russian soldiers are now in Belarus and will receive medical treatment and rehabilitation upon their return to Russia.

The ministry expressed gratitude for the UAE's role in facilitating the prisoner swap.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a picture of Ukrainian POWs wrapped in the country's blue and yellow flags and hugging each other. He said that the returned were servicemen from the border guards, the national guard, the navy and the armed forces.

Zelenskyy expressed gratitude to the Ukrainian troops who helped replenish the pool of prisoners for exchange.

Kyiv has said it has carved out a buffer

zone in an area that Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, has used to pound targets in Ukraine.

According to Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's commissioner for human rights, 82 of the returned Ukrainians defended the port of Mariupol in 2022.

Confirming its role in facilitating the exchange, the UAE foreign ministry said that the total number of captives exchanged through its mediation efforts now stood at 1,788.

It is the seventh such exchange the UAE has mediated since Russia invaded Ukraine. An Emirati official earlier told Reuters that Russia and Ukraine were to swap prisoners following mediation by the Gulf state. Abu Dhabi, a close security partner of the United States, has maintained warm relations with Moscow throughout the war, frustrating some Western officials. It has also strengthened ties with Kyiv.

UAE officials say their ability to talk to a range of international actors means that they can effectively mediate between parties and promote cooperation and security.



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) react after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at an unknown location in Ukraine, in this handout picture released August 24, 2024. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy via Telegram/Handout via REUTERS

UK News

Shattered lives as gang warfare and street stabbing sprees in UK create safety fears: IS BRITAIN FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST SOARING KNIFE CRIME?



By: Shamlal Puri
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& Senior Editor – UK
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Worth Noting:

- “The recent, heart-breaking murders of children in Southport and a teenager in East London are stark reminders of the human cost of this epidemic. These young lives, ended at such a young age by senseless violence, underscore the urgent need to treat knife crime as a national emergency.
- “The Labour Party has pledged to halve knife crime incidents, a commendable goal. However, these figures expose the scale of the challenge they face.
- “Immediate and decisive action is imperative. We urge the Government to translate their promises into concrete policies without delay.
- “At the Ben Kinsella Trust, we believe prevention is the most effective solution to knife crime. Our focus on early intervention and supporting young people aims to steer young people away from knife carrying and violence before they enter the criminal justice system.”

threatened to turn into knife fights.

Earlier governments were aware of the changing trend. In 2018, the Home

Office under the Conservative Government launched a £1.35million advertising campaign to reduce knife crime, targeting 10-to 21-year-olds.

The then Home Secretary Amber Rudd said at the time: “The emotional stories at the heart of the new Knife Free campaign powerfully drive home a far-reaching impact it can have on a young person’s life if they make the misguided decision to carry a knife.”

The then Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability, Victoria Atkins, said at the time the campaign highlighted the tragic consequences of carrying a knife and challenged the idea that young people are safer if they had one.

Critics looking at that campaign in 2024 believe it did not fully achieve the desired results, though it may have affected a small section of under-21-year-olds.

Under English law, having an article with a blade or point in a public place or school premises without lawful authority is punishable by arrest and imprisonment.

Offences involving threatening with a knife or offensive weapon in a public place or on school premises, introduced on December 3 2012, in an aggravated form, used to threaten and endanger life is also punishable.

If an offender is over 18, British law gives a warning to those who admit guilt and agree to be cautioned where there is sufficient evidence for a conviction, but it is not considered to be in the public interest to institute criminal proceedings.

These days, there is a growing number of child offenders between 10 and 17 who are given community sentences. This is a non-custodial sentence,

For juveniles, the community sentences include supervision, unpaid work, specified or prohibited activities, accredited programmes, curfew, exclusion from or residence at a particular address, mental health, drug or alcohol treatment and attendance at a centre (for under 25s).

Immediate sentence for more serious cases of knife crime and offensive weapon

is a maximum of four years. The law does not spare juveniles aged 12 to 17 who could be jailed/detained for up to 24 months.

These sentences may look draconian on paper, but despite this, knife crime continues and has increased over the years.

There appears to be a pattern of leniency in the courts as critics who analysed the sentences in the last quarter of 2011.

Home Office figures provide a grim reading: From a total of 4,811 knife crime cases brought to court, 1,363 were jailed.

Some courts gave absolute or conditional discharge to 152 offenders, while 914 were cautiously released. Some 1,397 were given community sentences and 586 suspended sentences.

There are two schools of thought: Some critics believe it is wrong to jail for short periods, and others believe that rigorous punishment, including isolation in prison, will serve as a deterrent for any repeat offenders.

It boils down to finances: The Starmer Government lacks resources to run the prisons. They chose the shortcut: To release short-term prisoners on parole and leave the prisons open for severe and long-term offenders.

Former Conservative Home Secretary James Cleverly was concerned over the increasing rise in knife crime in London when the Office of National Statistics released the figures showing recorded knife crime rose by 22% in London to last September.

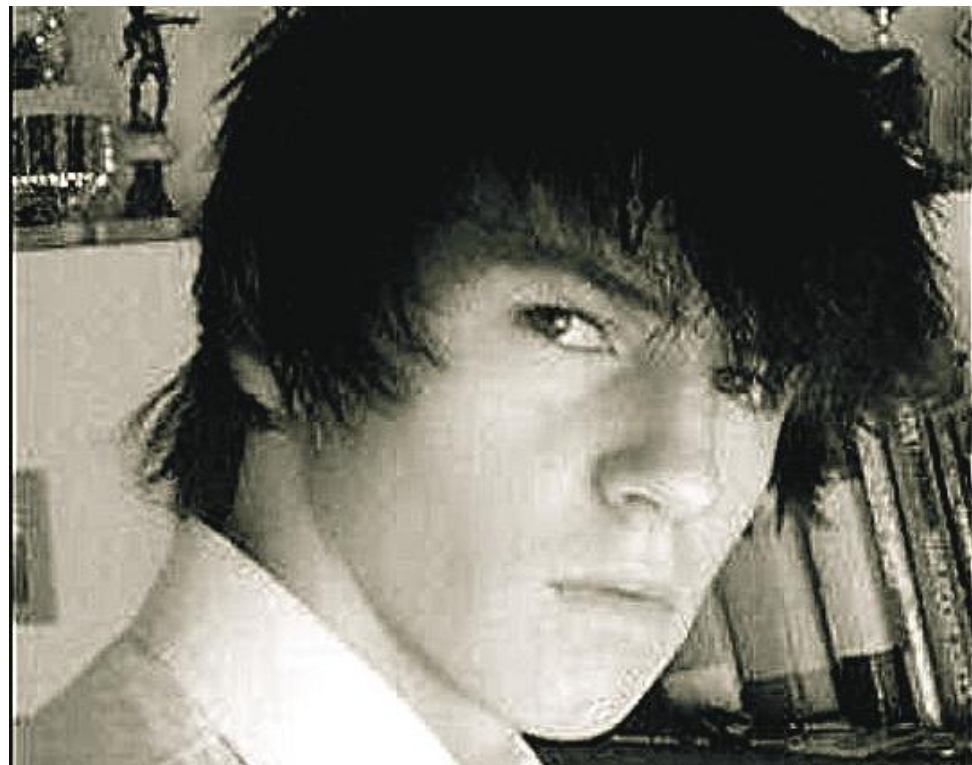
In a letter to the Labour Party’s Mayor Sadiq Khan, he noted that if London’s increase had not happened, there would have been a slight reduction of 1% knife crime across the country.

Mr Khan blamed the Government’s underfunding of Police in London for an increase in London’s knife crime figures.

The Ben Kinsella Trust, a charity that tackles knife crime through education and campaigning, is one of the several UK organisations advocating for the end of violence.



David Dosa, 53, of Farley Court, Luton, was fatally stabbed in a horrific attack outside his house recently. Police are investigating



Innocent teenager Ben Kinsella, 16, was stabbed to death in 2006 in Islington, London, when returning home after socialising with his friends. His parents have started a knife awareness charity in his memory



Plaques in memory of those stab victims who were martyred in Southhall, West London, Gurdeep Singh Chaggar, Blair Peach and Misty in Roots Group.

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Sudan

Aid teams cite huge challenges in tackling new Sudan cholera outbreak

By: Christine Muchira/Release
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© UNOCHA/Ala Kheir Women waiting for aid distribution in Wad Madani, Sudan.

Worth Noting:

- The UNHCR official highlighted the difficulty of trying to address this latest emergency in Sudan, where fighting between rival militaries erupted in April 2023 over a proposed transition to civilian rule, following a military coup in 2021 and the 2019 ousting of long-time President Omar Al-Bashir.
- “This is just one (challenge), one on top of all the other ones that we somehow have to reprioritize and make sure that investments are being made,” she said, emphasizing that in refugee camps and displacement sites, “people live on top of each other” and are “hugely overcrowded with the movements of Sudanese (and) also refugees from Khartoum, from Wad Madani, from the Darfurs” to Kassala.
- “All these areas have become hugely overcrowded, the water systems that were in place do not have the capacity to respond, it really needs massive investments,” she insisted.

Underscoring the dire humanitarian situation across Sudan, WHO also warned that at least 12 of Sudan’s 18 states now face three or more disease outbreaks of cholera in addition to malaria, measles and/or dengue. Yet despite the urgent need for lifesaving healthcare interventions, the UN health agency said that resources and local capacity to detect and respond to outbreaks remain limited, particularly in hard-to-reach areas such as the Darfurs and Kordofan states.

Kassala, Gedaref, Jazirah at risk
Meanwhile, the UN refugee agency’s Ms. Hambrouck warned that cholera is spreading in areas hosting internally displaced people uprooted by the violence and those from other countries, in particular Kassala, Gedaref and Jazirah states. “We have seen quite large numbers of cholera cases in Kassala; Kassala is an important area for us, it hosts a large number of refugees, but also internally displaced. So far, we have 119 cholera cases in three refugee sites in Kassala and five refugees have passed away regretfully of the disease.”

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Vaccine success

An initial vaccination campaign has successfully protected more than 50,000 people from cholera, with hundreds of thousands more doses on the way. “The vaccination campaign already started and we used the 51,000 doses that were already in the country,” said Dr Shible Sahbani, WHO Representative in Sudan. Speaking from Port Sudan, he confirmed that the inoculation campaign concluded in Kassala state on Thursday. “We were aiming to reach the 97 per cent of the target population,” he said, adding that the UN health agency has also secured the approval to procure an additional 455,000 doses of cholera vaccine “good news in the middle of this horrible crisis”.

Elsewhere, aid access problems have continued to interrupt the humanitarian response. “We are still facing some obstacles and some challenges, either be-

cause there is a miscommunication between the decision-makers and those who are on the field, or because there are other issues. Of course, this is in addition to other challenges due to floods and the quality of the roads,” Dr Sahbani said. Echoing that message, the UN aid coordination office, OCHA, said that the 15 trucks that crossed into Sudan from Chad via the Adre crossing earlier this week were “a step in the right direction”. But transport conditions remain difficult because of the rainy season said spokesperson Jens Laerke, who underscored the importance of ensuring that aid trucks can continue to cross there “and secure a steady flow of food, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene and medical emergency supplies for people in more than a dozen areas at risk of famine”.

Seeds of hope

Vital farming supplies including seeds are among the supplies being transported into Darfur, the OCHA spokesperson noted. “This is an important point, because they need to plant before the rainy season ends. Boosting food production in Sudan is one of the most effective ways to address the overwhelming hunger crisis, which is only worsening after more than 16 months of conflict.”

Since the start of the conflict in Sudan, more than 10.3 million people have been driven from their homes inside Sudan or in neighbouring countries, according to UNHCR.

It emphasized that the hu-

manitarian situation and funding levels for the life-saving aid response were “already precarious” before the latest cholera outbreak, and that funds are urgently needed to support an expansion of cholera treatment centres and other health facilities, additional health staff and increased stocks of intravenous fluid and medicines.

Response plan frustrated

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Response plan frustrated

Of the \$1.5 billion required by UNHCR and other partners for the Regional Refugee Response Plan to provide assistance in countries bordering Sudan, just 22 per cent has been received. The inter-agency response inside Sudan is only 37 per cent funded.

“I think the funding levels are extremely challenging and do not allow us to address all the needs, both in Sudan, as well as across the border. So, this really, it really requires an international effort to make sure that we can stabilize at least this cholera situation,” said Ms. Hambrouck.

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This Trust was set up in memory of teenager Ben Kinsella, who was just 16 when he was stabbed to death in senseless violence on June 29 2008. Ben had been out at a local pub celebrating the end of his GCSEs with his friends. On their way home, he and his friends realised three older teenagers were following them. Scared and worried, they decided to run home. But the older teenagers chased after them. They were seeking revenge for an altercation in the club that had taken place earlier that evening. Ben and his friends had nothing to do with the altercations, but when the older boys caught up with Ben in an unprovoked attack, they stabbed him to death. A few months before he was murdered in 2008, Ben wrote to the then-prime minister, Gordon Brown, to call on the Government to do more to tackle knife crime. Since his murder, his family have tirelessly campaigned for change. Ben was the 17th teenager to be killed in London in 2008. The charity was disappointed with the increase in the latest knife crime figures. Its CEO, Patrick Green, said on August 8 that the latest increase in

knife crime was not merely figures but that they represented shattered lives. He said, “The latest knife crime statistics from the Office for National Statistics paint a deeply troubling picture. The overall number of offences involving a knife or sharp object is up by 4%, driven primarily by a surge in knife-enabled robberies. While the problem is widespread, metropolitan areas remain the worst affected.” He pointed out, “The highest number of knife crime offences are committed in London - 15,016, up 16% on last year. The highest rate of knife crime offences by population is in the West Midlands, which has 178 offences per 100,000 people, almost twice the national average in England and Wales, where the average is 88 offences per 100,000 people.” The report points out the largest single increase in knife crime offences occurred in Avon and Somerset - up 25% in the last year. “It is important to remember that these are not just statistics; they represent shattered lives and devastated families,” said Mr Green. “The recent, heart-breaking murders of children in Southport and a teenager in East London are stark reminders of the human cost of this epidemic. These young lives, ended at such a young age by senseless violence, underscore the urgent need to treat knife crime as a national emer-



Zombie knives and machetes face a ban from 24 September 2024

gency. “The Labour Party has pledged to halve knife crime incidents, a commendable goal. However, these figures expose the scale of the challenge they face. “Immediate and decisive action is imperative. We urge the Government to translate their promises into concrete policies without delay. “At the Ben Kinsella Trust, we believe prevention is the most effective solution to knife crime. Our focus on early intervention and supporting young people aims to steer young people away from knife carrying and violence before they enter the criminal justice system. “Mr Green said that while law enforcement was crucial, it was often

seen as a reactive measure. “By investing in prevention, we create viable solutions which tackle the root causes of the problem.” He expressed optimism over a recorded decline in knife possession offences, as recorded by Police “possession of an article with a blade or point” by 3% and knife-related hospital admissions – whilst staying relatively static in the last year – have decreased 25% since a high in 2019. “While this is positive, it is too early to determine if the trend will be sustained.” “The coming months are critical, and we stand ready to collaborate with the government to address this pressing issue and create a safer future for our young people.”

The fear of increased knife crime is so overwhelming that many foreign tourists do not consider the United Kingdom a safe destination, particularly the main cities. Police stop and search powers have stopped knife crimes, though many object to this a breach of human rights. One blazing hot summer’s day in London, a foot patrol police officer stopped a young Caribbean diasporan walking on the High Street wearing a thick woollen overcoat. The officer’s suspicion was aroused at the young man’s outfit. He stopped him and ordered him to unbutton his overcoat. To his shock, he found knives neatly stashed in his inside pockets. He was arrested

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Health

Attacks on health facilities and staff must not become the norm

On World Humanitarian Day, we must take a stance against the intensifying attacks on healthcare in conflict zones.

By: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) city of Goma, doctors and nurses have been murdered while trying to care for displaced people. In Ukraine, the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital was targeted in an air raid, killing one doctor and one hospital worker and injuring 16 people, including seven children. In Pakistan, a bomb killed police officers deployed to protect polio vaccination workers.
- As the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), I have repeatedly condemned such attacks and called for the protection and respect of health workers in humanitarian settings and beyond.
- Yet, my calls, and those of our humanitarian partners in the field and around the world, have gone unheard, despite health facilities, their staff, patients and other civilians being protected under international law during conflicts.



Palestinian forensic and civil defence workers recover human remains on the grounds of al-Shifa Hospital, which was destroyed by a two-week Israeli raid, on April 8, 2024 [AFP]

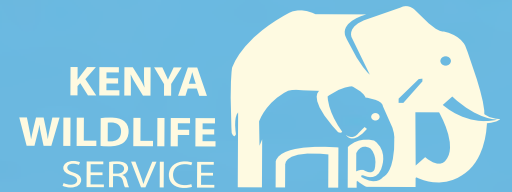
The violent upheaval tearing Khartoum apart has forced many Sudanese people to flee for safety. The war's impact on the capital's health-care system has made it even more urgent for many families to leave. Attacks on medical facilities in Khartoum in 2023 led to a shortage of drugs throughout the capital, which meant that many chronically ill Sudanese could no longer find the medicines they needed. This is the reality for millions in vital need of health-care not just in Sudan but elsewhere in the world as well. In Gaza, multiple attacks on hospitals have killed and injured hundreds, including health workers and displaced people seeking refuge in what were thought to be safe havens. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) city of Goma, doctors and nurses have been murdered while trying to care for displaced people. In Ukraine, the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital was targeted in an air raid, killing one doctor and one hospital worker and injuring 16 people, including

seven children. In Pakistan, a bomb killed police officers deployed to protect polio vaccination workers. As the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), I have repeatedly condemned such attacks and called for the protection and respect of health workers in humanitarian settings and beyond. Yet, my calls, and those of our humanitarian partners in the field and around the world, have gone unheard, despite health facilities, their staff, patients and other civilians being protected under international law during conflicts. In 2023 alone, WHO recorded 1,520 attacks on healthcare, resulting in the deaths of at least 750 patients and health workers, and 1,250 injuries. So far this year, more than 700 attacks have also taken place. Dire as these numbers are, they likely underestimate the true scale of the problem. While one attack is too many, some places have experienced alarmingly high numbers of attacks in short periods. In Gaza, more than

500 medical personnel have been killed since the conflict began last October. In addition, at least 287 aid workers have lost their lives, including many colleagues from UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, and at least one member of our WHO family, Dima Alhaj. In Gaza, like in Ukraine, Sudan, the DRC, Haiti and beyond, those who fall leave behind grieving families and communities. Parties to conflicts are failing humanitarian and health workers and the people they serve. Even in responding to clear threats to public health, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ebola outbreak in the DRC, humanitarian and health workers faced fatal attacks, physical threats and psychological intimidation on an unprecedented scale. On August 19, when we mark World Humanitarian Day, we must confront the intensifying attacks on aid workers and attempts to normalise them. On this day, I reiterate my condemnation of all forms of violence, threats and attacks against humanitarians, including health workers. I also join

fellow UN and humanitarian leaders in calling on all countries to take collective responsibility and action to ensure full protection for humanitarian workers. We must provide humanitarian heroes the protected space they need to save lives. More than ever, World Humanitarian Day reminds us of the essence of our work: protecting everyone, everywhere, at any time, regardless of how difficult the situation is. Beyond the legal implications, attacks on health interfere with the work of health workers, the distribution of health supplies, and the essential services of health facilities, like vaccinations, prenatal care, and treatment for chronic diseases, leading to preventable deaths and increased suffering. Even a single attack on the only hospital serving a population can have devastating, long-lasting consequences on healthcare delivery for entire communities in the immediate term, and for years to come. Health facilities provide more than care – in many communi-

ties, they offer refuge and contribute to collective welfare. The WHO Constitution states, "The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and States." WHO knows all too well the immense value of our colleagues who work in humanitarian settings, and the pain felt when we lose them needlessly to armed violence. Their dedication is a testament to the impact humanitarian action can have on millions of lives. By safeguarding humanitarians, we uphold the principles of compassion and solidarity and reaffirm our commitment to a more humane world. The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect our editorial stance. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director-General of the World Health Organization. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is Director-General of the World Health Organization.



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Diaspora

President Xi has scheduled important bilateral events with African leaders who will be attending the FOCAC Summit

Under the theme “Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future,” Chinese and African leaders will convene to assess past accomplishments and set a course for future cooperation.

By: Eric Biegon
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Worth Noting:

- “China is ready to seize this important opportunity with Africa to embark on a new journey toward modernization together, further elevate the building of a China-Africa community with a shared future to new heights, and continue writing a new chapter in the mutual understanding, affinity and friendship between the people of China and Africa,” the Vice Premier said during a session with journalists in Beijing.
- Chen pointed out that the meetings will uphold the longstanding principles of planning together, building together, and benefiting together, which have guided the FOCAC since its establishment 24 years ago.
- This year marks the ninth summit since the cooperation framework was established in 2000. Under the theme “Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future,” Chinese and African leaders will convene to assess past accomplishments and set a course for future cooperation.



China's Vice Foreign Minister, Chen Xiaodong address the press ahead of FOCAC Summit. He was flanked by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying. Photo / Chinese Foreign Ministry

Chinese President Xi Jinping, among other responsibilities, has scheduled numerous bilateral sessions with all African leaders attending the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) from September 4th to September 6th, 2024. On Friday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China announced that President Xi will attend the Forum's opening ceremony and deliver a keynote speech. Additionally, he will host a welcoming banquet and high-level bilateral events for African leaders, as well as representatives of African regional and international organizations.

China's Vice Foreign Minister, Chen Xiaodong, stated that the bilateral events aim to generate extensive consensus between the two sides in order to address challenges and create a platform for sharing development opportunities. President Xi will expound upon new ideas and propositions regarding the establishment of a high-level community with a shared future between China and Africa. Moreover, he will announce new actions and measures for practical cooperation with Africa.

“China is ready to seize this important opportunity with Africa to embark on a new journey toward modernization together, further elevate the building of a China-Africa community with a shared future to new heights, and continue writing a new chapter in the mutual understanding, affinity and friendship between the people of China and Africa,” the Vice Premier said during a session with journalists in Beijing.

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“This marks another grand reunion of the China-Africa big family following the 2006 Beijing Summit, the 2015 Johannesburg Summit, and the 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC. It is also the largest diplomatic event China has hosted in recent years, with the highest attendance of foreign leaders,” said Chen during the pre-FOCAC event.

Leaders from various African countries and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission are slated to lead delegations from the continent to participate in the Summit. Additionally, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will be in attendance as a special guest.

Chen confirmed that high-level meetings will focus on key topics including state governance, industrialization, agricultural modernization, peace and security, and Belt and Road cooperation.

Furthermore, he indicated that the Summit will adopt two outcome documents: the Declaration and the Action Plan. These documents aim to establish a broad consensus between the two sides and provide a framework for implementing China-Africa cooperation in the upcoming three years.

“The development of the Forum has been remarkable, making it a “golden brand” of China-Africa cooperation and a banner for leading international cooperation with Africa and for deepening Global South cooperation,” he said.

The Vice minister affirmed that President Xi Jinping attaches great importance to China-Africa relations, as demonstrated during his five visits to Africa so far, where he proposed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests.

“Mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Africa is advancing toward higher-quality development. President Xi Jinping pointed out that on the path to modernization, China has all along been a firm supporter, and walking side by side with Africa. Both sides have synergized the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the development strategies of African countries,” he said.

He also stated that China and African nations have implemented ten cooperation plans, eight major initiatives, and nine programs under FOCAC, making China the largest investor in Africa.

He emphasized President Xi's pledge that China will remain committed to pursuing greater solidarity and cooperation with Africa, regardless of how the international landscape evolves.

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Somalia warns Ethiopian Airlines over ‘sovereignty violations’

By VOA

The Somali government threatened to suspend Ethiopian Airlines flights to Somalia unless concerns over “violations of Somali sovereignty” related to destinations served by Ethiopian Airlines are resolved.

In a statement, the Somali Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) said it had previous correspondence dating to August 14 with Ethiopian Airlines about the issue. It did not provide details, but many observers in the region say they believe it refers to the airlines’ flights to Hargeisa, Somaliland.

“It has come to our attention that, instead of addressing the sovereignty issues outlined in our letter, Ethiopian Airlines has made adjustments to its flight operations by removing references to Somali destinations and retaining only airport codes,” the statement said.

The SCAA also said it has received an “increasing number of complaints” from the Somali public regarding their travel experiences with Ethiopian Airlines.

“If these issues are not resolved by 23rd August, 2024, the SCAA will have no choice but to suspend all Ethiopian Airlines flights to Somalia, effective from that date. This would result in the cessation of Ethiopian Airlines services flights to Somalia.”

The SCAA said it will not provide any warning about future steps.

VOA’s Horn of Africa Service contacted Ethiopian Airlines officials who have not yet responded to requests for comment. But the director of the Ethiopian civil aviation authority, Getachew Mengiste, tells VOA that officials are aware of the issue, though they have not yet received any official letter from the SCAA.

Mengiste said they will discuss the issue, investigate the cause and respond to it in the future.

Ethiopian Airlines has been flying to Somaliland for many years. In January of this year, Ethiopia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland, which officials in Hargeisa said will give them recognition in return for leasing 20 kilometers of seafront to Ethiopia in a deal that angered Somalia, which considered it a violation of its sovereignty and territorial unity.

The SCAA sent a similar warning to the United Arab Emirates-based airline, Fly Dubai, citing “serious violations committed by Fly Dubai regarding the representation of destinations served to/from Somalia in your official website, ticket booking platform, and mobile application.” “These representations blatantly disregard the sovereignty of the Federal Government of Somalia and are unacceptable,” the statement said.



FILE - Ethiopian Airlines planes are seen in on the tarmac at the Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, April 7, 2020.

Somalia asked Fly Dubai to give an “accurate representation of destinations.”

“All destinations to/from Somalia operated by Fly Dubai must clearly and correctly reference the name of the destination along with Somalia on both your official website and

mobile application used for ticketing and booking services,” it said, adding, “This must be corrected no later than August 24, 2024.”

Somalia threatened to revoke Fly Dubai’s operating permit within Somalia if the directive is not implemented. “This decision will be en-

forced without further notice.”

VOA contacted Fly Dubai but has not received a reply about the Somalia aviation statement.

Botswana

World’s second largest diamond found in Botswana

By AFP

A massive 2,492-carat diamond -- the second largest in the world -- has been discovered in Botswana, the Canadian mining company that found the stone announced Thursday.

The diamond was discovered in the Karowe Diamond Mine in north-eastern Botswana using x-ray detection technology, Lucara Diamond Corp. said in a statement.

Lucara did not provide an estimation of the value of the find. In terms of carats, the stone is second only to the 3,016-carat Cullinan Diamond discovered in South Africa in 1905.

“We are ecstatic about the recovery of this extraordinary 2,492-carat diamond,” Lucara president William Lamb said in the statement.

This find was “one of the largest rough diamonds ever unearthed” and was detected using the company’s Mega Diamond Recovery X-ray technology installed in 2017 to identify and preserve large, high-value diamonds, the statement said.

The managing director of Lucara Botswana, Naseem Lahri, presented the translucent stone, which is the size of a palm, to President Mokgweetsi Masisi at his office later Thursday.

“I’m told this is the largest diamond

to be discovered in Botswana to date and the second in the world,” Masisi said, congratulating the company on the find. “This is precious.”

Botswana is one of the world’s largest producers of diamonds which are its main source of income, accounting for 30 percent of GDP and 80 percent of its exports, according to International Monetary Fund figures.

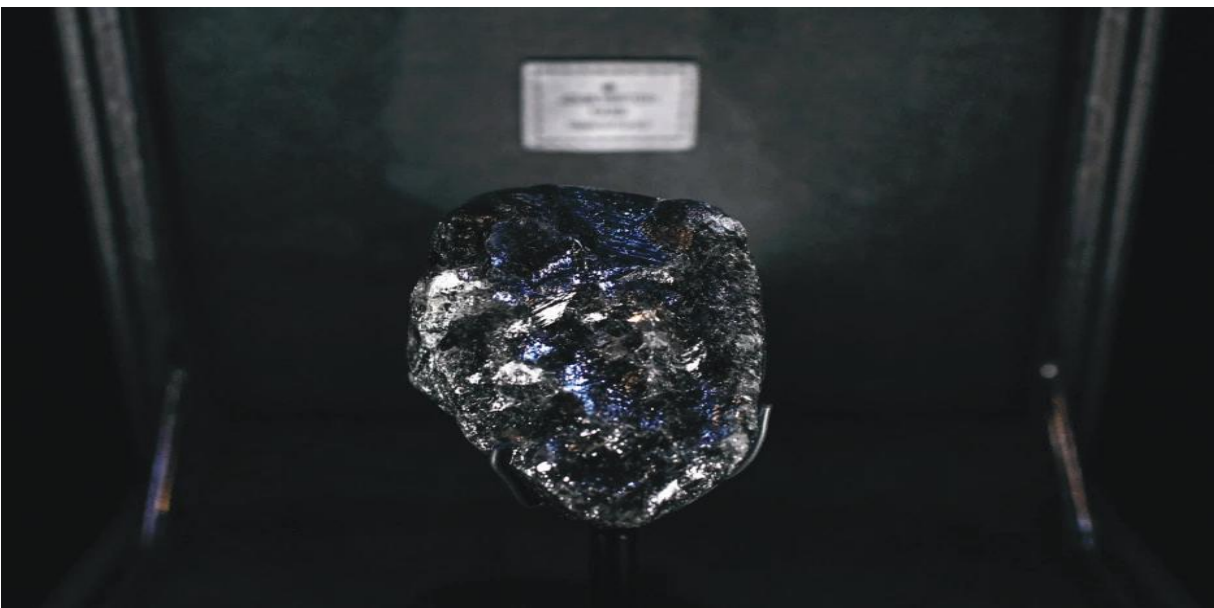
The arid and sparsely populated country, home to around 2.5 million people, was poor at the time of its independence from Britain in 1966. Diamonds were discovered a year later and today the country is the world’s largest producer by value, the IMF says.

Lucara says it pays a royalty of 10 percent of the gross sales value of diamonds produced from Karowe to the government, regardless of whether the diamond is sold rough or polished.

“With a diamond of this magnitude, I can see roads being built,” said Masisi, as he posed for pictures with the huge stone.

- ‘Will likely see more’

Tobias Kormind, managing director of Europe’s largest online diamond jeweller, 77 Diamonds, confirmed it was the largest rough diamond to be unearthed since the Cullinan Dia-



(FILES) This picture taken on January 21, 2020, shows the second world biggest rough diamond named “Sewelo” displayed at place Vendôme’s Louis Vuitton luxury shop in Paris.

mond, parts of which adorn Britain’s crown jewels.

“This discovery is largely thanks to newer technology that allows larger diamonds to be extracted from the ground without breaking into pieces. So we will likely see more where this came from,” he said.

Before the find was announced on Thursday, the largest diamond discovered in Botswana was a 1,758-carat stone mined by Lucara

at the Karowe mine in 2019 and named Sewelo.

Lucara found a 1,174-carat diamond stone in Botswana in 2021 using the same x-ray technology.

The mine started production in 2012 and has since then sold 216 diamonds for more than \$1 million each and more than 11 single diamonds for more than \$10 million each, it says.

The diamond mining industry has

been hurt by lab-grown versions and weaker spending. “Diamond prices are going through a difficult time now,” Masisi said. “But every diamond is precious and valuable. We have to optimise and get the best price for this diamond.”

The Financial Times newspaper reported that people close to Lucara, who were not identified, estimated the stone could be worth upwards of 40 million dollars.

Psychological And Pedagogical Characteristics Of Forming Self-Development Competencies In Future Primary Class Teachers

By: Kutlieva Feruzakhon Yusupovna
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Abstract: This article describes the psychological and pedagogical features of the formation of self-development competence of future elementary school teachers, understanding and taking into account their individual characteristics, self-development motivation, as well as the importance of their professional development.

Key words: future primary school teacher, professional development, psychological and pedagogical characteristics, competence, self-development, pedagogical skills.

Diversity, variability and choice in education require the teacher to have his own pedagogical position, to be aware of his own experience at the theoretical level, to understand different approaches to education and to choose methods, that is, methodological requires competence. Theoretical understanding of experience at the level of structured, generalized knowledge, which has become a method of activity, is a mechanism of self-development. The development of pedagogical skills and professional competence is in the hands of the teacher, who becomes a person who meaningfully regulates the standards of his behavior. First of all, this happens by reflecting on one's own professional experience. Self-development is based on the various experiences of the teacher as a dynamically developing specialist, whose skills are constantly moving from one stage to another.

Traditional models of education fail because the experiences they provide teachers are externalized and therefore psychologically unsound. This is opposed by the development of experience, "going from the inside out", "effective and creative living" experience. Currently, higher education faces the task of training specialists who can fundamentally change the scientific, technical, economic and intellectual foundations of society by introducing the latest technologies is standing.

First of all, acquisition of self-development skills was set as a priority by young professionals during their entire working life. It depends on objective reasons. In recent decades, the half-life of competence in all fields of knowledge has been sharply reduced, and in the most advanced fields of science and technology it has reached 5-10 years.

It follows that even for a modernly trained specialist, knowledge becomes obsolete after 10 years of work. Therefore, without constantly updating knowledge, a specialist cannot meet modern requirements. Therefore, self-development is the



Primary Class Teachers with children

acquisition of knowledge on the subject of training, the amount and sources of knowledge, the duration of classes, as well as the choice of the form of satisfying cognitive needs and interests on the initiative of a person.

Improving the formation of self-development competencies in future elementary school teachers is of great importance, as it allows them to successfully adapt to the changing conditions of the educational process, improve their professional skills and become more qualified specialists.

Self-development is a process of active, consistent positive quality change of a person, which is not caused by external influences, but by his own efforts. Self-development, according to research, is the activity of a person aimed at changing the personal qualities inherent in human nature or the previous stage of its development.

The structural elements of self-development are: self-knowledge, self-management, self-organization, self-awareness, self-development, self- to educate oneself. The process of self-improvement is interconnected with the process of self-development.

The concept of "enhancement of self-development" has a humanistic meaning, because compared to self-education, it refers to influencing oneself, expanding and deepening the best qualities, relying on the best qualities of a person. , includes the influence of constant striving and self-improvement. We accept the desire for self-improvement as the basis for successful personal and professional development.

The most powerful factors for the realization of competence in a specialist are creativity (achieving the level of creativity in one's work), moral and ethical principles, etc. sense of responsibility, scientific outlook and value instructions. Therefore, the concept of competence includes not only cognitive and operational-technological components, but also motivational, aesthetic, social and behavioral. It includes learning outcomes (knowledge and skills), value orientations, habits, and more. Knowledge determines the content of competence and competence. The

model of the structure of the teacher's professional competence is an example of a system of actions that ensures the unity of theoretical and practical preparation for the implementation of professional activities determined by the social order of society.

Formation of development competence is the most important aspect of training highly qualified specialists who can successfully solve modern problems of professional activity. The formation of self-development competencies in future primary school teachers plays an important role in improving their professional skills and successful work with students.

The psychological and pedagogical features of this process include a number of aspects. The essence of personal growth is revealed in humanistic psychology. Psychologist A. Maslow emphasizes that there is a potential for positive growth and improvement in human nature. It is determined by the desire to express one's thoughts and oneself, to realize one's potential opportunities, abilities and talents, to realize one's task or profession, one's destiny, etc. as a more complete knowledge.

Therefore, it means accepting one's true nature as a constant striving for unity, integration, or inner synergy of the individual. The extent to which a person realizes his potential depends on his personal choice. At the same time, the need for personal growth, self-realization, or self-improvement is the highest level of human needs. It is in this direction that he should develop himself. A teacher striving for self-development works to express himself, to realize his talent, and thereby to improve his students and those around him. Self-management. Improving self-development competence requires teachers to be able to monitor and manage their own learning. They must have the ability to plan their educational activities, set priorities, and manage time and resources. Self-assessment and analysis. It is important for future teachers to be able to analyze their own educational needs, evaluate their results and actions, and identify their strengths and weaknesses. Reflection helps them better under-

stand themselves and their learning needs. The ability to analyze one's experience, to seek to increase knowledge and skills is an important element of self-development.

Support from teachers and educational institutions. It is important that prospective teachers have access to the necessary support and resources for their self-development. Regular feedback helps them understand their progress and learn from their mistakes.

Training courses, trainings, master classes, teachers' advice - all this helps to improve the competence of self-development. Interactive and innovative teaching methods. The use of modern technologies and teaching methods allows teachers to optimize the process of self-development, make it more interesting and effective. Being independent. Future teachers should develop the skills of independent work, data collection and analysis, and later use in their pedagogical activities.

Cooperation. In the process of self-development, it is very important to understand the importance of collective learning and sharing experiences with colleagues. It helps to develop professional competencies more effectively.

Creativity. Ability to generate new ideas and find original solutions. Interest. Constant interest in new knowledge and ideas.

Resistance to stress. The ability to overcome difficulties and failures, maintain performance in conditions of uncertainty. In general, improving the self-development competencies of future elementary school teachers requires a comprehensive approach, taking into account their individual characteristics, needs and professional goals.

In this process, support from pedagogues-coaches, use of various methods and technologies, improvement of motivation and self-development play an important role in this process. Taking into account these aspects, pedagogical programs can be developed to effectively improve self-development competencies of future elementary school teachers.

Pedagogical features of improving self-development competencies of future primary school teachers include: Organization of self-development activities. Creating an opportunity to independently study current issues of pedagogy and methodology.

Creating special conditions for students' self-development (search method of teaching, individual educational trajectories). Support to students in the process of self-development (advice, coaching). Focus on needs. Formation of skills to identify one's educational needs. Development of individual self-development plans in accordance with professional needs and interests, assistance in identifying self-development resources (books, magazines, Internet resources).

Relying on active learning methods. Use of interactive forms of work (research-seminars, master classes). Incorporating project activities into the educational process, which includes independent development and implementation of projects. Organization of student scientific societies and research groups.

Evaluation of the results of self-development. Development of criteria and indicators of students' self-development activities. Use of different forms of assessment of results (self-reporting, portfolio, project defense). Providing feedback and correcting the self-development process based on evaluation results. Integration with other components of education.

Connecting students' self-development activities with the development of theoretical material and practical training. Incorporating elements of self-development into training sessions, workshops and seminars. Preparing future teachers for independent use of modern technologies in self-development.

Creating a comfortable learning environment. Teachers should create conditions that help students, that is, future elementary school teachers, to develop themselves. This includes the various educational resources available for independent education, the organization of the educational process in such a way that students can learn new topics and materials independently; Development of critical thinking and analytical skills.

Teachers should encourage students to think critically, analyze data, and seek alternative perspectives. This helps them to develop the ability to critically evaluate information, better understand problems and tasks, and find solutions.

Support and motivation. Teachers should support and encourage students in self-development. This can be expressed by praising achievements, helping to overcome difficulties, creating opportunities for the realization of one's ideas and interests.

The formation of self-development competencies in future elementary school teachers is not only teaching methods and technologies, but also training internal motivation for continuous professional growth. It is important to create a positive learning environment, use active learning methods, develop analytical skills, and involve students in practical activities so that they can apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their future professions.

Author: Kutlieva Feruzakhon Yusupovna, Urganich Innovation University, "Pedagogy and primary education methodology" teacher of the department, Independent researcher of UrDU. Uzbekistan

‘SADC should speak out’: Zimbabwe activists face crackdown ahead of summit

Police flood Harare’s streets in anticipation of protests on the eve of the Southern African Development Community meeting.

By: Shola Lawal
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Members of the opposition party Citizens Coalition for Change were arrested in June for holding a political gathering that authorities say was unauthorised [File: Philimon Bulawayo/Reuters]

Worth Noting:

- It’s the first time the 16-member bloc will meet in Zimbabwe in a decade. Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa will also assume leadership of the SADC – a critical first for his administration.
- But that glory is marred by what activists call “paranoia” from the government as police units flooded the streets this week in anticipation of protests.
- Since June, security officials have attacked activists and opposition party members at private hangouts and protest venues, accusing them of trying to disrupt the SADC summit. Seventy-eight people, including Jameson Timba, leader of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), were arrested without bail on June 16 at a political gathering that authorities said was “unauthorised”. On June 27, another set of protesters demanding the release of the detained CCC members outside a court in Harare were also bundled away by security forces.

On the morning of August 7, four masked men tried to break into the offices of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC), a network of groups fighting for democratic freedom in a country where it is often deadly to dissent. Inside the Harare building, three staff members scampered to hide as the men smashed a security camera outside the gate and tried to force their way in. It was only after neighbours who witnessed the attempted break-in assured the staff that the men had left after triggering an alarm that they came out of hiding. Staff members have since avoided the office.

“No one wants to go there. It was a very traumatic experience for them, and they feel unsafe,” Blessing Vava, regional director of the coalition, told Al Jazeera. The intruders, he said, were likely government operatives as the incident followed a government-owned newspaper accusing the group of planning demonstrations.

“It has been their modus operandi, and there have been threats issued by the president’s spokesperson,” he said. Al Jazeera contacted Zimbabwe’s Ministry of Home Affairs, which made remarks this month about agitators seeking to unleash civil disobedience, to comment on the claims but did not receive a response.

The incident at CiZC comes during crackdowns on pro-democracy activists and opposition members as Zimbabwe gears up to host a summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on Saturday in Harare.

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About 160 people have been arrested since June, according to Amnesty International. Police officials hit protesters during arrests and psychologically torture them in detention, lawyers representing them said.

Vava feels the crackdowns reveal a deeper fear.

“The government is paranoid. It’s afraid of its own people,” he said. “If it’s a government that was elected by people, that is confident of its legitimacy, we wouldn’t be experiencing what we are witnessing now.”

The government has levelled its own accusations against the opposition. Home Affairs Minister Kazembe Kazembe in a statement early this month said agitators were trying to “inflict reputational damage” on the country.

“Adequate measures have been put in place to account for and rein in anybody seeking to disturb peace for any reason,” he added.

New government, old policy

When Mnangagwa, 81, took office in 2017, activists did not expect much from him, Vava said.

There were obvious red flags. Mnangagwa was not only a founding member of the ruling ZANU-PF party, but he was also vice president to Robert Mugabe, who led the country for 29 years and brutally repressed his critics. Mnangagwa was also the state security minister during the 1980s Gukurahundi massacre when Zimbabwean security forces swooped down on civilians in opposition political strongholds of southwest and central Zimbabwe, killing at least 20,000 people.

As Mnangagwa promised political reforms upon taking office after a bloodless coup that ousted Mugabe, rights groups predicted that his reign would likely be a continuation of the old guard.

Still, analysts noted, the tightening of the country’s civic space has been surprisingly brutal. Peaceful critics have faced physical assaults from an increasingly militarised Zimbabwean police, making it difficult for people to speak freely, according to Amnesty International. Activists and their loved ones have been targeted with intimidating messages. Others have been abducted or killed.

In March, the United States imposed sanctions on Mnangagwa, his wife and six others for rights abuses and corruption.

In the lead-up to elections in August 2023, authorities passed the Patriotic Bill, criminalising “wilfully damaging the sovereignty and national interest of Zimbabwe” and imposing sentences of up to 20 years. Opposition groups said the law is essentially designed to punish opposition members, rights activists and journalists.

Mnangagwa was re-elected with more than half the vote, but CCC candidate Nelson Chamisa described the election as a “giant fraud”, alleging large-scale rigging.

Just after the vote, several opposition members were abducted and tortured, then released. In November, CCC member Tapfumaneyi Masaya was also abducted in Harare. His body was later found dumped on the outskirts of the city. He also had been tortured.

Authorities have repeatedly denied state operatives were involved and have said the opposition abductions were staged. ZANU-PF also denied allegations of rigging in the elections although SADC observers who monitored the vote flagged delays, banned opposition rallies and biased state media coverage as issues of concern.

SADC’s silence

As the crackdowns have increased since June, there

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‘SADC should speak out’: Zimbabwe activists face crackdown ahead of summit

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Contd from Page 22

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South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, right, and Zimbabwe's Emmerson Mnangagwa [Reuters]

has been silence from the SADC, even as calls mount from rights groups like Amnesty and Human Rights Watch for the bloc to take action. Some called for the summit to be moved away from Zimbabwe. “We are very much disappointed by our neighbours,” Vava said. “This is happening under their watch. We believe this is something SADC should be able to speak out against because the crisis in Zimbabwe has the potential of spilling over into a regional one.” South Africa, Zimbabwe’s neighbour and a leading SADC member, has especially come under the spotlight. Pretoria has positioned itself in recent years as a champion of the underdog under former Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor. It was South Africa that dragged Israel to the International Court of Justice in December, accusing it of genocide over its war in Gaza. But curiously, some say, Pretoria has not commented on rights violations in its neighbourhood. On social media, posts from Zimbabwe accuse the African National Congress (ANC)-led coalition government of “hypocrisy” and “colluding” with Harare to suppress the people of Zimbabwe. “South Africa’s silence ... appears paradoxical,” said

Tinashe Sithole, a political science lecturer at the University of Johannesburg. Pretoria likely doesn’t want to risk a spat with Harare that could affect trade and security relations, the professor explained. There’s also the risk of aggravating a hot-button issue in South Africa at the moment: immigration, he added. Zimbabweans, pressed by deteriorating political and economic conditions at home, have migrated in huge waves to South Africa in the past three decades. As their numbers grow in a country that’s also battling unemployment and a struggling economy, Zimbabweans and other foreigners have been subject to xenophobic violence. But “prioritising regional stability and diplomatic ties ... risks validating claims of ANC complicity and undermining South Africa’s moral authority on human rights,” Sithole pointed out. Charles Chimedza, protection officer at Southern Defenders, a Southern Africa rights group, said Pretoria’s stance goes back to colonial-era comradeship, as both the ANC and Zimbabwe’s ZANU-PF were liberation movements-turned-governing parties. “That makes public criticism unlikely,” he said. Opposition leaders, including Mmusi Maimane, the leader of the Build One

South Africa party, have called Pretoria out. The Democratic Alliance (DA) party, which is a core part of the new coalition government, in a statement on August 2 demanded that the SADC summit be moved from Zimbabwe and Mnangagwa be stripped of his chairmanship. “Allowing the summit to proceed under the current circumstances will not only endorse ZANU-PF’s flagrant abuse of international law but further undermine the principles upon which SADC was established,” the DA statement read. “President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s upcoming SADC Chairmanship is testament

to the continued failure of regional leaders to hold these political thugs to account.” Sithole said that rather than staying silent and risk being seen as “tacitly endorsing or tolerating” Harare’s actions, SADC leaders could use the chairmanship as a teachable moment. “By applying diplomatic pressure, monitoring progress and supporting reforms, member states might guide Zimbabwe to align more closely with SADC’s principles,” he said. Several other SADC members, including Tanzania and Angola, have also faced recent backlash for rights violations.

Meanwhile, as delegates begin to arrive in Harare, staff members of CiZC are forced to lay low. Vava said he fears there will be an even bigger escalation after the summit. ZANU-PF is splintering into factions as some anticipate Mnangagwa will run for an unconstitutional third term. As the factions war, activists are likely to be the proverbial grass that suffers under elephants, some warned. “We are working with the worst-case scenario,” Vava said. “We are now in the ZANU-PF succession mode, and we can’t rule out an escalation.”



Opposition leader Jameson Timba of the CCC was among those arrested in June [File: Philimon Bulawayo/Reuters]

Ukraine is losing the plot in Africa

Ukraine should be careful not to repeat the mistakes of the Cold War.

By: Tafi Mhaka.
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Worth Noting:

- As Ukraine tries to fight off deadly Russian imperialism, one would have expected it to receive enthusiastic support from African states which have been resisting imperial aggression since their very inception. Indeed, it should have been easy for Ukraine to garner support from Africans, as Russia's assault on Ukraine is not only reminiscent of past imperial aggressions on Africa, but it also inflicted a heavy economic cost on the continent, leaving several countries worried about their next wheat shipment.
- Yet, Ukraine seems to have decided the elimination of a handful of Wagner mercenaries, whose loss would cause no meaningful harm to the Russian war machine, is more important to its cause than the support of entire African nations. By helping rebels fighting against government-aligned Russian mercenaries score a victory in Mali, Ukraine perhaps slightly embarrassed Russia, but achieved no leverage in its own war against it.



This undated photograph handed out by French military shows Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group boarding a helicopter in northern Mali. [French Army via AP, File]

On August 5, the government of Mali announced its decision to cut diplomatic ties with Ukraine, citing a Ukrainian official's boastful admission that Kyiv provided Malian rebels with crucial intel for a rebel assault that killed many Russian Wagner Group mercenaries and Malian soldiers. The northern Tuareg rebels claimed responsibility for the deaths of at least 84 mercenaries and 47 Malian soldiers over three days of fighting in late July in what proved to be Wagner's heaviest defeat since its controversial 2021 entry into the Sahel conflict on the side of the Malian government. On July 29, Andriy Yusov, the spokesperson for Ukraine's military intelligence agency (GUR), told the public broadcaster Suspilne that the Malian rebels had received "all the information they needed, which allowed [them] to carry out their operation against the Russian war criminals". As Yusov's statement made its way to Mali and caused immediate backlash, the Ukrainian government tried to deny playing any role whatsoever in the deadly rebel assault, but failed to convince the Malian government. Both Mali and its ally Niger, expressing "deep shock" about a friendly nation's involvement in an attack that cost dozens of Malian lives, swiftly ended all ties with the Ukrainian government.

The rift came at a time when Kyiv is trying desperately to garner support on the global stage. Ukraine has been engaged in an all-out war against Russia since the latter embarked on a full-scale invasion of its territory on February 24, 2022. In more than two years of the war, Russia's aggression killed tens of thousands of Ukrainians, injured many others and made millions into refugees. So far, the Ukrainian military, with support from its Western allies, has prevented Russia's much larger armed forces from declaring a decisive victory. In fact, it recently adopted a much more assertive stance in the war and even began conducting offensive operations within Russia's borders. On August 10, for example, Ukrainian troops shared footage of themselves removing Russian flags from government structures in villages across Russia's Kursk region. Over the last 30 months, Ukraine has been working hard to persuade world leaders to condemn Russia, affirm their unwavering recognition of its territorial integrity and support its war effort. As Ukraine tries to fight off deadly Russian imperialism, one would have expected it to receive enthusiastic support from African states which have been resisting imperial aggression since their very inception. Indeed, it should have been easy for

Ukraine to garner support from Africans, as Russia's assault on Ukraine is not only reminiscent of past imperial aggressions on Africa, but it also inflicted a heavy economic cost on the continent, leaving several countries worried about their next wheat shipment. Yet, Ukraine seems to have decided the elimination of a handful of Wagner mercenaries, whose loss would cause no meaningful harm to the Russian war machine, is more important to its cause than the support of entire African nations. By helping rebels fighting against government-aligned Russian mercenaries score a victory in Mali, Ukraine perhaps slightly embarrassed Russia, but achieved no leverage in its own war against it. In fact, its open support for the Malian rebels seriously undermined its credibility on the global stage, demonstrating that it is not just a proud nation resisting a much larger and more powerful imperial invader with everything it has got but a belligerent determined to assert power over its enemy at any cost, including the security of other states thousands of miles away from its territory. African states and regional organisations, which have been watching Ukraine's actions on the continent closely since the February revelation that its forces have been supporting the Sudanese

military in its war against the Wagner-allied Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia, immediately took notice of Ukraine's apparent lack of respect for Mali's sovereignty and the wellbeing of its people. Following the July attack, regional body ECOWAS released a statement tacitly condemning the apparent Ukrainian overreach in Mali. Although Mali was suspended from the group in 2022, in the statement ECOWAS expressed its "firm disapproval and firm condemnation of any outside interference in the region which could constitute a threat to peace and security in West Africa and any attempt aiming to draw the region into current geopolitical confrontations". Africans are concerned about Ukrainian actions against Russians on the continent because they still have vivid memories of the Cold War era and the harm the extension of the rivalry between Russia and the United States to the continent inflicted on their countries. They remember, for example, how Western nations helped allied separatist rebels torture and kill Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba, fearing that he would bring his resource-rich Central African nation closer to the Soviet Union. They also remember how the Cold War rivalries transformed the power struggle between Angola's liberation

movements into a 20-year civil war, which ended up claiming the lives of some one million people. In apparent recognition of the harm its efforts to weaken the Wagner Group, and by extension Russia, has caused to its standing in Africa, Ukraine currently appears to be in a charm offensive to win favour with leaders of the continent. Ukraine's representatives are not only strongly denying Yusov's claims that their intelligence support was behind the success of the July attack in Mali, but working overtime to strengthen ties between African states and their country. Ukraine recently established nine new embassies across the continent and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is said to be planning a visit to the continent later this year. It remains to be seen whether the backlash it received over its actions in Mali will encourage Ukraine to cut down on its intelligence and other military support activities against Russia's Wagner group across Africa. One thing that is certain, however, is that Ukraine cannot win the support of the global community, and convince them of the righteousness of its struggle, while jeopardising the security and territorial integrity of other nations in the name of weakening Russia. Today, Ukraine appears to be at a crossroads when it comes to its relations with Africa and much of the Global South. It will either learn to respect the sovereignty of all nations, apologise to Mali, and commit to treating all friendly states as respected equals. Or it will choose to follow the example of its archenemy, continue to operate outside the boundaries of international law, and resign to being perceived by much of the world as yet another belligerent Western state that can never be trusted as an ally. The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect our editorial stance.

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