

Some members met after half a Century, adding more excitement to the day

Shinyanga Veterans

Guests came from all over Britain:



NOSTALGIC SHINYANGA VETERANS MEET IN LONDON, SHARE MEMORIES OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN TANZANIA

By: Shamlal Puri
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There were miles-long smiles and many stories of yester-years to share when former residents of the Tanzanian diamond mining city of Shinyanga met in London last week – 4,274 miles away from the British capital. Some members met after half a Century, adding more excitement to the day. “It’s not often that we meet old friends in such warm surroundings of a reunion,” said one of the guests, holding back his emotions, “This is a



Community leader Subhash Mithia organised a highly successful reunion in London. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Friends forever.... L-R Nanu Vithlani, Ramnik Vadher, Ballu, Pradeep Jobanputra, Prakash Makhecha, Subhash Mithia. Photo SHAMLAL PURI.

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Telegram CEO Durov says his
arrest ‘misguided’



Postcolonial Parallels: The Shared Struggles of South Asian, African, and Irish Literature

South Asian literature is a significant part of global literature. English literature, as an institution, is no longer purely English; it has evolved into an amalgamation of various strands, including African, South Asian, Anglophone, and American literature. There are notable similarities

between South Asian and African literature, particularly in their exploration of colonialism and post-colonialism. Both literary traditions address the atrocities and cruelties inflicted by colonizers. For example, Ahmed Ali’s *Twilight* in Delhi highlights the vibrant culture of India.

The first part of the novel celebrates the richness of Delhi, glorifying Indian sculpture and art. However, as the novel progresses, it depicts the futility and devastation brought about by the colonizers. The once-beautiful city, once a place of splendor, transforms into one of ugliness and

poverty. Delhi, once a thriving metropolis, becomes a shadow of its former self, resembling a hellish landscape for its natives. The decay

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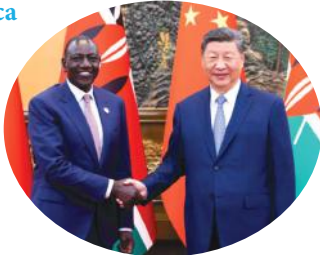
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A friend is someone you share the path with Sino-Africa



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Xi: Jointly advance modernization with Africa

President Xi Jinping with African leaders Asia



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Kenya



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Kenyan Master Swimmers Participated At The Uganda Swimming Federation National Swimming Championship In Kampala

By: RAYMOND WANJOHI
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Worth
Noting:

- “We are impressed with the team and look forward to them performing well and winning the overall trophy. Uganda has an impressive master swimming program that focuses on adult swimming and retired competitive swimmers. We are also taking part in an exchange program and benchmarking initiative. Our swimmers will have an opportunity to tour Kampala, compete, and have fun,” Marigiri told the media.
- The Secretary General emphasized the importance of such events in fostering the growth of master swimming in the region.



A team of Kenyan master swimmers participated at the Uganda Swimming Federation National Swimming Championship in Kampala on September 7, 2024. The team comprises some of Kenya’s most experienced veteran swimmers and are flying the Kenyan flag high as they compete in the high-level regional event.

A team of about 40 Kenyan master swimmers participated at the Uganda Swimming Federation National Swimming Championship in Kampala. The team comprises some of Kenya’s most experienced veteran swimmers and are flying the Kenyan flag high as they compete in the high-level regional event. The team is led by Kenya Aquatics Secretary General Collins Marigiri, team manager Nasser Motha and team coach Jacqueline Macharia. Among the veteran swimmers representing Kenya in this championship are Anne Obure, Gedion Kioko, Steve Odera, Hillary Leboy, and Stephanie Mwaura, all of whom have had notable careers in competitive swim-

ming. Speaking ahead of the championship, Marigiri expressed optimism about the team’s prospects. “We are impressed with the team and look forward to them performing well and winning the overall trophy. Uganda has an impressive master swimming program that focuses on adult swimming and retired competitive swimmers. We are also taking part in an exchange program and benchmarking initiative. Our swimmers will have an opportunity to tour Kampala, compete, and have fun,” Marigiri told the media. The Secretary General emphasized the importance of such events in fostering the growth of master swimming in the region.

Earlier this year, Kenya Aquatics held its inaugural national master swimming championship at Sabis International School, where the Uganda team also fielded swimmers. According to Marigiri, there are many master swimming championships lined up this season, including the famous Kiambu Aquatics in December, the Africa Aquatics Zone 3 Championship in Burundi in November, and the World Aquatics Master Swimming Championship next year in Singapore. Marigiri noted that Kenya Aquatics is utilizing such activities to encourage retired competitive swimmers, such as the legendary Jason Dunford, to return to the sport and give back to

the swimming community. “We also aim to inspire the younger generation of swimmers who have the potential to excel on the international stage. Additionally, the master swimming program encourages adults to keep fit and maintain a healthy lifestyle, which can help mitigate lifestyle diseases like hypertension, blood pressure, and diabetes,” he said. Thrilling performances are expected during today’s gala which is being hosted by Uganda Swimming Federation. Meanwhile, Kenya Aquatics has submitted a bid to host the inaugural Africa Aquatics Master Swimming Championship at the Kasarani Aquatics Stadium in Nairobi next year, alongside

the Africa Zone 3 Swimming Championship. In a bid to raise the standards of swimming competitions in the region, the Federation has also submitted a proposal to World Aquatics requesting donations of System 7, touchpads, and a scoreboard for use in next year’s events. This championship in Uganda marks the first of several international competitions that the Kenyan master swimmers will participate in this year, with future plans to compete in the Tanzania Swimming Federation’s Master Swimming Championship in Dar es Salaam next year and more global events on the horizon.

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Kidney Structure And Function

By: Salokhiddinova Mohichehra
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Abstract: In this article, the general appearance, anatomy, location, structure of the kidney, parts of the kidney, blood supply, kidney problems, causes and symptoms are presented in this article.

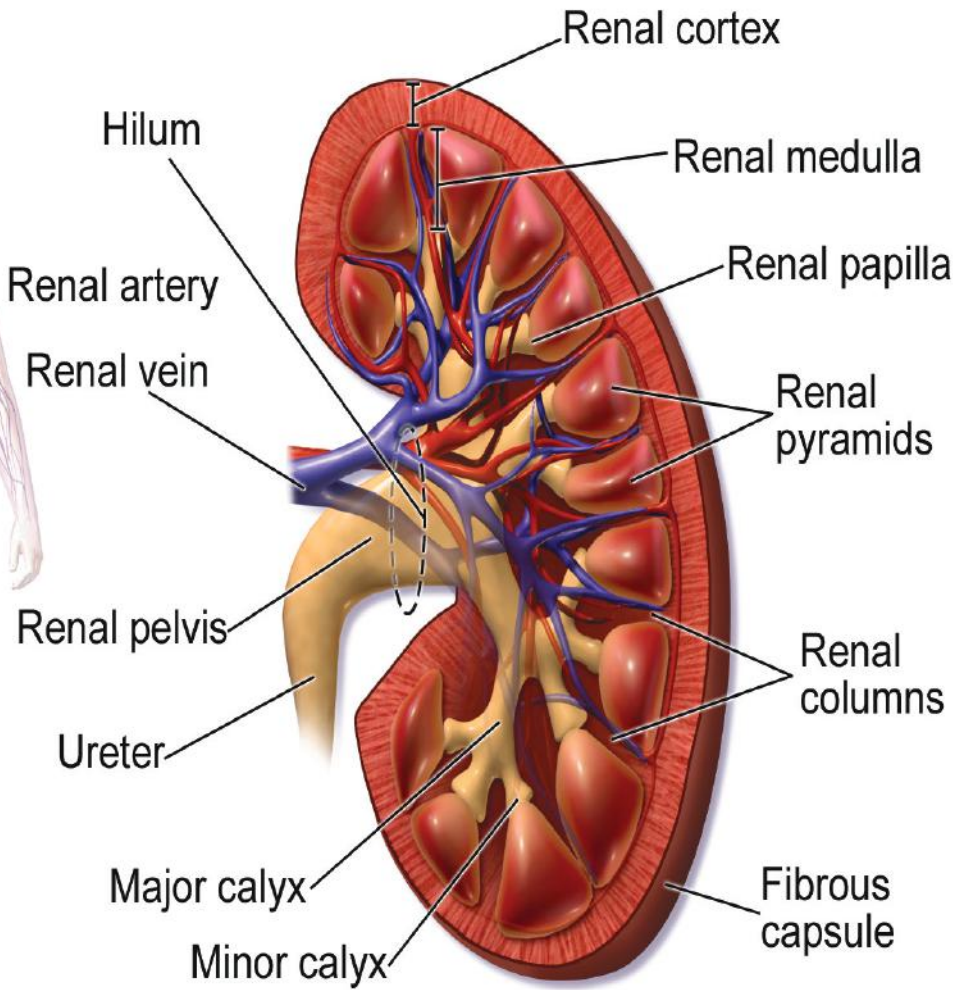
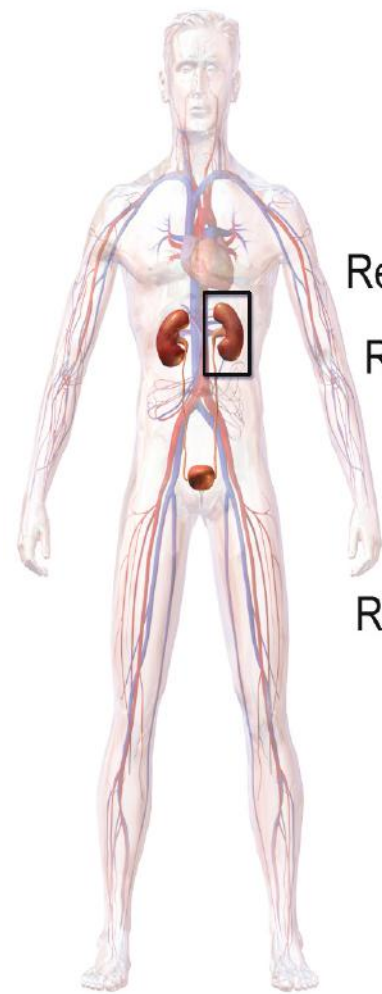
Key words: Kidney, urinary bladder, tube, corpuscles, extremity, pyramids, renal veins.

Kidneys are very important organs in the body. About a third of all blood from the heart goes to the kidneys for filtering before being pumped to the body's cells and tissues. When the kidneys fail (kidney failure), it can lead to various complications, such as: swelling or edema of the extremities, pulmonary edema or fluid in the lungs, hyperkalemia or increased potassium, blood, anemia, heart disease and pericarditis, etc.

Kidney anatomy

Location:
The kidneys are located on both sides of the spine, in the retroperitoneal space. Since the liver is located on the right side of the abdomen, above the right kidney, the left kidney is slightly higher than the right.

Structure:
Each of the two bean-shaped organs weighs 125-175 grams and 115-155 grams in males and females, respectively. A kidney is usually about 11-14 centimeters long, 6 centimeters wide, and about 4 centimeters thick.
Kidneys are protected by fat, muscles and ribs of the back. Perienteric fat, also called



Kidney Anatomy

the renal fat pad, protects the kidneys from external influences or injury. The kidney has a medial cavity called the xylum, which is the entry and exit point for structures that supply or drain the kidney, such as the kidneys, ureters, vessels, and lymphatics.

Types and problems of kidney diseases
Chronic kidney disease - This is the most common type of kidney disease. When the kidneys stop

working for 3 months or more, it is called chronic kidney disease. This is usually caused by high blood pressure in the body. It is very important to maintain the level of blood pressure in the body, because increased blood pressure damages the glomeruli in the kidneys, which leads to kidney failure. The small blood vessels that clean the blood in the kidneys are called glomeruli. Chronic kidney disease can also be caused by diabetes. High sugar levels seri-

ously damage the blood vessels in the kidneys. After the diagnosis of the disease, the patient is recommended to undergo dialysis. Dialysis is a process that helps remove extra waste and fluids from the blood. This process helps the kidneys work better, but cannot cure the disease. Kidney diseases do not show any symptoms in the early stages, and they appear only in the last stages. Some of the more common symptoms of kidney disease include: Pressure and pain in the

chest.
Bad sleep
Difficulty breathing
Dry and darkened skin
Frequent urination at night
Swelling around the eyes
Loss of appetite
Swelling of ankles and feet
Muscle cramps
Insufficient sleep
Fatigue
Poor concentration

Worth Noting:

- Each of the two bean-shaped organs weighs 125-175 grams and 115-155 grams in males and females, respectively. A kidney is usually about 11-14 centimeters long, 6 centimeters wide, and about 4 centimeters thick.
- Kidneys are protected by fat, muscles and ribs of the back. Perienteric fat, also called the renal fat pad, protects the kidneys from external influences or injury. The kidney has a medial cavity called the xylum, which is the entry and exit point for structures that supply or drain the kidney, such as the kidneys, ureters, vessels, and lymphatics.

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Former Vice-President Dick Cheney to vote for Kamala Harris

By: BBC.
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Former US Vice-President and life-long Republican Dick Cheney has confirmed he will vote for the Democrats' Kamala Harris in November's presidential election.

Mr Cheney, seen as an influential figure during the presidency of George W Bush, issued a statement saying there had "never been an individual who is a greater threat to our republic than Donald Trump", the current Republican candidate.

His daughter, former Republican lawmaker Liz Cheney, had told an audience in Texas earlier that her father planned to back the Democratic nominee.

"He [Trump] tried to steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the voters had rejected him," said Mr Cheney. "He can never be trusted with power again."

"As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our constitution," he added. "That is why I will be casting my vote for Vice-President Kamala Harris."

Mr Cheney's remarks were welcomed by the Harris camp.

"The vice-president is proud to have the support of Vice-President Cheney, and deeply respects his courage to put country over party," said campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon.

Mr Cheney joins a growing list of Republicans who have expressed concern about the candidacy of Donald Trump.

His daughter, Liz Cheney, has already given her backing to Vice-President Harris.

She served on the House select committee investigating the 6 January Capitol riots, and was one of 10 Republicans to vote to impeach former President Trump after the incident.

Ms Cheney lost her seat in Congress in 2022 to a Trump-backed candidate.

Taking to social media following Mr Cheney's statement, Trump called the former vice-president an "irrelevant RINO" – an acronym which stands for "Republican in name only".

He also described Mr Cheney as the "King of Endless, Nonsensical Wars" – alluding to his role in the Iraq War.



Former US Vice-President and lifelong Republican Dick Cheney

Health

Don't Deny Smokers Their Best Opportunity to Prevent Disease

By: JOSEPH MAGERO

World Lung Cancer Day on August 1 served as a stark reminder of the devastating impact that lung cancer has on millions of lives worldwide.

It was a day to reinforce the global resolve to combat this formidable disease, but it also exposed a troubling paradox.

Just as efforts were being made to raise awareness and find solutions to combat lung cancer, some misguided activists in Kenya were using the moment to advocate for tighter restrictions on nicotine products that offer smokers their best chance of avoiding the disease.

Reduced-risk tobacco-free products, such as vapes and nicotine pouches, are proven to be the most successful tool for helping smokers make the critical switch from traditional cigarettes to less harmful alternatives.

These innovative products offer a lifeline to millions, providing a way to satisfy nicotine cravings without exposing users to the carcinogens and harmful toxins found in combustible tobacco.

Yet, some opponents seem intent on overlooking this lifesaving potential, fixating instead on a misguided opposition to anything related to nicotine consumption.

It is crucial to differentiate between smoking and nicotine use.

Smoking is the primary cause of lung

cancer and a host of other deadly diseases. On the other hand, nicotine itself, while addictive, does not cause cancer – and that's according to the World Health Organization.

There is no better illustration of the beneficial impact of alternative nicotine products than what has happened in Sweden.

The Scandinavian nation has dramatically reduced its smoking rates in recent years and is about to become the first country to achieve official 'smoke-free' status.

It now has the lowest lung cancer incidence in Europe. Furthermore, the rate of deaths in Sweden from lung cancer is less than half the EU average.

These are public health outcomes any nation would dream of. So, how has Sweden achieved them?

Swedes have long used snus – a traditional oral tobacco product – as an alternative to cigarettes. This helped reduce Sweden's smoking rate and disease burden below the European average as many adult smokers transitioned.

Significantly, the Swedes also transferred this attitude of acceptance to new, more modern, and less harmful tobacco-free products which have come onto the market in the last decade. The advent of vapes in 2015 and, more recently, oral nicotine pouches in 2018 has resulted in Swedish smoking rates continuing



their rapid descent.

Kenya's anti-tobacco activists, often driven by funds from ideological foreign entities, like to claim that vapes and pouches are simply a 'gateway' to cigarettes.

Yet Sweden again disproves that myth. With a smoking level of only 3% in those aged 16-29 years, Sweden boasts the lowest level of younger-age smoking in Europe.

The Swedish experience of beating smoking and reducing smoking-re-

lated mortality and morbidity conclusively proves the case for making less harmful alternative products accessible, acceptable, and affordable.

In contrast, the demonization of nicotine and its safer delivery methods hinders progress in public health and undermines the efforts to reduce the staggering toll of lung cancer.

If we truly want to learn the lessons of World Lung Cancer Day, we should stand united in support-

ing evidence-based approaches that encourage smokers to transition to safer alternatives.

We must reject the false narrative that tarnishes the potential of reduced-risk products and instead embrace pragmatic solutions that can help save lives and lessen the burden of lung cancer in Kenya and beyond.

The author is the chairman of Campaign for Safer Alternatives (CASA)



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Relationships

11 Things Every Single Person Should Know About Today



By: **Capital Lystyle**
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1. It is very dangerous to marry someone you are not sexually attracted to.
2. You might be attractive to people to get them curious to engage you, but your character will determine whether they stay interested in you.

3. Both someone coming to use you and someone coming to love you will tell you sweet words and desire you sexually, it is for you to discern.
4. The myth of “You attract who you are” is not fully true. As a good person, you will attract both the good and the bad. Good is attractive to all.
5. Your ability to hold amazing and interesting conversa-

tions is what will make you a keeper. No one wants to marry someone boring or whose talk is flat. Companionship is the central goal of marriage.
6. You can know you two have sexual chemistry and tension without having sex.
7. Be careful of people who are quickly generous with affectionate names and words, they might be doing it to

multiple people. Mature people hold their special words dear and don't give them to just anyone.
8. Be careful of someone who claims to be prayerful or wants a Godly family but is hesitant to pray.
9. Dates don't have to be expensive, they don't even have to cost any money. But they must be memorable.

10. Not every good looking person is meant to be your suitor, some are just meant to be a good looking friend.
11. There is a difference between someone who is good for you, and someone who is right for you.

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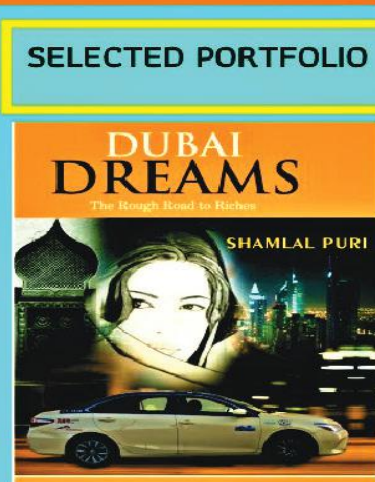
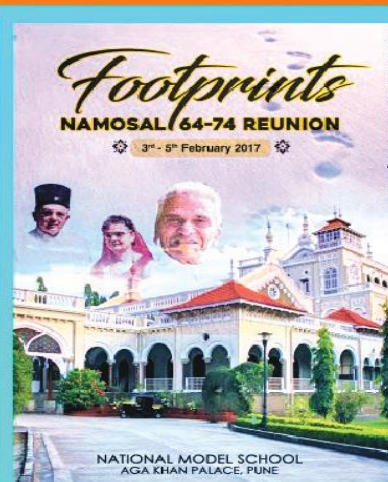
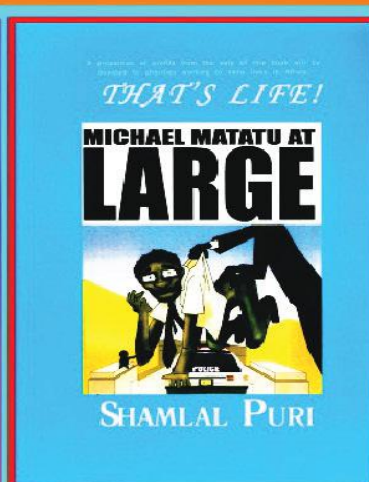
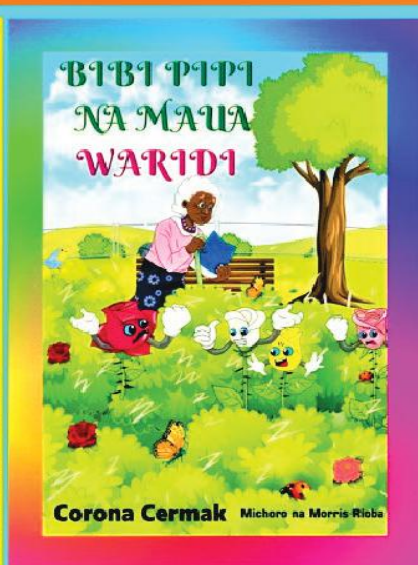
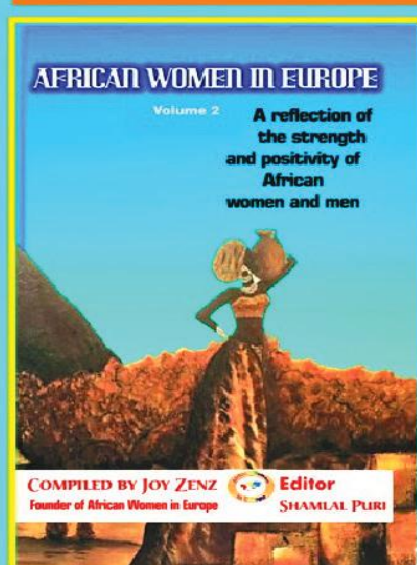
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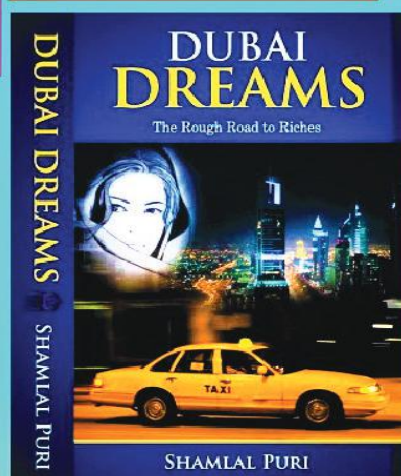
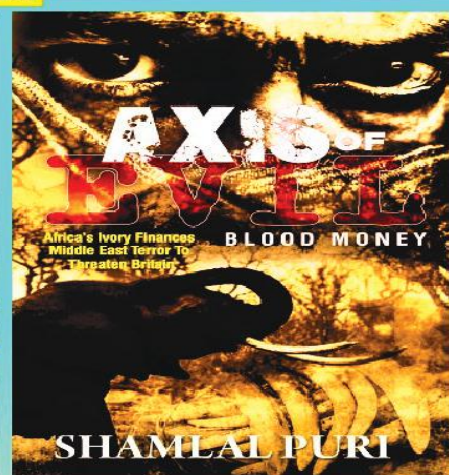
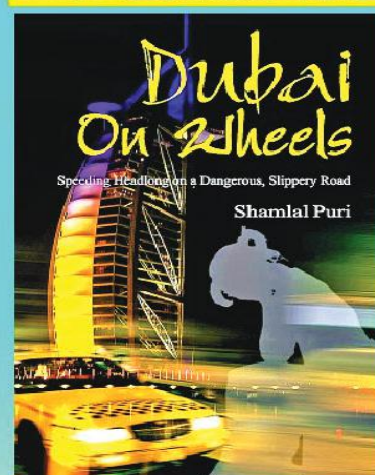
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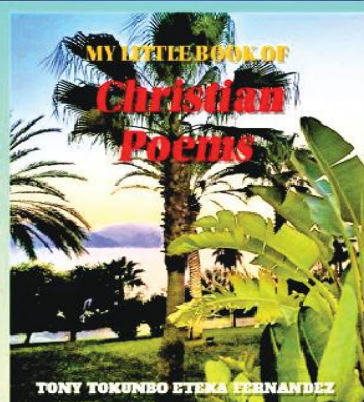
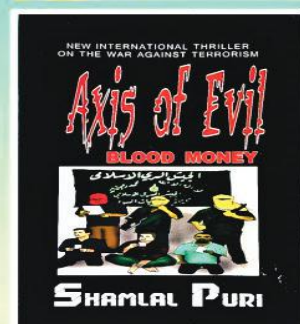
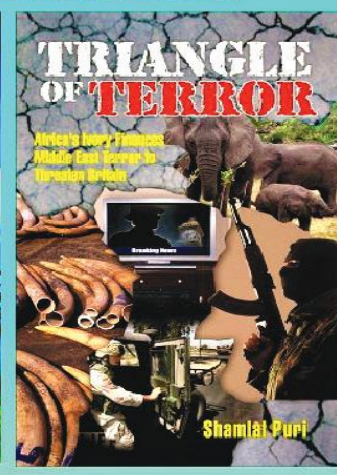
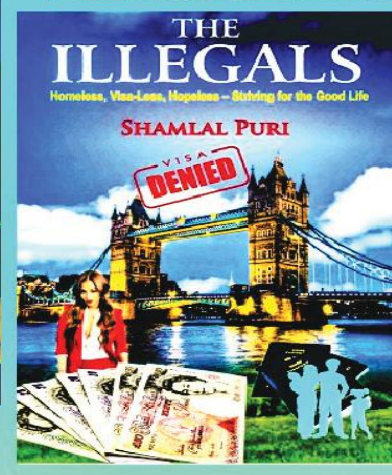
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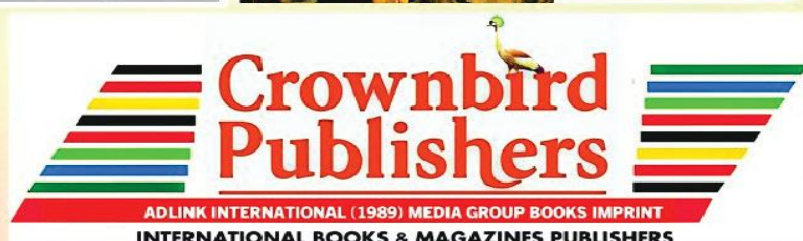


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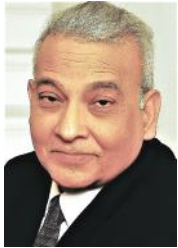
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UK News

NOSTALGIC SHINYANGA VETERANS MEET IN LONDON, SHARE MEMORIES OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN TANZANIA



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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- “The warmth of the people of Shinyanga still shines like the diamonds of Mwadui,” says Ballu, “We have many unforgettable memories of our friendship of school days in the town.”
- One of the guests said, “We left the beautiful town of Shinyanga still with black hair, and we meet again in a different part of the world with grey hair! See, how fast time flies.”
- Event organiser Subhash Mithia, a prominent community leader and Shinyanga resident now living in London, said the reunion was “a great success.”
- “I am delighted to inform you there were 102 Shinyangans at the reunion,” Mr Mithia said.
- “I also appreciated that Dinesh Pau and Arun Vadher from Canada, Balwant Singh Badwal, his wife Parminder Kaur and Jatin Rajani, who came from the USA to attend the reunion”, giving this event its rightful recognition as an international gathering.

truly rare event when most people are busy in their lives but have spared the time to meet and greet each other.” More than 100 former residents of Shinyanga gathered at the Blue Room Sports Venue in Harrow, West London, on September 1, in a unique reunion that rekindled uncountable childhood memories of the close-knit Asian diaspora community in that East African country. They exchanged their unique stories of how life had treated them after leaving Tanzania to settle abroad. Some came to the United Kingdom to further their studies and stayed on. Others emigrated to Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia to start a new life. In contrast, others returned to India and Pakistan to be closer to the land of their forefathers and extended families.

Guests came from all over Britain. Former Shinyanga resident Balwant Singh Badwal, fondly known as Ballu, and his wife Parminder Kaur flew from the United States to attend the reunion. He was excited to meet his childhood friends 50 years on and remembers the events and faces from that era.

Many old friends looked surprised when he remembered their names and faces. It was like he had stored these memories in a special section of his mind as if they had occurred a few days ago. “The warmth of the people of Shinyanga still shines like the diamonds of Mwadui,” says Ballu, “We have many unforgettable memories of our friendship of school days in the town.”

One of the guests said, “We left the beautiful town of Shinyanga still with black hair, and we meet again in a different part of the world with grey hair! See, how fast time flies.”

Event organiser Subhash Mithia, a prominent community leader and Shinyanga resident now living in London, said the reunion was “a great success.”

“I am delighted to inform you there were 102 Shinyangans at the reunion,” Mr Mithia said.

“I also appreciated that Dinesh Pau and Arun Vadher from Canada, Balwant Singh Badwal, his wife Parminder Kaur and Jatin Rajani, who came from the USA to attend the reunion”, giving this event its rightful recognition as an international gathering.

Mr Mithia says the event



Dinesh and Bhavna Pau enjoyed a relaxing dance at the reunion. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

would not have been successful without the participation of the Shinyanga community.

“I appreciate that without the attendance of so many Shinyangans, the event would not have been successful.”

He thanked everyone who supported the reunion.

The meeting was also an opportunity to share the sad news of some of the town’s members who sadly had passed away.

Mr Mithia paid tribute to the families of some of the former residents of Shinyanga following bereavements. “We missed Manibhai Bhanjibhai and his family due to the death of a loved one in India the day before the event.”

He also paid tributes to the families of Rupa and Sona over their grief “due to the passing away of their mother, Sarojben.”

Mr Mithia also offered the community’s commiserations over the passing away of Shinyangan Amubhai Sudra, who lived in Leicester, just a week before the reunion.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous Gujarati meal prepared by Blue Room.

Musicians entertained the guests. Singers Reema and Anil, whose melodious voices reawakened memories of old Bollywood songs, rendered some of the favourite yesteryear hits.

Some guests took the dance



Guests at the event at the table enjoying a conversation. Photo SHAMLAL PURI.



floor when Reema and Anil rendered romantic numbers, which were converted Sweet memories... Cakes were cut to mark the deep friendship between the members despite the passage of time. Photo SHAMLAL PURI

Contd Page 11.

UK News

NOSTALGIC SHINYANGA VETERANS MEET IN LONDON,
SHARE MEMORIES OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS IN TANZANIA

By: Shamlal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor – UK
shamlalpuri4@gmail.com

Contd from Page 10

Worth
Noting:

- Reema and Anil, whose melodious voices reawakened memories of old Bollywood songs, rendered some of the favourite yesterday hits.
- Some guests took the dance floor when Reema and Anil rendered romantic numbers, which were converted into Western dances.
- [Later, the guests danced to Garba and Dandia Gujarati folk dances, which not only brought back the zest and energy to those on the dance floor but added zest to the culture of many of the East African diaspora who hail from the vibrant culture-rich Indian State of Gujarat.
- The reunion marked some milestones in the community. Dinesh Pau, Ramnik Vadher, and Narendra (Nanu) Vithlani marked their 80th birthdays.
- “Our best wishes to all of them,” said Mr Mithia, adding, “We hope they remain healthy and make it to 100 years.”

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“Our best wishes to all of them,” said Mr Mithia, adding, “We hope they remain healthy and make it to 100 years.”

Two happy members, Aruna and Yasu, donated £51 towards the event to celebrate the 47 years of their wedding.

Mr Mithia congratulated them and offered them the community’s best wishes.

There was a poignant moment when Milan Shantubhai presented to all the guests a box of Indian sweets in memory of his late father, Shantubhai Karsandasbhai Lakhani and his mother, Taraben Lakhani.

Mr Mithia thanked his able team members Harish Bagia, Bharti Pau, and Bhavna Rajani for their support in organising the 2024 Shinyanga reunion.

For those unfamiliar with this part of Tanzania, Shinyanga is a bustling city, a two-hour drive, 147 km from Mwanza, a city on the shores of Lake Victoria.

It is 986 km from the Indian Ocean port city of Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital.

Shinyanga Region has a population of more than 200,000.

There are many businesses in the town, many of which were run by entrepreneurs from the Asian diaspora.

A few are still there, but others have settled abroad.

The locals of Shinyanga, the Sukuma, welcomed the Asian diaspora to the town, where they set up businesses.

The Sukuma people are very kind and welcoming. They are farming folk who own livestock. Interestingly, their household income boomed, benefitting the Asian business community, which thrived with their shops catering to the needs of the locals.

The Shinyangan diasporans are already planning the next annual reunion in 2025.

Those unfamiliar with Shinyanga would be interested in knowing that Once upon a time, this was a small town with barely anything of interest.

Its fortunes rose after the colonial Government realised the area’s rich natural resources – diamonds and gold.

It was founded during the gold and diamond mining era post-World War II. Diamonds are still mined at Mwadui, approximately 40 kilometres from Shinyanga city.

The town’s fortunes rose when the world took note of its diamonds and gold wealth, putting Shinyanga on the world map of mineral-rich parts of Africa.

John Thoburn Williamson, affectionately known as Doc, a brilliant geologist from Canada’s McGill University, discovered, built and operated the highly successful Williamson diamond mine. He named it Mwadui in honour of a local chief in the area.

Williamson’s Diamond Mines was established on March 19 1942. The company was a partnership between John Williamson, his brother Percy and John’s lawyer partner Iqbal Chand Chopra KC, who arrived in Dar es Salaam in the late 1920s from Gujranwala, British India, to seek his fortune in East Africa.

He was taken under the wing of another Dar es Salaam-based Asian lawyer, Gulam Rasul, who trained the young Indian lawyer, Iqbal Chand, who was destined for much greater success.

Iqbal Chand Chopra was the first Indian in Africa to take silk as King’s Counsel.

His career was catapulted into high-level politics, spanning the Legislative and Executive Councils of what was then called Tanganyika ((today’s Tanzania).

He established his practice in Mwanza, a town that had no lawyers, as many Indian settlers avoided going into the interior, which they saw as a serious risk.

A fascinating story about how Chopra’s path crossed with Williamson’s. is told by pioneers.

In 1936, Mr Chopra had a business meeting with Dr Williamson, and the two men met in Mwanza with the Canadian geologist looking for someone to handle his legal matters and advise him.

In the 1940s, Dr Williamson discovered that Shinyanga



Garba for those at the Party took them back to their days in Shinyanga. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Welcome to Shinyanga. The town’s people in London shared the city’s warmth. Photo Courtesy



Williamson Diamond Mines in Mwadui, Tanzania, built Shinyanga’s fortune and global reputation. Photo Courtesy Hansueli Krapf

was endowed with rich diamond deposits waiting to be mined, and he decided to venture into the area.

He approached Mr Chopra, and their partnership developed. The two men joined hands – one a geologist and the other a lawyer, who would guide Dr Williamson through the legal minefield of financing an enterprise.

Mr Chopra’s involvement in

the Mwadui diamond mine and the global diamond industry shows the historical success of the Indians in Shinyanga and Tanzania, His presence in the Williamson Diamond Mines kept the business alive.

Dr Williamson Diamond Grave (Kishapu) is a must-visit place for many tourists.

The baobab tree, which Dr

Williamson is said to have camped around and later “discovered” diamonds in the Shinyanga Region, still stands.

Nearby, the baobab tree, a sculpture, was erected by his family in 1958 to mark the presence of the world’s richest man who once walked in Shinyanga.

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UN calls for full inquiry into West Bank shooting

The United Nations has called for a “full investigation” into the killing of a US-Turkish woman in the occupied West Bank during a protest on Friday.

By: BBC
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Worth Noting:

- Footage from the scene shortly after the shooting shows medics rushing Ms Eygi into an ambulance.
- Jewish-Israeli activist Jonathan Pollak, who was at the protest, told BBC World Service’s Newshour programme he had seen “soldiers on the rooftop aiming”.
- He said he had heard two separate shots, “with like a second or two distance between them”.
- “I heard someone calling my name, saying in English, ‘Help us. We need help. We need help.’ I ran towards them,” he said.
- He said he had then seen Ms Eygi “lying on the ground underneath an olive tree, bleeding to death from her head”.
- “I put my hand behind her back to try and stop the bleeding,” he said. “I looked up, there was a clear line of sight between the soldiers and where we were. I took her pulse, and it was very, very weak.”



Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was taking part in a protest against Jewish settlement expansion in the town of Beita, in the occupied West Bank

The United Nations has called for a “full investigation” into the killing of a US-Turkish woman in the occupied West Bank during a protest on Friday. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi was killed after Israeli forces opened fire. The 26-year-old was taking part in a weekly protest against Jewish settlement expansion in the town of Beita near Nablus. According to local media reports, Ms Eygi was shot by Israeli troops. Israel’s military said it was “looking into reports that a foreign national was killed as a result of shots fired in the area”. An eyewitness told the BBC World Service’s Newshour programme he had heard two shots fired at the protest. Reacting to the killing, Stéphane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN secretary general, said: “We would want to see a full investigation of the circumstances and that people should be held accountable.” Civilians, he added, “must be protected at all times”.

The US also called for an investigation into the incident. Sean Savett, spokesman for the White House’s National Security Council, said Washington was “deeply disturbed by the tragic death of an American citizen”. “We have reached out to the government of Israel to ask for more information and request an investigation into the incident,” Mr Savett said. Footage from the scene shortly after the shooting shows medics rushing Ms Eygi into an ambulance. Jewish-Israeli activist Jonathan Pollak, who was at the protest, told BBC World Service’s Newshour programme he had seen “soldiers on the rooftop aiming”. He said he had heard two separate shots, “with like a second or two distance between them”. “I heard someone calling my name, saying in English, ‘Help us. We need help. We need help.’ I ran towards them,” he said. He said he had then seen Ms Eygi “lying on the ground underneath an olive tree, bleeding to death from her

head”. “I put my hand behind her back to try and stop the bleeding,” he said. “I looked up, there was a clear line of sight between the soldiers and where we were. I took her pulse, and it was very, very weak.” He added that Friday’s demonstration had been Ms Eygi’s first time attending a protest with the International Solidarity Movement, a pro-Palestinian group. The dual-national was rushed to a hospital in Nablus and later pronounced dead. Dr Fouad Nafaa, head of Rafidia Hospital where Ms Eygi was admitted, confirmed that a US citizen in her mid-20s had died from a “gunshot in the head”. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken deplored the “tragic loss”, while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan branded the Israeli action “barbaric”. Turkey’s foreign ministry said Ms Eygi had been “killed by Israeli occupation soldiers in the city of Nablus”.

Before travelling to the Middle East, Ms Eygi had recently graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle. The school’s president, Ana Mari Cauce, described news of her death as “awful” while adding that Ms Eygi had had a “positive influence” on other students. Ms Eygi was born in Antalya, as reported by Turkish media. In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said: “During Israeli security forces activity adjacent to the area of Beita, the forces responded with fire toward a main instigator of violent activity who hurled rocks at the forces and posed a threat to them. “The IDF is looking into reports that a foreign national was killed as a result of shots fired in the area. The details of the incident and the circumstances in which she was hit are under review.” In his interview with the BBC, Jonathan Pollak was asked about the IDF’s statement, where the Israeli military said security forces had

responded to stone-throwing. Mr Pollak said there had been clashes but he felt that soldiers had been “under no threat”. There had been “no stone throwing” where she had been, he said. Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin city and its refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Friday, following a major nine-day operation there. The Palestinian health ministry says at least 36 Palestinians were killed – 21 from Jenin governorate – in that time. Most of the dead have been claimed by armed groups as members, but the ministry says children are also among those killed. In the past 50 years, Israel has built settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where more than 700,000 Jews now live. Settlements are held to be illegal under international law – that is the position of the UN Security Council and the UK government, among others – although Israel rejects this.

News

Is Whale Watching in Your Bucket List This Year?

This annual event is not just a marvel of nature but also a testament to Kenya's growing attraction in the global tourism arena.

By: Ross Evans
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Worth Noting:

- Watamu, with its clear blue waters and relatively calm seas, offers an ideal setting for these magnificent animals to give birth and care for their young. This makes it a prime location for whale watching, an experience that attracts tourists from around the world seeking to witness these gentle giants in their natural habitat in a responsible manner.
- The impact of the whale migration on Kenyan tourism cannot be overstated. Firstly, it has introduced a fresh and unique offering to the country's tourism portfolio. While Kenya's safaris are renowned, the opportunity to observe the magnificence of humpback whales as part of the "Marine Big Five" experience, with dolphins, sea turtles, whale sharks and billfish, provides a different kind of adventure—one that combines marine biology and conservation with thrilling travel experiences. This diversification is crucial for maintaining Kenya's competitive edge in the global tourism market.

Kenya's reputation as a prime tourist destination is often synonymous with its savannahs, packed with the "Big Five" and the majestic sights of the Great Migration. However, a lesser-known but equally captivating spectacle has been transforming the coastal town of Watamu into a burgeoning tourist hotspot: the humpback whale migration. This annual event is not just a marvel of nature but also a testament to Kenya's growing attraction in the global tourism arena.

Watamu, located on the Kenyan coast, has long been celebrated for its pristine beaches and vibrant marine life. Yet, the arrival of humpback whales, which migrate through these waters from June to October, has introduced a new dimension to the region's tourism landscape.

These majestic creatures, which can reach an adult length of up to 17 meters long and weigh as much as 40,000 kilograms, bring with them a sense of awe and wonder that is both exhilarating and humbling for onlookers.

The whale migration in Watamu is part of a larger annual migration pattern that sees humpback whales' journey from their feeding grounds in the cold waters of the Antarctic to the warmer, inshore protected waters of the Indian Ocean for breeding and calving.

Local fishermen started combining fishing trips with whale and dolphin watching back in 2011, and Hemingways Watamu became one of the first hotels along the coast to offer whale-watching excursions, working with and supporting Watamu Marine Association's flagship protection program, Kenya Marine Mammal Research and Conservation (KMMREC)

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CEO Hemingways Group, Ross Evans

and unique offering to the country's tourism portfolio. While Kenya's safaris are renowned, the opportunity to observe the magnificence of humpback whales as part of the "Marine Big Five" experience, with dolphins, sea turtles, whale sharks and billfish, provides a different kind of adventure—one that combines marine biology and conservation with thrilling travel experiences. This diversification is crucial for maintaining Kenya's competitive edge in the global tourism market.

Moreover, whale watching in Watamu supports the local economy in significant ways. The tourism activity spurs demand for a variety of services, from boat tours and professional conservationist guides to hospitality and local crafts. For many communities around Watamu, this translates into job creation and business opportunities, thereby improving the quality of life for local residents. It also fosters a greater appreciation for marine conservation among the local population, which is crucial for preserving the delicate marine ecosystems that support whale migration.

Environmental sustainability is another vital aspect of this growing tourism sector. The whale migration highlights the importance of KMMREC's marine mammal conservation efforts, leading to increased awareness and funding for the protection of oceanic habitats.

Through Hemingways' and KMMREC's initiatives local organizations and tour operators are increasingly investing in eco-friendly practices, ensuring that whale watching remains a sustainable activity that does not disrupt the whales' natural behaviours or their habitats. This commitment to conservation not only helps protect the whales but also ensures that future generations can enjoy this breathtaking phenomenon.

However, the rise in tourism also brings challenges that need to be addressed. The delicate balance between providing a memorable tourist experience and protecting the natural environment is crucial. If not managed properly, and as we have unfortunately witnessed in some of Kenya's other wildlife parks, over-tourism can lead to disruptions in natural animal behaviour and stress on their populations. Therefore, responsible tourism practices must be upheld, including regulated boat distances, limited numbers of boats per whale sighting, and strict guidelines to minimize human impact on marine life.

To mitigate these challenges, collaboration between local authorities, conservationists, and the tourism industry is essential. Developing a comprehensive management plan that includes monitoring whale populations, educating tourists about responsible behaviour, and investing in conservation programs will be key to sustaining the positive impact of the whale migration on Watamu's tourism.

The whale migration in Watamu not only represents an exciting tourism draw; it also symbolizes Kenya's potential to innovate and diversify its tourism offerings. By embracing and promoting such unique natural phenomena, Kenya can enhance its global appeal while fostering sustainable practices that protect its rich biodiversity.

As the world increasingly values authentic and sustainable travel experiences, Watamu's whale migration stands as a beacon of what the future of tourism can look like—a blend of awe-inspiring nature, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship.

In conclusion, the humpback whale migration in Watamu is a great addition to Kenya's tourism landscape. It enriches the country's appeal by offering an extraordinary encounter with nature while contributing to local economies and conservation efforts.

As more tourists witness this incredible journey annually, it is important that both visitors and industry stakeholders commit to preserving the delicate balance that makes such natural wonders possible. In doing so, Kenya not only celebrates its natural heritage but also sets a global standard for responsible and enriching tourism.

Author: CEO Hemingways Group, Ross Evans

Literature

Postcolonial Parallels: The Shared Struggles of South Asian, African, and Irish Literature

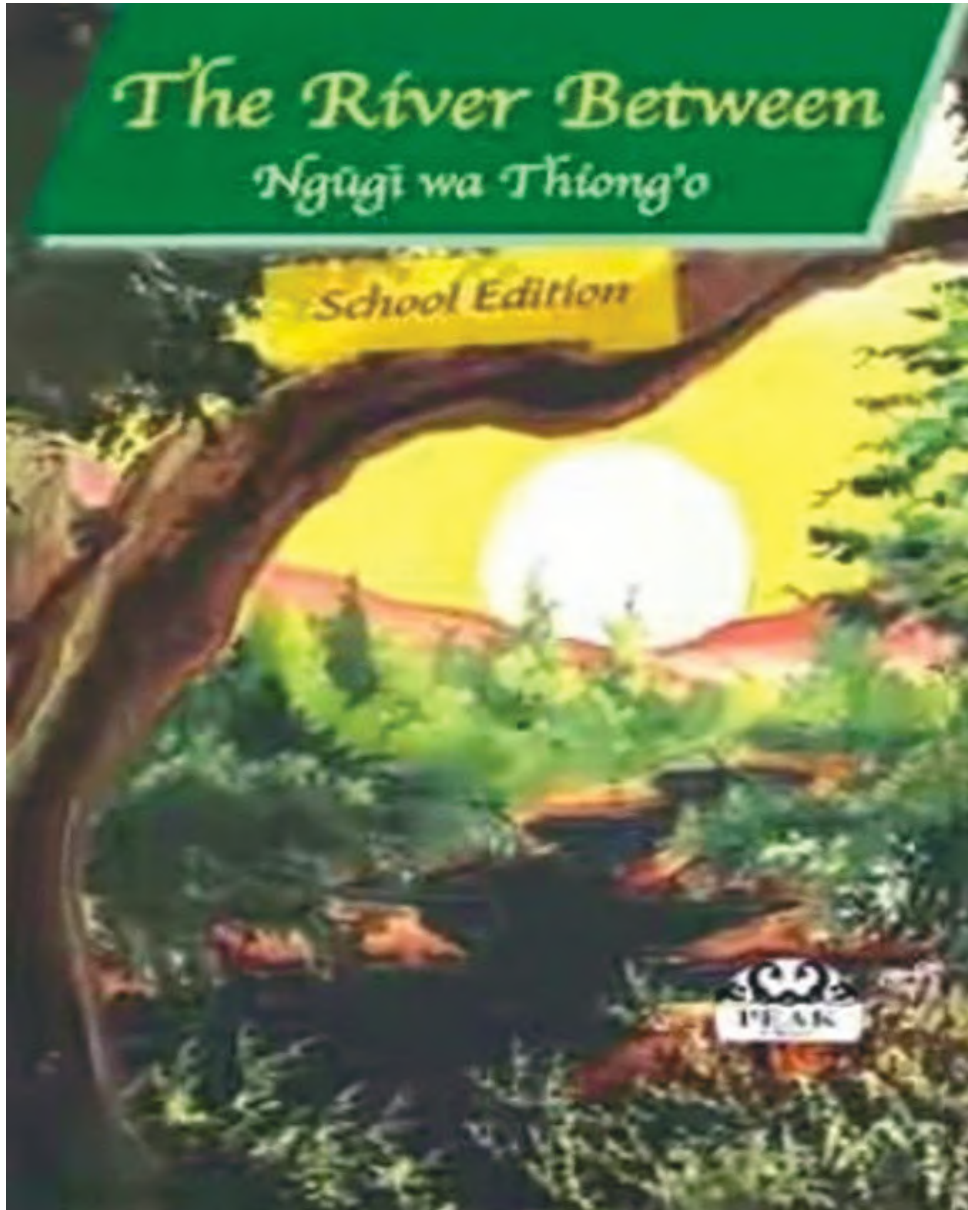


By: **Muhammad Adnan Gujjar**
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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- Nigeria is central to Africa in Achebe's work. He initially portrays the richness of African culture through its folklore, dance, traditional ceremonies, and social practices. The town is depicted as a paradise before the arrival of colonizers. Once the colonizers arrive, they change everything except their own physicality and nationality, leaving deep, lasting impacts on the indigenous culture. Achebe's title reflects this disruption, as the "center" of Igbo society crumbles and fragments. The novel illustrates the loss of cultural roots and the resulting sense of dislocation experienced by the Nigerian people.
- Waiyaki, another rebel against the Occident, is the true representation of Kikuyu society and is the central character in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *The River Between*. Set in Kenya, the novel also showcases Ngũgĩ's struggle and radicalism through Waiyaki. He serves as a mouthpiece for Ngũgĩ's ideas.



Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *The River Between*

of Mir Nihal's family symbolizes the broader decline of Delhi, with the family's fortunes mirroring the city's downfall.

Another masterpiece, Raja Rao's novel *Kanthapura*, explores the theme of external oppression. Like Ahmed Ali, Rao addresses common South Asian issues such as caste, race, and the struggle against colonial rule. While it challenges certain clichés, its patterns and thematic concerns resonate with those of African and Irish writers who were equally critical of external forces. Similarly, G.V. Desani's novel *All About H. Hatterr* is rich with the theme of change. It challenges external forces in an effort to preserve the richness, uniqueness, and purity of Indian culture. The novel is infused with Indian mythology, offering glimpses into India's deep-rooted history and mystique.

In a similar vein, Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* juxtaposes the richness and darkness of Nigerian culture. Just as Delhi represents Asia in *Twilight in Delhi*, Umuofia, a village of the Igbo people, represents Nigeria in *Things Fall Apart*.

Ali's critical and poetic approach captures the essence and beauty of Indian culture in the early part of the novel, while Achebe dramatizes the unique and pure essence of Igbo culture in the village of Umuofia. Both novels end on a tragic note: in *Twilight in Delhi*, we witness the downfall of Nihal's family, and in *Things Fall Apart*, we observe the tragic fate of Okonkwo, the renowned warrior and wrestler who meets his demise in Umuofia. Both authors focus on the commonality of culture and the intrusion of colonizers. In both novels, colonizers, often disguised as missionaries, impose their will and disrupt indigenous cultures. Their motives were frequently concealed as they exploited Asia and Africa, akin to white-collar criminals, suppressing and silencing opposing voices.

Nigeria is central to Africa in Achebe's work. He initially portrays the richness of African culture through its folklore, dance, traditional ceremonies, and social practices. The town is depicted as a paradise before the arrival of colonizers. Once the colonizers arrive, they change

everything except their own physicality and nationality, leaving deep, lasting impacts on the indigenous culture. Achebe's title reflects this disruption, as the "center" of Igbo society crumbles and fragments. The novel illustrates the loss of cultural roots and the resulting sense of dislocation experienced by the Nigerian people.

Waiyaki, another rebel against the Occident, is the true representation of Kikuyu society and is the central character in Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's *The River Between*. Set in Kenya, the novel also showcases Ngũgĩ's struggle and radicalism through Waiyaki. He serves as a mouthpiece for Ngũgĩ's ideas. Waiyaki stands against the colonizers in Kenya, much like Okonkwo in *Things Fall Apart* and Mir Nihal in *Twilight in Delhi* resist colonial forces. Waiyaki deeply values his culture and traditions and is driven by a mission he believes he must accomplish, which aligns with his father's wishes. This process began with the arrival of colonial powers and was later articulated by scholars like Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, who cri-

tiqued the impact of English as a colonial language on native literatures. Both South Asian and African cultures, as depicted in these works, undergo transformations into multilingual and multicultural landscapes.

The aftershocks of colonialism are not limited to Africa and Asia. Australia, once perceived as a land of barbarism and savagery, was similarly affected. The British often sent their prisoners to Australia, as exemplified by Abel Magwitch, a character in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, who is transported to Australia as part of his punishment.

Ireland also faced similar consequences as a colony of England. Seamus Heaney's works, such as *Casting and Gathering* and *Toome Road*, explore themes of fear, horror, terror, and a sense of loss and identity. These works reflect that the impact of colonialism is not confined to specific regions but is a global phenomenon. It is clear that Irish literature, African literature, and South Asian literature share common themes and concerns, such as race, subjugation, slavery, and authority. Irish playwright Brian Friel, like his counterparts, is critical of the intrusion of non-natives and non-Irish elements into Ireland. His work often castigates the way such intrusions disrupt Irish identity and cultural integrity, as reflected in the transformation of traditional forms.

Brian Friel's play *Translations* deals with the complexities and conflicting discourse of colonialism. On one hand, the colonizers are eradicating the Irish Gaelic language, while on the other, they are refining the education system and upgrading Ireland's infrastructure. The older generation is anxious about these changes, while the younger generation celebrates them. The theme of change is central to this discourse. Most intellectuals are critical of these changes—they do not embrace them willingly but are forced to accept them. The prominent figures of the time are hesitant to welcome these transformations.

Friel's *Translations* delve deeper into the puzzling discourse of colonialism. While the intruders uproot the Irish Gaelic language, they also refine the education system and upgrade Ireland's infrastructure. The

older generation worries about these changes, while the younger generation embraces them. The concept of change remains central to this discourse. Most intellectuals are critical of the changes—they do not accept them willingly but are compelled to adapt. The reluctance of prominent figures to embrace these transformations illustrates a broader hesitation toward colonial impositions.

In this context, writers like Ahmed Ali, Chinua Achebe, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and Brian Friel share common ground as critics of colonialism. This reflects how South Asian, Irish, and African literatures highlight similar challenges and circumstances faced during and after colonial rule. These works collectively demonstrate that South Asian, Irish, and African literatures address the common struggles experienced during the colonial and post-colonial eras.

Writers like Ahmed Ali, Chinua Achebe, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and Brian Friel share this common ground in their critique of colonialism. This demonstrates that South Asian, Irish, and African literatures emphasize similar experiences and challenges in the face of post-colonialism.

Thus, it is evident that various schools of thought within Anglophone literature are united in their examination of external intrusion. Authors such as Ahmed Ali, Chinua Achebe, Brian Friel, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and Seamus Heaney address these themes from unique perspectives, highlighting the pervasive and enduring effects of colonialism. Their works underscore the critical issues faced by post-colonial societies and the continued relevance of these themes in contemporary literature.

Muhammad Adnan Gujjar
The writer is a full-time lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Chenab, Gujrat, and is currently working on the third edition of the literary magazine *The Wordsmith E-Magazine*.

NEWS PAPER

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CHINA

World Insights: China, Africa on modernization journey together

By: XINHUA
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As an African proverb goes, “a friend is someone you share the path with.” In the shared pursuit of modernization of the Global South, China and Africa have stood together as companions over the years.

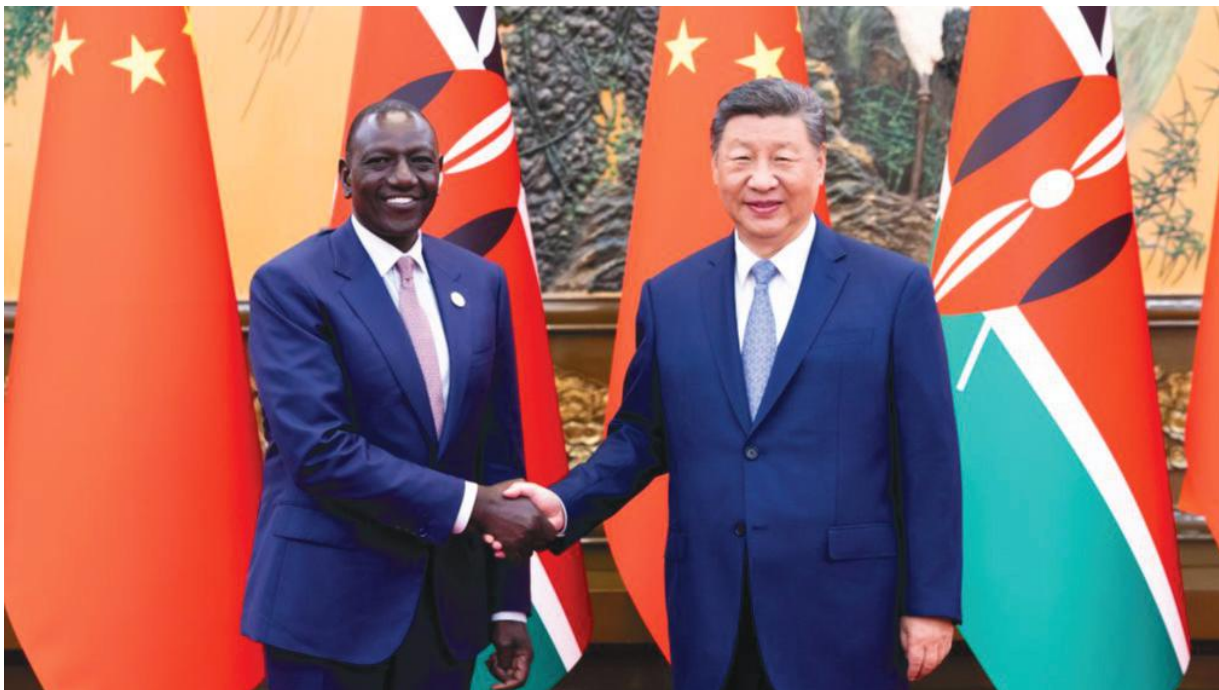
Themed “Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future,” the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which attracted over 50 African leaders, highlighted the common pursuit of China and African countries in realizing modernization.

MONUMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

The China-Africa community with a shared future is deeply rooted in the traditional friendship between the two sides. During the 1970s, a pivotal period for the economic development of Tanzania and Zambia, some 50,000 Chinese workers and engineers came to help construct the Tanzania-Zambia Railway. In the past five decades, 70 Chinese engineers, technicians, and workers lost their lives in railway construction, technical cooperation, and other projects in Tanzania. To honor their contributions, a monument has been erected at the Gongo la Mboto cemetery in Tanzania. The 1,860-km-long railway serves as a reminder of the longstanding relationship between China and Africa. As time passes by, the China-Africa friendship remains robust and grows stronger no matter how the world changes.

Issa Fatimoh Abiola, Nigeria’s first female train driver, has worked with China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) for 16 years. Reflecting on Chinese President Xi Jinping’s keynote speech on modernization at the opening ceremony of the 2024 FOCAC Summit, she recalled CRCC’s significant contributions to Nigeria’s modernization. “The CRCC has been deeply involved in Nigeria for 43 years, contributing tremendously to the country’s transportation and infrastructure modernization,” Abiola said. “Since joining the company in 2008, I have witnessed the successful implementation of numerous landmark projects, including the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Abuja-Kaduna Railway, Lagos-Ibadan Railway, Abuja Light Rail, Lagos Blue Line, as well as ‘small and beautiful’ livelihood projects that directly benefit people’s livelihoods.”

Victorinah Mukiri, the legal adviser for China Railway No.10 Engineering Group Co., Ltd, has worked with the company for 17 years. Touched by Xi’s remarks on “jointly advance modernization that is open and win-win,” Mukiri noted how her company expanded from a few projects to multiple regional ventures in Ken-



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with Kenyan President William Ruto at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, September 3, 2024. /Xinhua

ya, ranging from highways to municipal, housing, and mining construction. The company has trained batches of technicians, created thousands of jobs, and significantly improved Kenya’s infrastructure.

As President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo said at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC, “China remains an all-time friend.” He added that Africa and China are drawing closer through shared history, values and solidarity, and their joint modernization efforts reflect a mutual commitment to prosperity and peace.

TWO-WAY EFFORTS

“We have together built roads, railways, schools, hospitals, industrial parks, and special economic zones. These projects have changed the lives and destiny of many people,” Xi said at a welcome banquet held at the Great Hall of the People for summit attendees Wednesday, noting that the China-Africa community with a shared future thrives on the strength of win-win cooperation. This cooperation is driven by development projects with Chinese companies playing an increasing role in bolstering Africa’s industrialization. One notable example is the Sapphire Float Glass Factory in Tanzania’s coastal region, which serves both the local market and exports to six other African countries. With a designed production capacity of approximately 700 tonnes per day, the factory has created 1,012 direct jobs for locals and 3,857 indirect jobs since its inauguration in September 2023. Once fully operational, it is expected to provide 1,650 direct and 6,000 indirect jobs.

“China’s imprints are evident and vivid in infrastructure improvement, rapid industrialization and all progress in small and medium-sized enterprises in our countries,” Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan said at the opening ceremony on Thursday. “Our presence here today reflects the solidarity and commitment to building a shared future of progress and prosperity,” she said,

calling on African countries to work with China towards fruitful socio-economic innovations and development.

In Botswana, Chinese firms are playing a key role in the country’s green energy transition. In August, Botswana Power Corporation signed a power purchase agreement with Sinotswana Green Energy, a consortium of Chinese and Botswana companies, to officially launch the nation’s first 100 MW solar photovoltaic power plant. The project, expected to begin operations by the end of 2025, has been hailed a “key milestone” in the country’s energy transition.

Driven by the Plan for China Supporting Africa’s Agricultural Modernization, China-Africa agricultural cooperation has also flourished, yielding notable results in technical assistance and training for agricultural experts, the transfer of advanced technologies, the establishment of agricultural parks, and the promotion of farming projects for Juncao and hybrid rice. This cooperation has advanced Africa’s agricultural modernization. “Agricultural modernization ensures high-level productivity. It reduces the risk of disease and lowers the cost of production. That’s the way African countries should go,” said Nabwera Daraja Nabii, a member of the National Assembly of Kenya.

China has shared its expertise in Juncao technology and hybrid rice cultivation, training over 14,000 people and introducing these techniques to many countries, benefiting millions of farmers. Dozens of countries across the globe have engaged in research and demonstration planting of hybrid rice, with nearly 8 million hectares planted abroad annually.

Over the past decade, China has established 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa and introduced more than 300 advanced agricultural technologies, increasing local crop yields by an average of 30 to 60 percent and benefiting over 1 million farmers across the conti-

nent. “We hope that China can work very closely with us so that we can feed the world,” said Thomas Tayebwa, Ugandan Deputy Speaker of the Parliament. “Africa can be the food basket for the rest of the world.” Talent development is also vital for both China and Africa as they work to improve their economies and livelihoods, making educational collaboration a cornerstone of China-Africa relations.

China has established 17 Luban Workshops in 15 African countries, providing training to help young African youths secure jobs in Chinese-invested enterprises. Over 220,000 Africans have been trained by China, with tailored programs to meet the specific needs of each country. Under the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, China aims to train 500 principals and vocational teachers, as well as 10,000 technical personnel with both Chinese language and vocational skills for Africa every year. This talent cooperation is expanding into sectors like digital industries and healthcare, enabling more African youths to pursue their dreams.

“Vocational and technical education is very important in the 21st century. What you can do depends on the training that you have, and the training that you have depends on the kind of institutions you attend,” said Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University of Nigeria. “Africa is a young continent because we have a large percentage of young people. Our task now is to see that these young people are empowered in terms of skills and competence that can move our developments,” said Prof. Olusola B. Oyewole, secretary general of the Association of African Universities of Ghana.

NO ONE SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND

“On the path to modernization, no one, and no country, should be left behind,” Xi said in his keynote address at the opening ceremony of

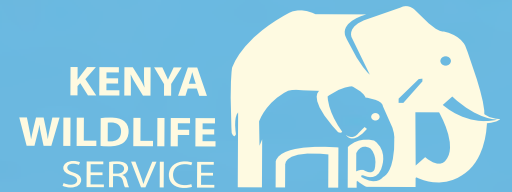
the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC. The joint pursuit of modernization by China and Africa will set off a wave of modernization in the Global South, and open a new chapter in the drive for a community with a shared future for mankind. “China’s partnership with the African continent is the main pillar of South-South cooperation,” said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres while addressing the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC. “Your joint efforts, based on the United Nations Charter, can create a new momentum for African development.”

The China-Africa partnership can “drive the renewable energy revolution,” and be “a catalyst for key transitions in food systems and digital connectivity,” said Guterres, noting that Africa can maximize the potential of China’s support in areas from trade to data management, finance and technology.

Isaura Diez, a journalist with Cuba’s Prensa Latina news agency, covered the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC in Beijing. She believes that Latin America can take China-Africa cooperation as a “sample,” and that all Global South countries should amplify their voices together. “The FOCAC Summit shows us what kind of collaboration and agreements we can establish as a continent with China,” Diez said, adding that “raising China-Africa relations is a magnificent precedent for other regions of the world such as Latin America and the Caribbean. We can work together despite differences based on mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and non-interference in each other’s internal affairs.”

The FOCAC summit aims to build consensus on how China and African countries can cooperate to unlock the potential of industrialization, agricultural modernization and youth talent development. As long as the 2.8-billion-strong Chinese and African people are united, “we will accomplish new and even greater feats together on the way toward modernization, spearhead the modernization drive of the Global South, and make greater contributions to a community with a shared future for mankind,” Xi said on Wednesday at the welcome banquet. “I am eager to join the movement for modernization of the Global South. I firmly believe that when we unite and work together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish,” said Abiola, the first female train driver of Nigeria.

She said that through coordinated development, people can fully leverage the vast resources of the Global South. “By effectively harnessing these assets to drive economic growth and improve living conditions, I am confident that the future will be filled with hope and opportunity,” she said.



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Diaspora

Xi: Jointly advance modernization with Africa

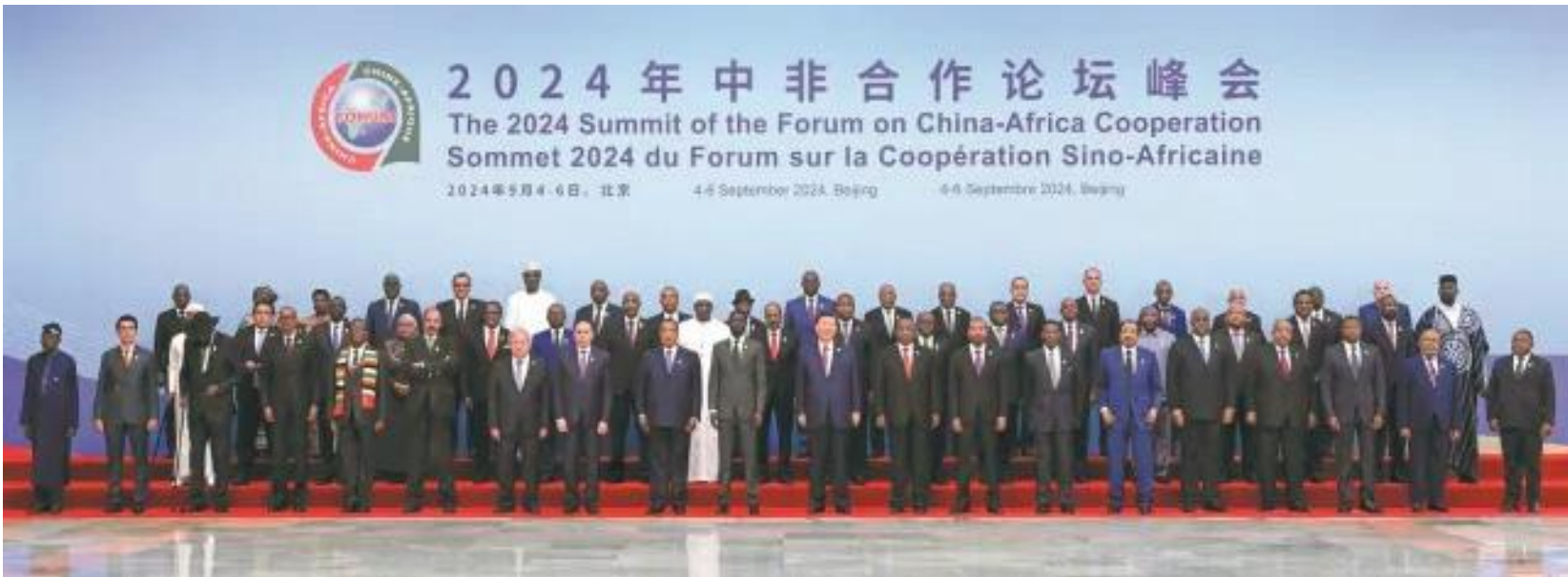
President Xi Jinping unveiled on Thursday 10 partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years, pledging to back the continent with unilateral opening of the nation's market and the creation of at least 1 million jobs.

By: China Daily
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Worth Noting:

- The Chinese government will provide 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion) of financial support to implement these actions, with the support disbursed as 210 billion yuan of credit lines, 80 billion yuan of assistance in various forms and at least 70 billion yuan of investment in Africa by Chinese companies, he added.
- The summit also adopted the Beijing Declaration on Jointly Building an All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era and the FOCAC-Beijing Action Plan (2025-27).
- “The China-Africa relationship is now at its best in history,” Xi told dignitaries from African nations and a number of international organizations.
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and heads of state and government from 51 countries, as well as presidential representatives from two countries, were present at the summit's opening ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.



President Xi Jinping (center) and foreign leaders stand for a group photo on Thursday during the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. RAO AIMIN/XINHUA

President Xi Jinping unveiled on Thursday 10 partnership actions for modernization to deepen China-Africa cooperation in the next three years, pledging to back the continent with unilateral opening of the nation's market and the creation of at least 1 million jobs.

Xi put forward an overarching vision for China and Africa to forge ahead together on their paths toward modernization, while addressing the opening ceremony of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing.

He announced a decision to give all least-developed countries that have diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines, a move that makes China the first major developing country and the first major economy to take such a step.

He said China will expand market access for African agricultural products, deepen cooperation with Africa in e-commerce and other areas, and launch a “China-Africa quality enhancement program”.

The Chinese government will provide 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion) of financial support to implement these actions, with the support disbursed as 210 billion yuan of credit lines, 80 billion yuan of assistance in various forms and at least 70 billion yuan of investment in Africa by Chinese companies, he added.

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United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and heads of state and government from 51 countries, as well as presidential representatives from two countries, were present at the summit's opening ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

Xi proposed that bilateral relations between China and all African countries that have diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the level of strategic relations.

The overall characterization of China-Africa relations, he said, will be elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era.

Xi made the case to the leaders for the joint pursuit of modernization by China and Africa, saying that such a move will “set off a wave of modernization in the Global South, and open a new chapter in our drive for a community with a shared future for mankind”.

He called for joint efforts in advancing modernization that is just, equitable, open, win-win, people-centered, inclusive, eco-friendly and underpinned by peace and security.

“China is ready to increase exchanges of governance experience with Africa, support all countries in exploring modernization paths befitting their national

conditions, and help ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for all countries,” he said.

To promote mutual learning among civilizations, Xi said that China is ready to work with Africa to build a platform for sharing governance experience, a China-Africa knowledge network for development, and 25 centers on China and Africa studies.

As for connectivity, the nation stands ready to carry out 30 infrastructure connectivity projects in Africa, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and put in place a China-Africa network featuring land-sea links and coordinated development.

Regarding the partnership action for health, Xi expressed readiness to establish with Africa a hospitals alliance and joint medical centers, send 2,000 medical personnel to Africa, and launch 20 health facility and malaria treatment programs.

The nation will encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa's pharmaceutical production, he added.

The key steps to promote people-to-people exchanges include jointly establishing an engineering technology academy, building 10 Luban Workshops and providing 60,000 training opportunities to Africa, mainly for women and young people.

To support partnership actions for green development, the nation is willing to launch 30 clean energy projects in Africa, put in place meteorological early warning systems, and carry out cooperation in disaster prevention, mitigation and

relief, as well as biodiversity conservation, Xi added.

China will give Africa 1 billion yuan of grants in military assistance, provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa, and invite 500 young African military officers to visit China, in order to bolster the partnership for common security.

Xi's speech was warmly applauded by African leaders, who expressed excitement about China's support for African modernization.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the African leaders welcome Xi's proposal to elevate China's bilateral relations with African countries.

“We believe that FOCAC can play an important role as Africa works to build an integrated network of linkages between countries, within regions and across the continent. We believe that FOCAC is a valuable forum to support the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063,” he said.

Bassirou Diomaye Faye, president of Senegal, said, “The new practical measures just announced by President Xi once again showcase his firm commitment to elevate China-Africa cooperation to a new level.”

“I'm pleased to see that China is actively promoting greater balance in trade with Africa, assisting Africa in improving export capacity, and facilitating quarantine clearance of African exports to China,” he said.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairman of the African Union Commission, said the measures announced by Xi are in alignment with Africa's ongoing efforts for greater productivity and the reduction of deficits.

“I am very happy to see that China is willing to vigorously support the modernization of the Global South, including Africa, and promote innovative development, and would like to pay tribute to the 10 partnership actions proposed by President Xi,” he said.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, together with international guests attending the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), enter the venue for a welcome banquet held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 4, 2024. (Xinhua/Liu Bin)(240904) — BEIJING, Sept. 4, 2024 (Xinhua) — Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, together with international guests attending the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), enter the venue for a welcome banquet held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Sept. 4, 2024. (Xinhua/Liu Bin)

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Diaspora

The University Curriculum And The Labour Market Have Skills Mismatch Thus Contributing To High Unemployment

By: Kamomonti Wa Kiambati
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High Unemployment

Worth Noting:

- In the absence of adequate formal employment opportunities, many graduates turn to the informal sector for livelihood. The informal sector, which encompasses small businesses, casual labor, and self-employment, plays a crucial role in Kenya's economy. It is estimated that the informal sector employs about 80% of the workforce, making it a vital component of the country's employment landscape.
- However, the informal sector presents its own set of challenges. Jobs in this sector are often characterized by low wages, lack of job security, and limited access to social benefits such as healthcare and pensions. Moreover, the informal sector is typically associated with lower productivity and limited opportunities for career advancement. For graduates, working in the informal sector can feel like a compromise, as they are unable to fully utilize the skills and knowledge acquired during their education.

Kenya's education system continues to produce a significant number of graduates annually, with approximately 50,000 to 60,000 university graduates entering the job market each year. This figure grows even larger when graduates from technical and vocational institutions are included. However, the transition from academia to employment remains a daunting challenge for many young Kenyans, as the country's job market grapples with issues of unemployment, underemployment, and a significant skills mismatch. This article explores the various dynamics at play in Kenya's job market and how graduates can navigate the opportunities and challenges they encounter. Youth unemployment is one of the most pressing issues in Kenya's labor market. According to recent statistics, a large proportion of the country's unemployed population consists of young people, particularly those between the ages of 18 and 35. The influx of graduates each year exacerbates the problem, as the economy struggles to create sufficient job opportunities to absorb the growing workforce. The formal sector, which includes public and private sector jobs, has not expanded at a pace commensurate with the increasing number of job seekers. As a result, many graduates find themselves in a prolonged state of unemployment or underemployment, where they take on jobs that do not match their qualifications or skills.

This situation not only leads to frustration among the youth but also stifles economic productivity as their potential remains untapped. In the absence of adequate formal employment opportunities, many graduates turn to the informal sector for livelihood. The informal sector, which encompasses small businesses, casual labor, and self-employment, plays a crucial role in Kenya's economy. It is estimated that the informal sector employs about 80% of the workforce, making it a vital component of the country's employment landscape. However, the informal sector presents its own set of challenges. Jobs in this sector are often characterized by low wages, lack of job security, and limited access to social benefits such as healthcare and pensions. Moreover, the informal sector is typically associated with lower productivity and limited opportunities for career advancement. For graduates, working in the informal sector can feel like a compromise, as they are unable to fully utilize the skills and knowledge acquired during their education. One of the critical issues contributing to unemployment and underemployment among graduates is the mismatch between the skills acquired in educational institutions and those demanded by the job market. Many employers report difficulties in finding candidates with the right technical and soft skills, despite the large number of graduates

available. This skills mismatch can be attributed to several factors. First, the curriculum in many universities and colleges may not be adequately aligned with the needs of the industry. While theoretical knowledge is important, there is often a gap in practical skills and hands-on experience that employers require. Second, the rapid pace of technological advancements means that some educational programs may struggle to keep up with the latest developments in various fields, leaving graduates with outdated skills. To address this issue, there is a need for closer collaboration between educational institutions and industry stakeholders. Universities and colleges should work together with employers to ensure that their programs are relevant and that students are equipped with the skills needed in the workforce. Additionally, internships, apprenticeships, and other forms of work-integrated learning should be promoted to give students practical experience before they graduate. Given the competitive nature of Kenya's job market, entrepreneurship has emerged as a viable alternative for many graduates. The government, along with various organizations, has recognized the potential of entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth and job creation. As a result, several initiatives have been launched to support young

entrepreneurs, including funding, training, and mentorship programs. Starting a business allows graduates to apply their skills and creativity in innovative ways, often leading to the development of new products and services. While entrepreneurship comes with its risks, it also offers the possibility of significant rewards. For many young Kenyans, entrepreneurship is not just a means of livelihood but also a way to contribute to the country's economic development. However, the entrepreneurial journey is not without its challenges. Access to capital remains a significant barrier for many aspiring entrepreneurs, as they often struggle to secure funding from banks and other financial institutions. Additionally, the regulatory environment can be complex and burdensome, particularly for small businesses. To foster a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem, it is essential for the government to create a conducive environment that supports startups and small businesses. The public sector in Kenya has traditionally been a major employer, offering stable jobs with benefits such as pensions and healthcare. However, in recent years, the government has faced budgetary constraints and a push towards reducing the size of the public workforce. This has led to fewer opportunities for new graduates seeking government jobs. Despite these challenges, the public sector remains an

attractive option for many graduates, particularly those in fields such as education, healthcare, and public administration. Graduate trainee programs and internships in government institutions can provide valuable experience and a pathway to permanent employment. However, competition for these positions is often fierce, requiring graduates to stand out through academic excellence, relevant experience, and strong networking skills. While the overall job market in Kenya presents challenges, there are emerging sectors that offer opportunities for graduates. The technology sector, in particular, has shown significant growth, driven by innovations in mobile technology, fintech, and digital services. Nairobi, often referred to as "Silicon Savannah," has become a hub for tech startups and innovation, attracting both local and international talent. Other sectors, such as renewable energy, agribusiness, and finance, are also experiencing growth and creating jobs for skilled graduates. However, these sectors typically require specialized skills and experience, which may necessitate further training or education beyond the undergraduate level. Kenya's job market is characterized by both opportunities and challenges for graduates. While the country's economy continues to grow, the mismatch between the supply of graduates and the demand for labor remains a significant issue. Graduates must be proactive in acquiring the skills and experience needed to thrive in a competitive job market. At the same time, there is a need for continued efforts by the government, educational institutions, and the private sector to create an environment that fosters job creation, skills development, and entrepreneurship. By addressing these challenges, Kenya can unlock the potential of its young workforce and drive sustainable economic growth.

Kamomonti teaches English and Literature in Gatundu North Sub County. He is the author of "Maintaining Healthy Boundaries in Schools."

Diaspora

M23 claims deliberate ceasefire violations by Kinshasa-backed forces

The M23 rebel group has accused the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and allied troops of “deliberately violating” the ceasefire agreement in the ongoing conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

By: BRUHAN MAKONG.
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Worth Noting:

- In February, Rwandan President Paul Kagame demanded the demobilization and repatriation of the DRC-backed FDLR as a condition for de-escalating the conflict with Kinshasa.
- The demand followed calls from the United States for Rwanda to withdraw its troops from the DRC and remove its surface-to-air missile systems, citing concerns over civilian safety and commercial flight operations in eastern DRC.
- President Kagame has remained firm, stating that DRC’s support for the FDLR “is a matter of state policy, not the choice of individual actors.”
- He emphasized that ending Congolese state support for the FDLR and ensuring their demobilization and repatriation to Rwanda are non-negotiable requirements for protecting Rwanda’s territorial integrity.



Uganda withdraws troops and Ugandan-owned equipment from DRC on December 14, 2023/EACRF

The M23 rebel group has accused the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) and allied troops of “deliberately violating” the ceasefire agreement in the ongoing conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In a statement on Wednesday, M23 Spokesperson Lawrence Kanyuka claimed Kinshasa-backed rebels including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Wazalendo militias were breaching the ceasefire “deliberately”. Kanyuka also implicated peacekeeping troops, including the National Defense Forces of Burundi, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) forces, and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), in the said violations. He called on the international community to intervene, stating that Kinshasa’s actions threaten ongoing peace efforts.

“The Alliance Fleuve Congo (AFC) calls on regional leaders and international partners, whose efforts to resolve the conflict in Eastern DRC are increasingly jeopardized by this latest deliberate ceasefire violation,” Kanyuka said. The M23 also accused the FDLR of kidnapping a Kenyan woman truck driver on August 27, in violation of the ceasefire. **Abducted Kenyan woman** Kanyuka identified the woman as Frolence Wanza Munyao, 45, from Machakos. He said rebels abducted her at noon in Kisegeuro. Nairobi has yet to issue a statement regarding the alleged abduction. Furthermore, the M23 blamed the FDLR for continuing to disrupt local agricultural activities through kidnappings and looting. Kanyuka reaffirmed the commitment of the AFC to defend their rights against what he described as “terrorist acts”. “Our organization stands

with our compatriots and reiterates its commitment to protecting them and defending their rights against these terrorist acts,” he stated. **Angola-brokered deal** DRC and Rwanda signed the latest ceasefire, brokered by Angola, on July 30. However, both sides have continued to accuse each other of undermining peace efforts. In February, Rwandan President Paul Kagame demanded the demobilization and repatriation of the DRC-backed FDLR as a condition for de-escalating the conflict with Kinshasa. The demand followed calls from the United States for Rwanda to withdraw its troops from the DRC and remove its surface-to-air missile systems, citing concerns over civilian safety and commercial flight operations in eastern DRC. President Kagame has remained firm, stating that DRC’s support for the FDLR “is a matter of state policy,

not the choice of individual actors.” He emphasized that ending Congolese state support for the FDLR and ensuring their demobilization and repatriation to Rwanda are non-negotiable requirements for protecting Rwanda’s territorial integrity. **Tensions at peak** Tensions between Kigali and Kinshasa hit the peak after Kagame criticized President Felix Tshisekedi on August 11 for allegedly failing to address the deteriorating security situation in the region. Speaking while assuming his fourth term in office on August 11, Kagame termed Kinshasa an impediment to peace efforts. “Peace in the region is a priority for Rwanda. Yet it has been lacking, particularly in Eastern DRC. But peace can’t be delivered by anyone, from anywhere, no matter how powerful, when the party directly concerned does not do what is needed,” Kagame said in a veiled attack at President Tshisekedi.

Kagame stressed that without Kinshasa’s cooperation, “sincere mediation efforts by the mandated regional leaders cannot work as intended.” He was referring to regional peace initiatives, including the EAC-led Nairobi Process and the Angola-led Luanda Process, spearheaded by former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Angola’s President Joao Lourenco. The conflict in DRC has displaced at least 7.4 million people including 2.8 million in North Kivu alone according to UN estimates with the numbers expected to rise.

E-commerce widening Africa's online market

When Benard Mungai started his shoe business in Nairobi, Kenya, back in 2015, he could only trade in secondhand shoes in the city's Gikomba open air market.

By: China Daily
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Worth Noting:

• German data and business intelligence platform Statista estimates that last year Kenya grew to be the third-largest e-commerce market in Africa, driven by the increase in internet penetration, making it an attractive investment market. Kenya, whose e-commerce revenue is expected to have a positive annual average growth of 16 percent by 2025, is ranked third in the continent's e-commerce market penetration behind Egypt and South Africa.

• Following the success of Kilimall, the local e-commerce sector also sprang up in Kenya in recent years. Before 2014, the dominant players in Kenya's e-commerce sector included global online malls such as the United States-based Amazon, which offered free shipping for items, but they would take about a month to arrive. They also did not ship high-value items such as designer watches or gold-plated jewelry to certain zones, thus failing to attract higher spenders.



Employees work at a warehouse of Kilimall in Kenya. LI YAHUI/XINHUA

When Benard Mungai started his shoe business in Nairobi, Kenya, back in 2015, he could only trade in secondhand shoes in the city's Gikomba open air market. However, as his business grew over the years, he managed to open his first shop in 2018 and needed to upgrade his stock to new shoes for his customers. After various endeavors to secure a reliable supply of merchandise, he came across Kilimall, a local e-commerce platform. "It was recommended by my fellow traders. From this website, I can order goods from any country in Asia, Europe or the Americas and many other places across the globe which do not ship to Kenya. Most importantly, their turnaround is fast," Mungai said.

Taking advantage of the e-commerce platform, Mungai has earned his clients' trust for delivering genuine sneakers, sports jerseys and other items because he gets his supplies from the source through the online hub, which sources them directly from prequalified merchants and delivers directly to him. Kilimall, which was founded by Yang Tao, a former

employee of a Chinese tech firm's branch in Kenya in 2014, has so far grown to be a leading e-commerce platform in Kenya, attracting more than 10 million registered users and an average of over 1 million monthly visitors.

The popularity of e-commerce has transformed business models in the East African country and brought great convenience to the lives of locals. In Nairobi, online shopping and food delivery are as popular and swift as in China.

Kilimall's senior marketing supervisor Dickson Nganga said that the platform offers services that provide more variety and convenience for shoppers, especially those in businesses, by saving them the cost and trouble of traveling to far-away markets.

Third-largest market

Nganga pointed out that there is increasing demand for numerous products from different global markets, and through online shopping they hope to tap into the growing demand for global products from East Africa's bulging middle-income group.

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The successful entry of Kilimall into the Kenyan e-commerce space in 2014 led to the birth of more players in

the industry with platforms like Germany-based Jumia, Spain's Glovo, Nigeria-based Jiji and Kenya's own Masoko. This expansion has created many opportunities for locals, with the number of users expected to exceed 12 million this year, accounting for nearly a quarter of Kenya's total population. Liao Zhengrong, Kilimall's brand director, recently told Xinhua News Agency that under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a key platform for bilateral cooperation, Kilimall has received great support and grown rapidly. Digital technology is also an important area of China-Africa cooperation stressed during the 8th ministerial meeting of the FOCAC, held in Senegal in 2021.

Cross-border platforms

Through this digital cooperation, other Chinese e-commerce giants such as Alibaba, Pinduoduo and JD have also launched cross-border platforms, which have helped in expanding Africa's digital space.

Nganga said that owing to the rising numbers of tech-savvy youth who are

acquiring global tastes in the region, e-commerce platform Kilimall plans to scale its operations beyond Kenya into the wider East African region.

"From last year we started going to wider East Africa, starting with Tanzania. This will be a great opportunity for our sellers to ship products across the continent," Nganga said.

Mungai, whose footwear business is now thriving, said that he credits the expansion of the Kenyan e-commerce market for helping him open two shops in Nairobi's central business district. He currently imports an average of 300 pairs of shoes per month through Kilimall.

"When I used to sell secondhand shoes in the open air market, I would hear people talking about importers and exporters and I would think it involved big money and big ships and many months of waiting. Nowadays, I tell my friends that I am a mobile importer because all I have to do is to order my merchandise through my phone," Mungai said.

Kenya and UK Commit to Advancing Disability Inclusion at Regional Summit in Nairobi

By: Contributor

The UK government joined Kenya at the regional disability summit held in Nairobi, focused on the theme “Persons with Disabilities in a Post-Pandemic World.”

Organized in collaboration with the African Disability Forum (ADF), the forum aimed to address the challenges facing persons with disabilities (PWDs) across Africa, ahead of the Global Disability Summit scheduled for April 2025.

Kenya’s Secretary to the Cabinet, Mercy Wanjau, represented the government at the summit, which underscored the growing role of assistive technology in creating equal opportunities for PWDs in the post-pandemic era.

The event highlighted strides made since the inaugural Global Disability Summit, co-hosted by the UK and Kenya in 2018, with both countries making significant progress in advancing disability inclusion.

A key initiative launched by the UK is InnovateNow, Africa’s first assistive technology accelerator, which supports startups with expert mentorship, live labs, and knowledge exchanges. The program also partnered with Shujaaz comics to challenge societal stigma by featuring characters with disabilities. Through the UK’s Digital Access Programme, over 10,000 PWDs and senior citizens in Kenya have been empowered with basic digital skills, enabling them to access government services through platforms like e-Citizen.

During the summit, Mercy Wanjau reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment



Participants at the African Disability Forum (ADF) in Nairobi on September 5, 2024. The UK government joined Kenya in discussing the challenges facing persons with disabilities (PWDs) across Africa, under the theme ‘Persons with Disabilities in a Post-Pandemic World,’ in preparation for the Global Disability Summit in 2025. /Handout.

to disability inclusion, announcing ongoing improvements to the e-Citizen platform and State House website to ensure accessibility for all users following a 2023 audit. “Prioritizing accessibility and equity in a post-pandemic world will meaningfully contribute to a shared future,” she said.

UK Social Development Advisor, Dr. Jacqueline Owigo, emphasized

the importance of global collaboration as the world prepares for the 2025 summit. “Governments, the private sector, civil society, and international partners must unite to create a more inclusive society,” she noted.

Under the UK-funded Inclusive Futures initiative, led by Sightsavers, Kenya has seen progress in disability-inclusive education and

livelihoods. County governments have committed KES 300 million to developing over 250 inclusive early childhood development centers by 2027, providing children with disabilities an opportunity to learn alongside their peers.

Sightsavers’ Country Director in Kenya, Moses Chege, highlighted the need for continued focus on PWDs, stressing that they are still

more likely to live in poverty and face barriers to education, health-care, and employment.

The summit served as a pivotal moment in the journey toward disability inclusion, with both Kenya and the UK reaffirming their commitment to ensuring no one is left behind.

Africa CDC

Africa CDC allocates 2,000 doses of mpox vaccine to Uganda

By: Xinhua

Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has allocated 2,000 doses of mpox vaccine to Uganda, a senior government official said on Friday.

Ugandan Minister of Health Jane Ruth Aceng told reporters that the vaccines are expected to arrive soon and will cover up to 1,000 individuals. “Furthermore, (the) government is working with development partners to secure additional doses of the mpox vaccine,” she said. “The Ministry of Health is working on the most appropriate modalities for the most equitable delivery and distribution of these vaccines informed by the epidemiology and severity of the disease.”

Uganda, which confirmed the outbreak of the highly infectious viral disease in early August, so far has recorded 10 cases of mpox and 49 contacts across northern, eastern, central, and western regions as well as Kampala, the country’s capital, with four individuals recovering from the

disease and six receiving treatment, according to the ministry. “I want to reassure you all to remain calm and vigilant, as the Ministry of Health is in full control of the situation. The country is extremely safe for tourism, travel, and trade, and everyone is welcome,” said Aceng, urging the public to maintain good personal hygiene.

The World Health Organization in August declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, sounding the alarm over its potential for further international transmission. Mpox, also known as monkeypox, is an infectious disease caused by the monkeypox virus that is spread through close contact, with symptoms including fever, swelling of the lymph nodes, sore throat, muscle aches, skin rash, and back pain.



Telegram CEO Durov says his arrest ‘misguided’

Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov has hit out at French authorities, calling his arrest last week in relation to allegations of insufficient moderation on the messaging app “misguided”.

By: BBC.
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Worth Noting:

- “Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools,” he added.
- While he conceded that Telegram was not perfect, he said French authorities had several ways to get in touch with him and with Telegram, and that the app has an official representative in the EU.
- “The claims in some media that Telegram is some sort of anarchic paradise are absolutely untrue. We take down millions of harmful posts and channels every day,” he insisted.
- Telegram allows groups of up to 200,000 members, which critics have argued makes it easier for misinformation to spread, and for users to share conspiracist, neo-Nazi, paedophilic, or terror-related content.



Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov

Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov has hit out at French authorities, calling his arrest last week in relation to allegations of insufficient moderation on the messaging app “misguided”. In his first public statement since he was detained, he denied claims that Telegram is “some sort of anarchic paradise” as “absolutely untrue”. Mr Durov was arrested on 25 August at an airport north of Paris and has since been charged over suspected complicity in allowing illicit transactions, drug trafficking, fraud and the spread of child sex abuse images to flourish on his site. In Mr Durov’s statement, which he published on Telegram, he said holding him responsible for crimes

committed by third parties on the platform was both a “surprising” and “misguided approach”. “If a country is unhappy with an Internet service, the established practice is to start a legal action against the service itself,” the Russian-born billionaire, who is also a French national, said. “Using laws from the pre-smartphone era to charge a CEO with crimes committed by third parties on the platform he manages is a misguided approach.” “Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools,” he added. While he conceded that Telegram was not perfect,

he said French authorities had several ways to get in touch with him and with Telegram, and that the app has an official representative in the EU. “The claims in some media that Telegram is some sort of anarchic paradise are absolutely untrue. We take down millions of harmful posts and channels every day,” he insisted. Telegram allows groups of up to 200,000 members, which critics have argued makes it easier for misinformation to spread, and for users to share conspiracist, neo-Nazi, paedophilic, or terror-related content. Recently in the UK, the app has been scrutinised for hosting far-right channels that were instrumental in organising violent disorder

in English cities last month. Telegram did remove some groups, however cybersecurity experts say overall its system of moderating extremist and illegal content is significantly weaker than that of other social media companies and messenger apps. In his statement on Thursday, Mr Durov admitted that an “abrupt increase” in the number of users on the messaging app – which he put at 950 million – had “caused growing pains that made it easier for criminals to abuse our platform.” He said he would aim to “significantly improve things in this regard”. It comes after the BBC learned last week that Telegram has refused to join international programmes

aimed at detecting and removing child abuse material online. Pavel Durov, 39, was born in Russia and now lives in Dubai, where Telegram is based. He holds citizenship of the United Arab Emirates and France. Telegram, which he founded in 2013, is particularly popular in Russia, Ukraine and former Soviet Union states. The app was banned in Russia in 2018, after a previous refusal by him to hand over user data. The ban was reversed in 2021. Telegram is ranked as one of the major social media platforms after Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok and Wechat.