

Britain continued to be plunged into chaos as the brutal 2026 summer piled on more misery and continued to take toll as Britons awaited rains

Britain Heatwave

Three-quarters of the country is facing drought, in which 2,877 people in Britain have died from heat-related causes, according to the British health authorities:



Another Week Of Misery, Drought, And Wildfires Hit The Nation: Chaos As Hundreds Die In Tinderbox Britain Heatwave, Homes Razed, Buses Ablaze, Trains Derailed

By: Shamlal Puri
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Britain continued to be plunged into chaos as the brutal 2026 summer piled on more misery and continued to take toll as Britons awaited rains. The dry weather hit the British capital with a vengeance for several months. Rain clouds played hide-and-seek over London. It hadn't rained in London for more than 40 days during



Heatwave horror...Houses ablaze in Stourbridge, Staffordshire leaving 19 families homeless.

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The Diaspora Times Global

Zimbabwe's Life Technical Training Institute marks Education 5.0 milestone

By Azriel Chimeno

In Kadoma last Friday, mortar was poured for a new permanent facility at Victory Park and more than 300 graduates tossed their caps into the air — all on the same day. At Life Technical Training Institute, the

Zimbabwean government's push to take Education 5.0 to every corner of the country moved from policy to practice during the institute's historic combined groundbreaking and third graduation ceremony. The event was officiated by Mashonaland West Minister of State for

Provincial Affairs and Devolution Marian Chombo, represented by Tirivangani Matare, Acting Director for Finance and Human Resources in the minister's office. The ceremony underscored a clear shift in national direction: technical colleges are no longer being concen-

trated in a handful of urban centres. Government is actively decentralising skills training so that communities can produce the artisans, in-

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Panama Canal cuts ship crossings as El Niño threatens global trade arteries

By: Diaspora Times Team
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Worth Noting:

- Approximately 14,000 ships transit the Panama Canal annually, operating through a waterway that functions continuously, every hour of every day of the year. The canal generates roughly \$3B annually for Panama, making it not merely a feat of engineering but the economic backbone of the country. Any sustained reduction in capacity carries consequences that extend well beyond the ships in the queue — affecting commodity prices, supply chain timelines and the cost of goods in markets far removed from Central America.
- El Niño, the periodically recurring pattern of sea surface warming in the Pacific Ocean, affects weather systems globally, altering rainfall, temperature and storm patterns across multiple continents simultaneously.

The Panama Canal Authority yesterday announced a reduction in the number of vessels permitted to transit the world's most strategically important waterway, cutting daily crossings from 36 to 32 ships beginning 15 September, as an unusually powerful El Niño weather pattern drives water levels to critically low levels and forces the hand of an already stretched global shipping industry.

The decision, communicated formally to shipping firms on Thursday, represents the latest blow to international trade logistics at a moment of exceptional fragility. The ACP said the measures were necessary "to preserve service reliability and safeguard water resources for human consumption," adding that despite the arrival of the rainy season in Central America and the implementation of existing water-conservation measures, additional action was required "to support the long-term sustainability of transit operations." The phased restrictions will begin on 3 September, ahead of the full reduction taking effect two weeks later.

The timing is deeply uncomfortable for an industry already operating under severe strain. The ongoing conflict involving Iran has caused a dramatic reduction in vessel traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's other critical maritime chokepoints, forcing shipping companies to absorb higher costs, longer routes and compounding logistical complexity. The simultaneous restriction of capacity at Panama — the artificial waterway that saves vessels thousands of miles and multiple days of sailing between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans — compounds an already difficult operational environment in ways that will inevitably filter through to consumers

and businesses worldwide.

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El Niño, the periodically recurring pattern of sea surface warming in the Pacific Ocean, affects weather systems globally, altering rainfall, temperature and storm patterns across multiple continents simultaneously. This year's event is expected to be among the most powerful ever recorded, with its natural effects amplified by the longer-term trajectory of climate change in ways that scientists have been warning about for years. The canal's operation depends directly on rainfall filling the Gatun Lake reservoir system that supplies both the water needed to operate its locks and the drinking water consumed by hundreds of thousands of Panamanians. When rainfall falls short — as it did dramatically during the last significant El Niño period in 2023, when Panama recorded its driest October since records began in 1950 — the ACP faces an impossible set of competing pressures between commercial and humanitarian obligations.

In 2023, the authority responded to that crisis by cutting vessel numbers and imposing draft restrictions that forced ships to carry lighter loads, effectively re-



A cargo ship and tugboat sail through the Cocoli Locks at the Panama Canal

ducing the cargo capacity of every transit. The current restrictions arrive against a backdrop of water-saving measures introduced in the aftermath of that episode, suggesting that even a reformed operational approach cannot fully insulate the canal against the scale of climatic disruption now being forecast.

The broader implications of this vulnerability deserve serious attention from governments and businesses that have built supply chains around the assumption of reliable canal access. The Panama Canal is not merely a shortcut. For many trade routes, it is the only economically viable connection between manufacturing centres in Asia and consumer markets on the eastern seaboard of the Americas, or between energy producers on one ocean

and importers on the other. When its capacity contracts, the ripple effects are wide and rapid.

Shipping rates on affected routes are likely to rise as vessel operators compete for a reduced number of transit slots, with those costs eventually absorbed by importers, retailers and ultimately consumers. Agricultural commodities, manufactured goods, energy products and raw materials all move through the canal in volumes that make any sustained restriction a matter of global economic consequence rather than regional operational inconvenience.

For Panama itself, the stakes are simultaneously economic and existential. A waterway that contributes \$3B annually to a relatively small economy cannot afford to be seen as unreliable.

The ACP's careful language around sustainability and service reliability reflects an institution acutely aware that its long-term commercial credibility depends on demonstrating that it can manage climatic disruption without allowing the canal to become a bottleneck that shipping companies route around permanently. The deeper question — one that the current restrictions make impossible to avoid — is whether infrastructure designed and built in a different climatic era can be adapted quickly enough to remain fit for purpose in the one we now inhabit.

El Niño will pass. The underlying climate trajectory will not.

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Plastic

Is it time to abandon plastic? The future of biodegradable packaging in the food industry



By: **Maxsumaxon Minavvarxonova**
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Worth Noting:

Uzbekistan has considerable potential to participate in this global transformation. The country's agricultural sector generates substantial quantities of plant-based raw materials that could be used in the production of biodegradable packaging. Agricultural by-products, including starch-rich crops and plant fibers, may serve as valuable resources for developing domestic packaging technologies

The package surrounding a food product often receives less attention than the product itself. Consumers usually focus on ingredients, nutritional value, price, and shelf life, while packaging is considered only a protective layer. However, scientists and environmental experts argue that packaging has become one of the most important factors affecting both food safety and environmental sustainability.

For decades, plastic has dominated the global packaging industry. Its popularity is easy to explain. Plastic is inexpensive, lightweight, durable, and easy to manufacture. These characteristics have made it the preferred material for preserving and transporting food products. Nevertheless, the widespread use of plastic has created a serious environmental problem that continues to grow every year.

According to international environmental organizations, millions of tons of plastic waste enter natural ecosystems annually. A significant proportion of this waste originates from single-use food packaging. Plastic containers, bags, bottles, and wrapping materials accumulate in landfills, rivers, and oceans, where they remain for decades or even centuries. Unlike organic materials, conventional plastics do not decompose naturally within a short period. As a result, they continue to threaten ecosystems, wildlife, and human health.

The food industry faces a difficult challenge. On the one hand, packaging is essential for protecting products from contamination, extending shelf life, and ensuring safe transportation. On the other hand, excessive dependence on plastic contributes to environmental degradation. This contradiction has encouraged researchers to search for more sustainable alternatives.

Biodegradable packaging has emerged as one of the most promising solutions. These materials are designed to decompose naturally under specific environmental conditions through the activity of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. Unlike traditional plastics, biodegradable materials can be converted into water, carbon dioxide, and organic matter without leaving harmful residues.

Scientists have developed various biodegradable materials using renewable biological resources. Starch-based polymers, cellulose, chitosan, proteins, and other plant-derived compounds are increasingly being used in experimental and commercial packaging systems. These materials not only reduce environmental pollution but also decrease dependence on petroleum-based products.

One of the most significant advantages of biodegradable packaging is its compatibility with the principles of the circular economy. The traditional economic model follows a simple pattern: produce, use, and discard. In

contrast, the circular economy emphasizes resource recovery, recycling, and reuse. Biodegradable materials support this approach by returning to the natural environment after their useful life has ended.

Modern packaging technologies have expanded beyond simple food protection. Today, researchers are developing intelligent and active packaging systems capable of monitoring product quality and extending shelf life. Some biodegradable films contain natural antimicrobial compounds that inhibit bacterial growth. Others include antioxidant substances that slow oxidation and preserve food quality. These innovations demonstrate that environmentally friendly packaging can provide benefits that extend far beyond waste reduction.

The transition toward sustainable packaging has already begun in many countries. Governments are introducing regulations that limit the use of single-use plastics, while manufacturers are investing in alternative materials. Consumer behavior is also changing. People are becoming more aware of environmental issues and increasingly prefer products packaged in environmentally responsible materials.

Uzbekistan has considerable potential to participate in this global transformation. The country's agricultural sector generates substantial quantities of plant-based raw materials that could be used in the production of



biodegradable packaging. Agricultural by-products, including starch-rich crops and plant fibers, may serve as valuable resources for developing domestic packaging technologies.

The adoption of biodegradable packaging could provide several important economic benefits. First, it could reduce environmental cleanup costs. Second, it could create new employment opportunities in agriculture and manufacturing. Third, it could strengthen the competitiveness of domestic food producers by allowing them to meet international environmental standards.

Despite these advantages, several challenges remain. The production cost of biodegradable materials is often higher than that of conventional plastics. In addition, some biodegradable materials do not yet provide the same mechanical strength and barrier properties required for specific food products. Further scientific research and technological innovation are therefore necessary to improve material performance and reduce production costs.

Education also plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable packaging. Con-

sumers must understand that environmental protection requires changes in daily habits. Reducing plastic consumption, supporting environmentally responsible businesses, and choosing sustainable products can collectively contribute to meaningful environmental improvements.

The future of the food industry will depend not only on the quality of food products but also on the sustainability of the technologies used to produce and package them. Biodegradable packaging represents more than a technological innovation; it reflects a broader commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

The question is no longer whether the world should reduce its dependence on plastic. The real question is how quickly societies, industries, and consumers can adapt to more sustainable alternatives. The answer may determine the environmental conditions inherited by future generations.

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AWS bets \$1B on putting AI engineers inside your business

Amazon’s cloud giant is moving beyond selling tools to embedding specialists directly inside customer organisations — and the implications for how companies adopt artificial intelligence could be far-reaching

By: **Diaspora Times Team**
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Amazon Web Services has announced a \$1B investment to place thousands of artificial intelligence specialists directly inside customer organisations, marking a fundamental shift in how the world’s dominant cloud computing platform intends to help businesses move from experimenting with AI to deploying it in the everyday operations that drive revenue, cut costs and determine competitive advantage.

The new AWS Forward Deployed Engineering organisation — known internally as FDE — represents one of the most ambitious bets yet on the proposition that the primary barrier to meaningful AI adoption is not access to technology but access to the human expertise needed to make that technology work in the messy, complex, regulation-laden reality of actual business operations. AWS is wagering that by embedding its engineers directly inside client teams, it can compress deployment timelines from months to days and leave organisations with functioning AI systems, new internal capabilities and the confidence to operate independently once the engagement ends.

The distinction from traditional technology consultancy is deliberate and significant. AWS has been explicit that FDE engagements will focus on business outcomes rather than billable hours — a pointed departure from a consulting model that critics have long argued creates perverse incentives to extend rather than resolve complexity. “Customers are intended to leave with functioning AI systems, as well as new engineering skills, workflows and technical capabilities,” the company said, framing the initiative as capacity-building rather than dependency creation.

At the centre of the FDE model is what AWS calls the AI-Driven Development Lifecycle — a framework in which AI agents assist across the software development process while human engineers oversee, verify and course-correct their work. The approach reflects a broader industry consensus that the most productive near-term applications of AI in enterprise settings are not fully autonomous systems operating without human oversight, but hybrid models in which AI handles volume and speed while people provide judgement, accountability and contextual understanding.

The systems FDE teams will build are described as “agentic” — capable of carrying out tasks and making decisions with limited human intervention, within boundaries defined by the customer’s own data,



governance requirements and existing processes. A semantic layer deployed inside the customer’s AWS environment connects to enterprise data sources, enriches metadata and creates what the company describes as a governed, versioned knowledge graph that AI agents can navigate. The design is explicitly intended to keep an organisation’s specialist knowledge embedded in its software and data infrastructure rather than concentrated in individual employees or external consultants who may leave, retire or move on.

Security, AWS said, will be built into every deployment from the outset rather than retrofitted after the fact. Hardware-based isolation, end-to-end encryption and strict adherence to each customer’s governance framework are described as foundational requirements rather than optional add-ons. For regulated industries — financial services, healthcare, government agencies — where the consequences of a data breach or a governance failure can be severe and reputationally catastrophic, those assurances are not incidental. They are frequently the deciding factor in whether AI projects proceed at all.

The organisations already working with FDE offer a revealing cross-section of the industries AWS regards as most ready for this kind of deep engagement. The National Football League, the National Basketball Association, Cox Automotive,

Southwest Airlines, Ricoh and the Allen Institute are among the early partners, spanning entertainment, transportation, manufacturing and scientific research. The NFL’s experience is particularly instructive. Gary Brantley, the league’s chief information officer, described how the partnership produced fan-facing products — NFL Fantasy AI and NFL IQ — that allowed supporters to interact with league data in entirely new ways, with measurable engagement from broadcasters and fans from the first day of launch. “To create new digital experiences for our fans, the NFL partnered with AWS FDE and got engineers building alongside our team to launch into production in just weeks,” Brantley said. The speed of that deployment — weeks rather than the months or years that enterprise technology projects typically consume — is precisely the outcome AWS is positioning as the defining advantage of the FDE model.

The investment builds on a foundation that AWS has been constructing for nearly a decade. The company has been developing AI solutions for enterprise customers since 2017, and its Generative AI Innovation Center has worked on thousands of customer projects over the past three years alone. Those engagements have included work with BMW to reduce service disruptions across a fleet of 23 million connected vehicles, with manufacturing technology company Jabil to develop an

AI assistant for factory workers, and with ride-sharing platform Lyft to resolve driver-support issues 87 per cent faster. Each of those outcomes represents not a proof of concept but a deployed, operational system delivering measurable commercial results — exactly the kind of evidence AWS will use to make the case for FDE to prospective customers who remain sceptical about whether AI can move beyond the pilot stage.

The timing of the announcement reflects a broader inflection point in enterprise AI adoption. The past three years have seen an extraordinary volume of AI experimentation across virtually every industry, driven by the accessibility of large language models and the competitive pressure to be seen engaging with the technology. But experimentation and deployment are different things, and the gap between them has proved wider and more treacherous than many organisations anticipated. Building a convincing demonstration of AI capability in a controlled environment is a very different engineering challenge from integrating that capability into legacy systems, regulatory frameworks, security architectures and human workflows that were designed long before AI was a consideration.

That gap is the market AWS is targeting with its \$1B investment. The companies most likely to engage FDE are those that have already cleared the conceptual and political

hurdles — leadership is convinced, budget has been allocated, a use case has been identified — but have discovered that the path from strategic commitment to operational reality requires a level of specialised expertise that they cannot easily hire, develop or retain internally. For those organisations, the proposition of borrowing AWS engineers who have already solved comparable problems elsewhere, working inside the customer’s own environment under the customer’s own governance framework, addresses a genuine and expensive problem.

The competitive implications extend well beyond Amazon. Microsoft, Google and a growing array of specialised AI implementation firms are all competing for the same enterprise opportunity, and the FDE announcement will accelerate pressure on each of them to articulate their own answer to the deployment gap. The race to sell AI infrastructure has already produced extraordinary revenue growth across the cloud computing industry. The race to help customers actually use that infrastructure at scale is only now beginning in earnest.

AWS has placed its bet. One billion dollars says that the future of enterprise AI is not a product sitting in a marketplace waiting to be downloaded. It is an engineer sitting at your desk, building something that works.

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Conservation

Kaptagat: The forest must be protected, but Conservation must never lose sight of the People



BY Fredrick Chelimo
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There is a danger that the current debate surrounding the fencing of the Kaptagat Forest ecosystem will become trapped in the language of controversy: the fence, the personalities behind the conservation effort, political suspicion and competing institutional narratives. Such a narrow reading would do a profound injustice to what Kaptagat represents. This is not fundamentally a story about a fence. It is a story about whether Kenya can restore a damaged ecosystem, protect that investment and, at the same time, ensure that the communities living around the forest are not treated as collateral damage in the name of conservation. The Kaptagat experience, particularly through the Kaptagat Integrated Conservation Programme (KICP), offers an important lesson: forests are restored by people, but they survive only when people, institutions and law develop a shared interest in protecting them.

KICP was founded in 2017 by Dr. Chris Kiptoo as a community-oriented initiative intended to mobilise forest-edge communities and restore degraded sections of the Kaptagat ecosystem. Its approach has been broader than tree planting, incorporating livelihood improvement, clean household energy, water management and ecosystem restoration. That distinction matters. The history of environmental degradation is rarely a simple story of people deliberately destroying nature. More often, forests become victims of poverty, inadequate energy alternatives, insecure livelihoods and the absence of economically viable choices. A conservation programme that plants millions of trees without addressing those pressures may create impressive photographs, but it does not necessarily create a durable conservation system. KICP's more important contribution has therefore been its attempt to connect ecological restoration with the economic realities of the people living around the ecosystem.

This is also why Dr. Kiptoo's role deserves a more nuanced interpretation than the increasingly personalised debate sometimes allows. There is a fundamental difference between a conservation patron supporting mobilisation, resources, advocacy and community engagement and a person attempting to usurp the statutory mandate of the Kenya Forest Service. The documented relationship between KICP and KFS suggests complementarity rather than institutional substitution: KFS brings statutory authority, forest-



Kaptagat

ry expertise, seedlings and policy support, while KICP contributes community mobilisation, field engagement, continuity and public advocacy. Community Forest Associations add something equally important—local knowledge, community legitimacy and an understanding of the realities of forest-dependent households. In a complex ecosystem, these functions are not competitors; they are pieces of the same institutional puzzle.

The scale of restoration already undertaken makes the argument for protection even more compelling. The available accounts point to substantial areas of Kaptagat having been reclaimed through the combined efforts of communities and partners, with millions of seedlings planted. Although different sources cite different figures for the area rehabilitated, that variation should not obscure the larger achievement: significant ecological and human investment has gone into recovering a landscape that had experienced serious degradation. The uncomfortable truth of conservation is that restoration without protection can become an expensive revolving door. Trees are planted, vegetation returns, public enthusiasm rises—and then the same pressures that caused degradation gradually begin to undo the work. Protection is therefore not the enemy of restoration; it is the mechanism through which restoration becomes permanent.

The ongoing fencing must consequently be judged not by the existence of a physical barrier but by the management philosophy behind it. There is a profound difference between regulated access and exclusion. An uncontrolled forest-entry system makes it difficult to distinguish legitimate users from illegal loggers, charcoal burners, encroachers and uncontrolled grazers. It weakens surveillance and makes

accountability almost impossible. A properly designed regulated-access system, by contrast, can establish designated entry points, clarify legitimate uses, strengthen monitoring and protect ecologically sensitive areas. The crucial question is therefore not simply, "Why is there a fence?" but, "What system of rights, responsibilities and access exists behind the fence?"

That distinction is where the debate should become more sophisticated. A forest is not protected merely because human beings are kept outside it. Nor is a forest sustainably managed simply because everyone is allowed to enter it. One extreme produces exclusion and resentment; the other can produce degradation disguised as community access. The wiser path lies between the two: regulated community participation under clear, transparent and enforceable rules. If legitimate forest users understand where they may enter, what resources they may access, what activities are prohibited, what alternatives are available and how grievances will be resolved, a fence can become an instrument of conservation rather than a symbol of dispossession.

This is where the credibility of the entire initiative will ultimately be tested. Public participation cannot be reduced to a meeting convened to satisfy a procedural requirement. People living around Kaptagat deserve to know precisely how the new arrangement will affect them. They deserve clarity on access points, user rights, grazing arrangements, forest products, alternative livelihoods, grievance mechanisms and enforcement procedures. Equally, communities must accept that conservation cannot mean unrestricted access to a recovering ecosystem. Rights come with responsibilities. If the forest is treated as an unlimited resource simply because communi-

ties have historically depended on it, then restoration will eventually become another casualty of short-term necessity.

KICP, KFS and the Community Forest Associations (CFAs) therefore have a rare opportunity to transform the present disagreement into a stronger conservation compact. KICP should continue to act as a bridge between government policy and community realities rather than allowing its legacy to become entangled in institutional rivalry. Dr. Kiptoo's public influence can be used constructively—not to compete with KFS, but to encourage dialogue, defend evidence and help communities understand why protecting the gains of restoration matters. KFS, for its part, must demonstrate that statutory authority does not mean administrative arrogance. Conservation is more likely to succeed when communities see government as a partner rather than an enforcer arriving after decisions have already been made. Community Forest Associations must also play their part by articulating legitimate grievances while helping their communities understand the ecological limits of unrestricted forest use.

The comparison between restoration and protection is ultimately instructive. Planting trees is an act of hope; protecting them is an act of discipline. Mobilising communities is an act of inclusion; establishing rules is an act of responsibility. Government authority provides legitimacy; community ownership provides durability. None of these can succeed alone. Kaptagat should therefore resist becoming another theatre of political confrontation. The real prize is much larger than any individual, organisation or government agency. A functioning Kaptagat ecosystem contributes to water security, biodiversity, soil conservation, climate resilience and the long-term wellbe-

ing of communities far beyond the forest boundary. The people around Kaptagat need livelihoods that do not require them to destroy their natural inheritance, while the nation needs water towers that can continue serving generations yet unborn. The sensible response, therefore, is neither to dismantle a conservation intervention merely because it has generated controversy nor to dismiss community concerns in the name of environmental protection. It is to examine the evidence, improve transparency, listen seriously, correct misinformation, address legitimate grievances and strengthen what has demonstrably worked. Kaptagat has already shown that communities, government and conservation partners can come together to restore a wounded ecosystem. Its next and more difficult test is whether they can demonstrate that protecting the forest and respecting the people can be two sides of the same conservation covenant.

Dr. Chris Kiptoo's words provide perhaps the most appropriate philosophy for that undertaking: "Every time I plant a tree seedling, it reminds me that it's not about me. It's about us. It's about humanity." That is precisely how Kaptagat should now be understood—not as KICP versus KFS, not government versus communities, and not one personality against another, but as a shared national inheritance whose true measure of success will be whether the forest survives, whether communities prosper alongside it, and whether future generations inherit something better than what we received.

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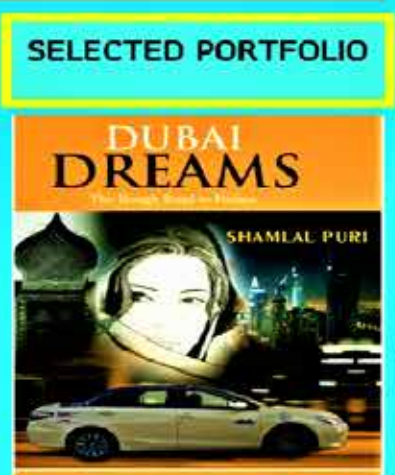
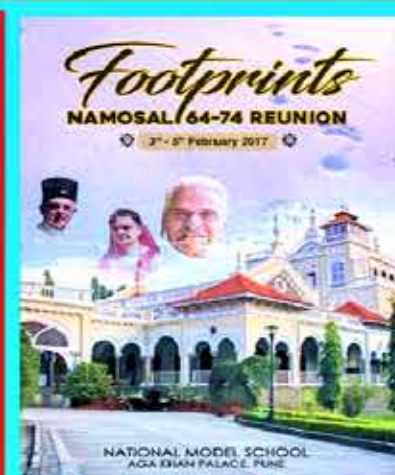
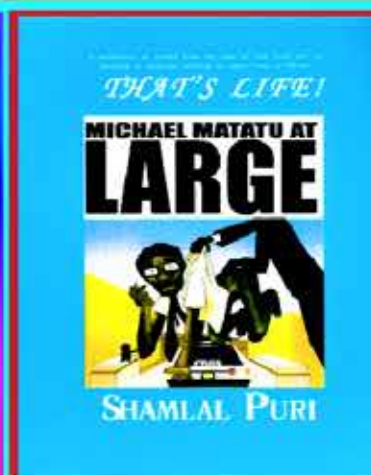
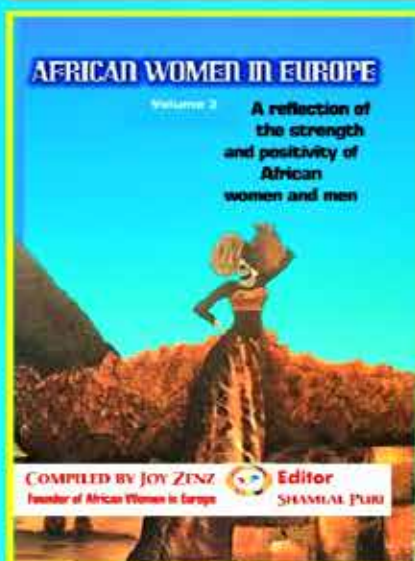
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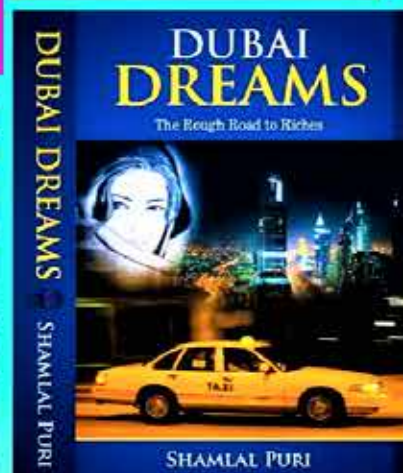
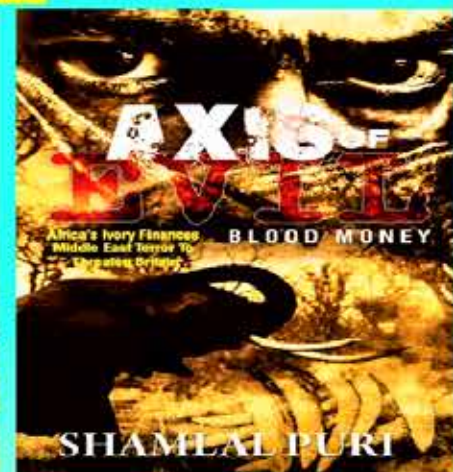
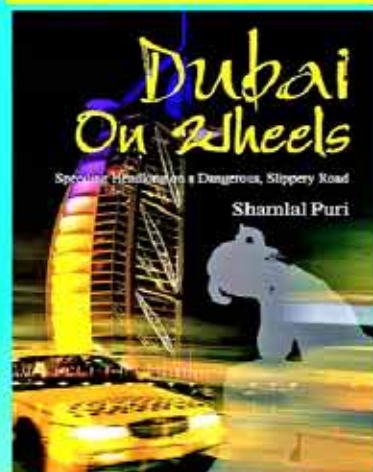
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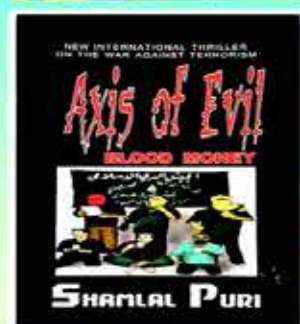
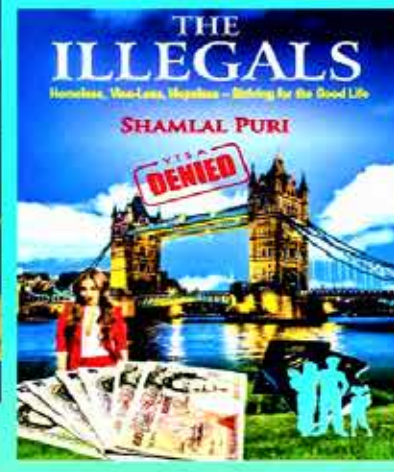
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UK News

Another Week Of Misery, Drought, And Wildfires Hit The Nation: Chaos As Hundreds Die In Tinderbox Britain Heatwave, Homes Razed, Buses Ablaze, Trains Derailed



By: Sham Lal Puri
Associate Publisher
& Senior Editor - UK
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Contd from Page 1

Worth Noting:

- As the Government grappled with the continuing incidents of wildfires this week, it sent a warning to 88.4 million British mobile phone users, warning them with a sound blast that would normally be used in the event of an attack on the country, as expected, sparking political flares from the opposition Conservative Party which accused the government of misusing the warning system reserved to warn of impending war and attacks.
- The 2026 summer has been the worst on record, with drought that has taken a serious toll on the country resulting in 1,205 wildfires in the past few months of 2026 and 43 in a spate of a few days.
- In Wales, known for its lush green land, mountains and valleys, there have been fires in the mountains.
- The heatwave has set ablaze 38 houses in the Stourbridge, Staffordshire, of which 19 were destroyed.



Emergency services at the scene of a train derailment between Haywards Heath and Lewis in East Sussex, UK. Aerial Photo Courtesy

June, July, and early August, except for light, scattered showers on August 4, which hardly made an impact. Londoners had not seen real rain for several months. Then, in a turn of events, and as if Londoners' prayers had been answered, it finally rained in the early hours of Wednesday morning, 19 August - still not with enough - only 32 mm. July has been a scorcher with temperatures nudging 40 Degrees Celsius - the driest since records began 190 years ago.

Three-quarters of the country is facing drought, in which 2,877 people in Britain have died from heat-related causes, according to the British health authorities. As the Government grappled with the continuing incidents of wildfires this week, it sent a warning to 88.4 million British mobile phone users, warning them with a sound blast that would normally be used in the event of an attack on the country, as expected, sparking political flares from the opposition Conservative Party which accused the government of misusing the warning system reserved to warn of impending war and attacks.

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in the mountains.

The heatwave has set ablaze 38 houses in the Stourbridge, Staffordshire, of which 19 were destroyed. Prime Minister Andy Burnham visited Stourbridge to meet residents affected by wildfire damage and thank firefighters, emergency responders and local resilience partners who worked to protect lives and property.

There is a continued shortage of water in many parts of the country, and to add to the current dangers, ironically, several parts of the country, including London, have seen burst water mains with streets getting flooded. Water companies have been blamed for laxity in protecting the country's already dwindling water supplies caused by the drought and parched land in many parts of the country. Rivers have dried up with parched riverbeds.

Added to the woes, there have been two rail derailments in different parts of the country in the past two weeks.

The scorching sun, with temperatures nudging close to 38 degrees Celsius, kept England's hospitals busy with record-breaking heat as the key factor. More than 2.4 million patients attended emergency departments over the 12 weeks leading to July - the highest recorded totals in history.

The extreme heat has caused people to fall ill with dehydration and heatstroke, and has increased the risk of complications for those with heart, kidney and respiratory problems.



This London bus caught fire in a city suburb with passengers in it during the heatwave. No injuries were reported. Photo Courtesy



Bus accidents in London when professional and trained drivers passed out in the heatwave. Photo Courtesy



Smoke over the forest of Stourbridge where many houses were ablaze in the heatwave. Photo Courtesy Midlands Fire Service

Unions warned staff were being forced to work in inhumane conditions because of the heat, with some staff members collapsing and others having seizures. The problems have been further complicated by equipment, including scanners

and IT systems, breaking down. Alongside A&Es, ambulance services also reported significant pressures. Nurses have fainted while on duty at the hospitals.

Millions of mobile phone owners in England and

Wales were sent an Emergency Alert last week to step up action to protect communities from the growing threat posed by wildfires as

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UK News

Another Week Of Misery, Drought, And Wildfires Hit The Nation: Chaos As Hundreds Die In Tinderbox Britain Heatwave, Homes Razed, Buses Ablaze, Trains Derailed

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Worth Noting:

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- Added to the woes, there have been two rail derailments in different parts of the country in the past two weeks.
- The scorching sun, with temperatures nudging close to 38 degrees Celsius, kept England's hospitals busy with record-breaking heat as the key factor. More than 2.4 million patients attended emergency departments over the 12 weeks leading to July - the highest recorded totals in history.
- The extreme heat has caused people to fall ill with dehydration and heatstroke, and has increased the risk of complications for those with heart, kidney and respiratory problems.

risks remained very high. The alert, sent on a rolling basis warned people not to light anything that could spark a fire, including barbecues, campfires, and fireworks. Recipients were urged to report any fire. The move followed as fire-fighters battled the effects of major incidents across parts of the country, following some of the most challenging conditions seen in recent years. Helicopters ferried thousands of litres of water to spray on the flames, each chopper carrying 1,200 litres. As part of the Government's action to protect local areas and prevent further fires, the Prime Minister announced a package of immediate support for communities and frontline services. This includes emergency funding for fire and rescue services facing the greatest operational pressures, military assistance in South Wales where around 100 personnel were immediately deployed to support response and recovery efforts, and a temporary nationwide ban on the sale of disposable barbecues. A further 100 members of the Armed Forces were also deployed. Retailers were notified to remove disposable barbecues from sale immediately. The temporary measure will remain under review but will stay in place while the heightened wildfire risk continues. The Government also urged insurers to process claims as quickly as possible for affected households and businesses, ensuring families receive support without unnecessary delay. For areas hardest hit by wildfire damage, there is a scheme to help local authorities meet exceptional recovery costs, while ministers stand ready to consider requests swiftly. Alongside the immediate response, the Government is looking for long-term planning. Later this year, ministers will convene a national wildfire summit bringing together fire chiefs, the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Fire Brigades Union and other partners to strengthen future preparedness and consider what additional capabilities may be required to respond to increasingly severe weather events.

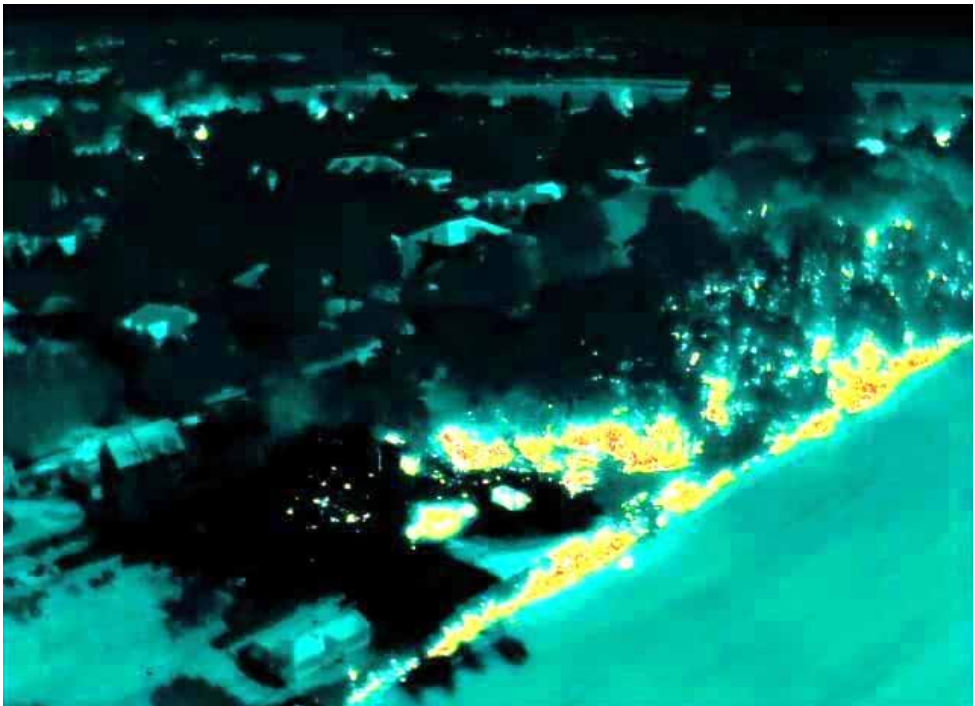
The summit will build on the Government's existing investment in wildfire resilience, including £97 million for fire service training and specialist equipment. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has also written to local authorities across England reminding them of the powers available to restrict activities that could increase fire risk, including the use of Public Spaces Protection Orders to limit barbecues, campfires and other forms of open fire in vulnerable areas. The Government is working closely with local authorities, emergency services and devolved administrations to monitor conditions and take further action where necessary. The latest measures followed a meeting of COBR, the top security arm of the government, chaired by the Prime Minister last week. The meeting aimed to reduce the pressures on emergency services; people are reminded to be extra cautious in the dry conditions. This means: Do not light fires or open flames in the countryside or other open spaces, including parks, moorland and wooded areas. Never leave a household barbecue unattended and ensure it is fully extinguished after use. They were asked to dispose of smoking materials carefully and never throw cigarette ends from vehicles, take litter home, particularly glass bottles which can intensify sunlight and increase fire risk. First Secretary, Louise Haigh, said: "In response to the continued risk from wildfires, the government has decided to issue an Emergency Alert to England and Wales. This is the most extensive use of the UK's Emergency Alert system in response to an active incident, and reflects the seriousness with which the government is acting to safeguard people and property." Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner said: It is awful to see the devastation fires have caused across the country. I'm very grateful to all the first responders working so hard to keep people safe. Some fire-



Large diameter burst water mains such as this in Liverpool caused a lot of losses and water shortages, adding to the headache of Britons. Photo Courtesy



'Red Alert' temperatures last week drove a significant increase in water demand across the Thames Water region. Londoners use some 750 million litres of water daily.



Horror scenes of homes on fire causing huge damage in Stourbridge due to wildfires and five heatwaves. Photo Midlands Fire Service

fighters were taken to hospital as a result of incidents yesterday, and I pay tribute to their bravery and com-

mitment. To the residents affected, particularly those who lost their homes and their life's

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UK News

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possessions to fire – we will work with the mayor and local leaders to make sure you are supported.”

In another development infuriating Britons, water companies that have been asking their customers to control the use of water and imposing hose pipe bans, and to take shorter showers, have been authorised to increase bills by an extra Pounds 3.4 billion in the coming years to meet increased pressure on infrastructure and the environment.

Nearly a third of the extra funding provisionally approved for 13 water companies in England and Wales is earmarked for making sure water services are maintained.

Some of the rest will be used to meet rising demand from housebuilding and data centres and to address pollutants known as “forever chemicals”.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham is angry, saying the proposal was “real money out of family budgets at a time when they are struggling with the cost of living”, and an environmental group described the decision as “an insult”.

Customers of five water companies - Severn Trent Water, Southern Water, Thames Water, Wessex Water, and South East Water - are facing additional bill rises over the next two years, on top of increases that were already announced in 2024.

The new increases will vary between firms.

Southern, for example, will charge £43 extra next year, while South Eastern will only charge £1 more in 2029. The increases will only come into effect if they are given final approval later this year.

These charges are unacceptable to consumers, and there is a possibility of consumer action to block them. They believe the water companies are being given a blank cheque to inflate their profits.

The other eight water firms identified - Anglian Water, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Hafren Dyfrdwy, Northumbrian Water, South West Water, United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, SES Water - would recover their additional spending through customer bills after 2030.

Many consumers are angry at being asked to pay anything more against a backdrop of interruptions to supply sometimes lasting for days, and rivers, lakes and beaches too polluted to use safely.

The regulator, Ofwat, said the extra spending would enable the firms to support growth and better environmental outcomes, and ensure important upgrades were not delayed.

“We will track performance to ensure companies are delivering the expected improvements for customers and the environment,” said Helen Campbell, executive director for

delivery at Ofwat.

“If they don’t, expenditure can be clawed back.”

London’s bus drivers threatened to go on strike, warning that extreme 44 Degrees Celsius heat in cabs could lead to fatal crashes.

There have been some bus crashes with passengers getting injured in London. And, one bus caught fire in the capital.

Some drivers have fallen ill with heatstroke while driving their buses. Temperatures are so high in bus cabs that drivers risk causing fatal crashes and passing out at the wheel, striking drivers have warned. Drivers likened their cabs to being in a greenhouse or oven, with temperatures exceeding 40C as a because of having no air conditioning in record heatwave conditions.

As the UK endured its fifth heatwave of the 2026 summer, more than 1,500 bus drivers from eight garages in London threatened two days of industrial action.

Drivers reported falling ill with heatstroke, refusing to drive buses and narrowly avoiding crashes because of their working conditions.

There have been several bus crashes in London, with one bus going in flames and drivers crashing, injuring some of their passengers.

The drivers’ union Unite, which backed the strikes, are urging bus companies to replace their air cooling systems with air conditioning.

One driver, who did not wish to be identified, claimed that when he gets into the bus, it’s boiling, making him drowsy, sticky with sweat, nauseated and wanting to throw up.

Another driver in a London suburb made an unscheduled stop in the High Street to go and drink cold water to quench his thirst as he had run out of water.

The bus drivers were right to complain about the poor working conditions, and many members of the public supported their action to go on strike.

The bus drivers’ cabs are like a microwave or an oven when it gets very hot. Even if they opened the cab window, all they get is hot air as there is no ventilation.

The striking drivers demonstrated peacefully holding placards reading “Too hot to work. Act now!” and handed out leaflets reading “No to heatstroke” as cars and other vehicles honked their horns to support them.

The Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, said the drivers have a right to refuse to drive a bus if it is too hot.

The drivers fear that with the heatwave, they or their colleagues can pass out on the wheel, posing a severe danger to a 14-tonne bus loaded with 80 passengers.

They also feared that a small incident like a cyclist or a scooter coming from the side road could rattle a fatigued driver, because if there was excessive heat, there could be a fatality.

A spokesman for one of the bus companies said efforts were underway to give more facilities to drivers and more breaks in between duty hours. Planning was also underway to provide better cooling systems in the buses and the drivers’ cabs.

The heatwave caused serious issues with railways after two trains derailed in less than 24 hours.

On Friday, British Transport Police said the rear carriages of a Greater Anglia train, carrying 40 passengers, derailed in an upright position at Wickford railway station in Essex, east of London. Passengers were shocked, but there were no reported injuries.

On Thursday, two people were seriously injured when several Southern Rail train carriages derailed near Lewes in East Sussex, ending up on their side, trapping passengers on board.

According to rail experts, the soil under the train tracks had loosened, possibly leading to the accidents.

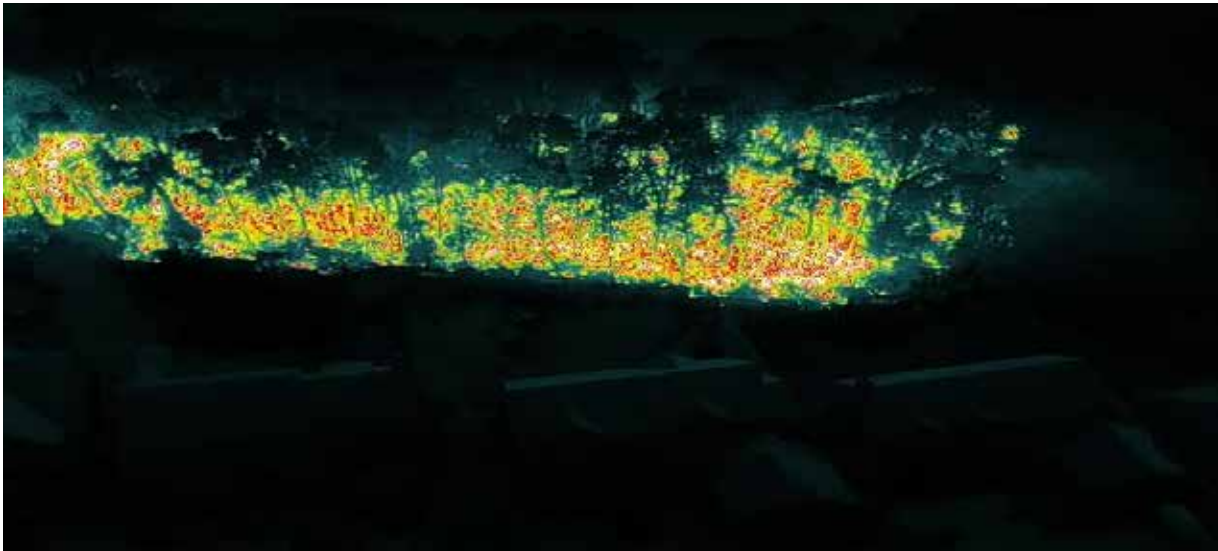
It was also revealed that rail tracks had not been examined for a long time, loosening the soil underneath. Britain is hardly out of the woods. The drought conditions remain, and control on the use of water is in place until the country has torrential rains, which would lead to another catastrophe... floods.



Derailed number two within 24 hours. This train left the track leaving passengers, who received a jolt, in shock. Photo |Courtesy



Helicopters carried thousands of litres of water to douse the flames. Photo Bala Fire Crew.



Uncontrollable wildfire... The Stourbridge forest fire caused a lot of damage. Photo Midlands Fire Service

NEWSPAPER



IN BUSINESS

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WORLD

Zimbabwe's Life Technical Training Institute marks Education 5.0 milestone

Groundbreaking and graduation on the same day in Kadoma signal a new chapter in Zimbabwe's drive to decentralise skills training



By: Chimeno Azriel
azrielchimeno@gmail.com
Zimbabwe

Worth Noting:

- The ceremony underscored a clear shift in national direction: technical colleges are no longer being concentrated in a handful of urban centres. Government is actively decentralising skills training so that communities can produce the artisans, innovators and entrepreneurs needed to drive local industry.
- Education 5.0 expands the traditional university mandate of teaching and research to include community service, innovation and industrialisation. The goal is to produce graduates who do not merely seek jobs — but create them. Under the intensified rollout, government is establishing and upgrading technical colleges across Zimbabwe to bring training closer to where people live. The approach is deliberate: a student in Kadoma should be able to study courses that speak directly to Kadoma's economy, without the cost and disruption of relocating to Harare or Bulawayo.

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Speaking on behalf of Chombo, Matare set the tone early. "We are taking the university to the people. Every province must have the capacity to train, research, and industrialise using its own resources. This is how we build an inclusive economy from the ground up," he said.

Matare then turned the sod at Victory Park, where new facilities will be constructed. The expansion will add workshops and laboratories for engineering, agriculture and ICT, with capacity to absorb more students from Mashonaland West and surrounding districts. He took time to thank Sanyati Rural District Council and the City of Kadoma for availing land following a request through the minister's office. "We want to sincerely thank both councils for responding positively. They have shown commitment to development by providing land for these important projects," he said.

Following further consultations, the college requested an expansion of the allocated land to accommodate both a Junior School and a Rehabilitation and Technical Facility. "This kind of collaboration between central government, local authorities and private institutions is exactly what our Devolution and Decentralisation programme supports. When we work together, development reaches the people faster," Matare said. Kadoma Central Member of Parliament Gift Mam-



Life Technical Training Institute Director Andrew Mugabe (R) and Co Director Mrs Mugabe (L) following the proceedings



The Graduates



The Graduates getting certificates

bipiri also made his mark on the day, pledging two tonnes of cement toward the construction of the new infrastructure — a gesture that drew loud applause. "I support institutions that are training our children with practical skills. This cement is my contribution to ensure that the infrastructure at Victory Park is completed on time so that more young people can be trained right here at home," he said.

Life Technical Training Institute Director Andrew Mugabe said the twin projects were designed to address two urgent needs in the province: early skills

formation for children, and rehabilitation with technical training for youth and adults. "At Victory Park, our Junior School will not just teach subjects. We will embed practical skills, innovation and entrepreneurship so that our children grow up with the confidence to create jobs, not just look for them," he said. "The Rehabilitation Centre and Technical Facility at Croc-na-Ragh Farm is about restoring dignity. We will provide technical skills training and support that enables people to become self-reliant — graduates who can feed their families, start businesses, and contribute



Dr Tirivangani Matare



Kadoma Urban Member of Parliament Gift Mambipiri



The Graduates



Guests receiving gifts

to the economy of Sanyati and beyond."

Mugabe appealed for continued partnership with government and the wider

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WORLD

Zimbabwe's Life Technical Training Institute marks Education 5.0 milestone

Groundbreaking and graduation on the same day in Kadoma signal a new chapter in Zimbabwe's drive to decentralise skills training

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Worth Noting:

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community. "We are building more than buildings here. We are building people. With the support of the minister's office and the councils, we can make this a centre of excellence for Mashonaland West," he said. Institute Chairperson Alexander George said the institute was aligning firmly with President Emmerson Mnangagwa's mantra of leaving no one and no place behind. "The institute will construct a rehabilitation centre so that those affected will get help, and after rehab, they will enrol at the college and acquire the necessary skills. For us, this is about giving people a second chance — first we restore them, then we equip them so they can contribute meaningfully to society and the economy," he said.

The centre will offer rehabilitation services alongside training in carpentry, welding, agricultural technology, ICT and hotel and catering, among other courses. Graduates will be linked to cooperatives and industry partners to support self-employment and reintegration. Then came the graduation. More than 300 learners received certificates in courses tied directly to industry needs: electrical engineering, cosmetics, motor mechanics and automotive engineering. The mix was intentional. Electrical and automotive graduates feed into Kadoma's mining and transport sectors; motor mechanics address the growing vehicle fleet; and cosmetics training targets entrepreneurship and the beauty value chain, giving graduates a clear path to establishing small businesses. Among those who graduated were Remember Maurukira and Chris Mashangwa, both deaf, who completed their studies with distinction — a moment that drew particular recognition from those present and reflected the institute's commitment to inclusive education. Graduates were candid about what the day meant to them. Beyonce Nyasha Rusere and Moleen Chari, both hospitality graduates, spoke with quiet confidence: "We were trained not just to serve, but to run our own businesses. Hospitality is about creating opportuni-



Ground Breaking Ceremony



Ground Breaking Ceremony



Guests receiving gifts

ties, and we are ready to start." Collen Chabvuta and Timothy Muleya from motor mechanics added: "We were taught diagnostics, not just repairs. Now we can fix modern vehicles and even train others in our communities." Junior Modzere from electrical engineering was equally direct: "The labs gave us real experience. We are going back to industry with skills that employers actually need." Others who shared their experiences included Future Makotose, Liznet Mhlanga, Rachel Chitubura and Tatenda Ngoma.

The broader case for decentralised technical colleges rests on three pillars. Access: rural and peri-urban students save significantly on transport and accommodation costs, enabling more young people — particularly girls — to enrol. Relevance: provincial colleges can align programmes to local economies, whether mining towns that need mechanics and electricians, farming areas that need agro-mechanics and irrigation technicians, or tourist regions that need hospitality and craft skills. Industrialisation: Education



Leadership

5.0 is anchored to Vision 2030, expecting graduates to conduct research, prototype products and partner with industry so that Zimbabwe imports fewer finished goods and exports more value-added products. Government has indicated that the Kadoma expansion is one of several college upgrades planned nationwide, with a focus on equipping workshops, recruiting qualified lecturers and signing industry partnerships for attachments and apprenticeships. Matare acknowledged that the rollout will depend on consistent funding, modern equipment and strong links with companies capable of absorbing gradu-

ates. He said the ministry is prioritising public-private partnerships and that similar groundbreaking events are planned for other provinces before the end of the year. It is worth noting that Life Technical Training Institute is currently operating from Waverly Primary and Secondary School facilities as a temporary arrangement while awaiting its permanent infrastructure. Once the Victory Park site is complete, the institute will relocate all academic and administrative operations to the new premises, significantly expanding its capacity. The shovel in the ground,

the land availed by the councils, the pledge from local leadership and the certificates in hand told a single story in Kadoma: Education 5.0 is moving. By holding its third graduation while breaking ground for expansion — with provincial, parliamentary, council and institutional leadership all present — Life Technical Training Institute showed the pipeline working in real time: restore, train, build capacity for more. In Kadoma last Friday, that future began.

America - Iran

Iran's defiance: Why Tehran says Washington's 'economic D-Day' is destined to fail

As the United States launches what it calls its most crushing economic operation ever, Iran's foreign minister reaches for history — and finds a pattern he likes

By: Diaspora Times Team
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

- The remarks, delivered via a pointed post on social media platform X, came two days after President Donald Trump announced what he described as “the most crushing economic operation ever taken” against any country providing economic support to Iran — a declaration he framed in the language of military conflict, calling it “an ECONOMIC D-DAY” and warning of “economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale.”
- Araghchi was unmoved. In a response as brief as it was withering, the foreign minister catalogued what he described as a consistent pattern of American overreach. “14 years ago: ‘Most crippling sanctions in history.’ Failed. 8 years ago: ‘Maximum pressure.’ Failed. 5 months ago: ‘Unconditional surrender.’ Failed. Today: ‘Most crushing economic operation ever.’ Bound to fail,” he wrote. The message was directed at Washington, but its audience was global — a reminder, carefully constructed for international consumption, that Iran has survived every previous iteration of American economic pressure and intends to survive this one too.

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi Saturday dismissed the United States' latest economic offensive against Tehran as destined to fail, drawing on four decades of American pressure campaigns that he argues have consistently collapsed against the weight of Iranian resilience and strategic patience.

The remarks, delivered via a pointed post on social media platform X, came two days after President Donald Trump announced what he described as “the most crushing economic operation ever taken” against any country providing economic support to Iran — a declaration he framed in the language of military conflict, calling it “an ECONOMIC D-DAY” and warning of “economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale.”

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The exchange marks a dramatic deterioration in relations between the two countries at a moment when diplomatic engagement had appeared, however tentatively, to be making progress. As recently as 18 June, Washington and Tehran signed a memorandum of understanding on ending regional hostilities across multiple fronts, including Lebanon — a document that represented the most significant formal engagement between the two governments in years and raised cautious hopes that a broader agreement on Iran's nuclear programme might eventually be within reach.

Under the terms of that memorandum, the two sides were scheduled to conduct negotiations within a 60-day window, a period that expired on Monday. The fate of those talks now hangs in considerable uncertainty following the escalation of the past several weeks, with each side accusing the other of acting in bad faith and the diplomatic architecture constructed in June appearing increasingly fragile.

For analysts watching the trajectory of American-Iranian relations, the current confrontation contains familiar elements. The pattern Araghchi identified in his post is not invented for rhetorical effect. The Obama administration's sanctions regime of the early 2010s was described at the time as the most comprehensive economic pressure ever applied to Iran, yet Tehran's nuclear programme continued to advance until the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — the Iran nuclear deal — provided a diplomatic off-ramp. The Trump administration's first-term “maximum pressure” campaign, launched after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, succeeded in severely damaging Iran's economy but failed to produce the capitulation or renegotiation that its architects predicted. Iran's uranium enrichment proceeded regardless, reaching levels that have since brought it closer to weapons-grade material than at any point in its history.

The question facing the current administration is whether this iteration of economic pressure represents something genuinely different in scale and design, or whether it is, as Tehran insists, a variation on a strategy that has repeatedly failed to achieve its stated objectives. Trump's framing of the measure as an “economic D-Day” — invoking the Allied landings of 1944 — suggests the White House believes this round of pressure is qualitatively more severe than anything that preceded it. The reference to countries “providing a lifeline to Iran” signals that the operation will target third-party nations and entities doing



Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi

business with Tehran, a so-called secondary sanctions approach that has previously been used to force multinational companies and foreign governments to choose between access to the American market and commercial relationships with Iran. China remains the central variable in that calculation. Beijing has consistently provided Iran with an economic cushion through oil purchases, trade relationships and diplomatic cover that has blunted the impact of successive American sanctions rounds. Whether the current administration has devised a mechanism capable of genuinely severing or significantly reducing Chinese-Iranian economic ties — something no previous administration has managed — will determine more than any other single factor whether this latest pressure campaign achieves results that its predecessors did not. Iran, for its part, has spent years developing what its government describes as an “economy of resistance” — a deliberate restructuring of domestic economic activity

designed to reduce dependence on oil revenues and international banking access and to route trade through channels less susceptible to American disruption. The degree to which that project has succeeded is contested, but it has undeniably made Iran's economy more difficult to isolate than it was a decade ago.

The human cost of that isolation, however, continues to fall on ordinary Iranians rather than on the political and military establishment that Western governments seek to pressure. Inflation, unemployment and currency depreciation have eroded living standards significantly over successive sanctions cycles, and the cumulative effect of decades of economic pressure has left Iran's middle class considerably diminished. Critics of the sanctions approach argue that this outcome — popular suffering without political change — is itself evidence of the strategy's fundamental limitations.

What makes the current moment particularly volatile is the collapse of the

diplomatic channel that appeared, briefly, to offer an alternative path. The June memorandum of understanding represented a genuine, if cautious, opening. Its apparent disintegration — before the 60-day negotiating window had even formally closed — suggests that the gap between what Washington is prepared to accept and what Tehran is willing to offer remains as wide as it has ever been.

Araghchi's post may read as defiance. But it is also a strategy. By positioning every round of American pressure as a failed historical precedent, Tehran is attempting to shape the narrative of inevitability — to persuade its own population, its regional partners and the watching world that the outcome of this confrontation is already written.

Washington, for its part, appears equally convinced that history will vindicate its approach.

One of them is wrong. The consequences of that error will be felt far beyond either capital.

SILAS MWAUDASHENI NANDE

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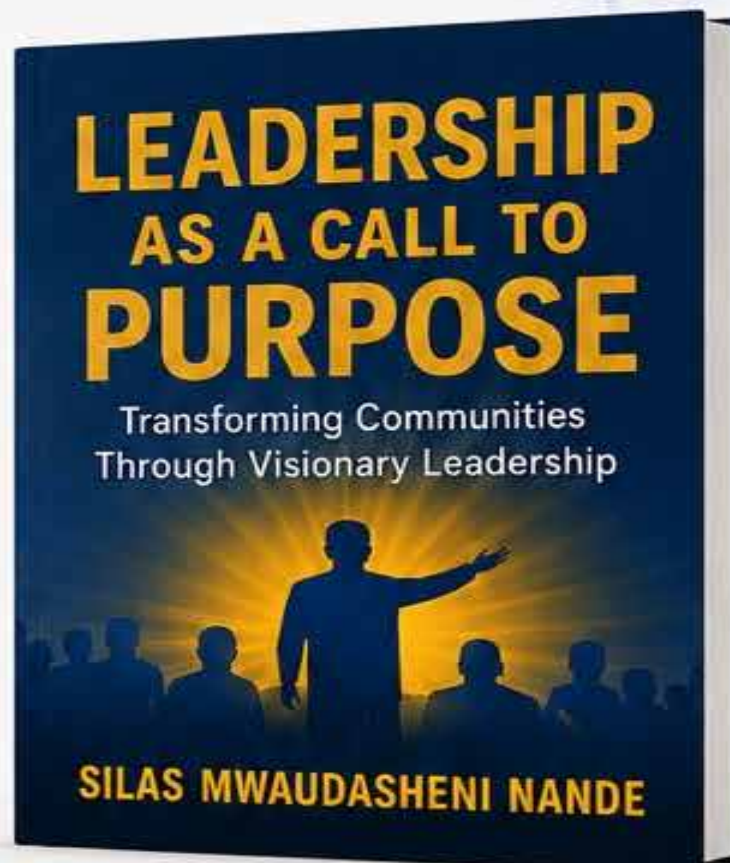
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Diaspora

In South Africa, two Chinese auto giants choose different roads

Chery bets on local manufacturing while BYD builds market share through imports and charging infrastructure — and both strategies could yet pay off

By: Njenga Hakeenah
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• The commitment aligns neatly with Pretoria's industrial ambitions. The South African government has set a target of increasing annual vehicle production to 1.4 million units by 2035, and Chery's investment positions it to benefit from the country's industrial incentives — including a 150 per cent tax deduction for qualifying investments in electric and hydrogen vehicle manufacturing. Proposed changes to the Automotive Production and Development Programme would further expand incentives for electric vehicle batteries, components and assembly, potentially making local production even more attractive over time.

• BYD has taken a different approach entirely. Rather than committing capital to factory floors, the world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer is expanding its retail footprint through dealerships — including outlets in shopping malls and smaller cities — while relying on imported vehicles to supply demand. It is a faster, leaner path to market share, and in South Africa's still-emerging electric vehicle landscape, the logic is sound.

Chinese automakers Chery and BYD are pursuing sharply divergent strategies in South Africa, the continent's largest and most sophisticated automotive manufacturing hub, with one betting on bricks-and-mortar production and the other on speed and retail reach.

Chery, China's largest vehicle exporter, is investing heavily to modernise the Rosslyn assembly plant near Pretoria, which it acquired from Nissan earlier this year following a deal announced in January. Local production is expected to begin in mid-2027, with the company positioning South Africa as its African hub for manufacturing, exports, research and development, and regional operations. Chery has committed to retaining all 692 employees at the plant, and vice-president Charlie Zhang has said the investment will ultimately support nearly 3,000 direct and indirect jobs across manufacturing, supply chains and related services.

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But BYD's ambitions ex-

tend well beyond vehicle sales. The company has announced plans to expand South Africa's electric vehicle charging network through partnerships with Eskom and other providers, directly targeting what remains one of the biggest obstacles to mass EV adoption in the country: range anxiety. The initiative will deploy ultra-fast chargers capable of adding up to 400 kilometres of driving range in approximately five minutes. Where possible, the network will combine grid electricity with solar power, easing pressure on South Africa's notoriously unreliable electricity supply — a practical acknowledgement that selling electric vehicles and building the infrastructure to support them are inseparable tasks.

The results of BYD's continental push are already visible in the data. According to the International Energy Agency's Global EV Outlook 2026, BYD's share of Africa's electric vehicle market rose from four per cent in 2023 to 35 per cent by 2025, a period during which European automakers saw their share fall from roughly 40 per cent. Across the continent, BYD has expanded rapidly into markets where used European vehicles still dominate overall car sales, increasingly offering new electric vehicles at price points that compete directly with second-hand imports.

The contrast between the two strategies reflects a broader question about how to win in Africa's automotive market over the long term. BYD's asset-light model offers faster sales growth and lower near-term risk. Chery's manufacturing investment will take longer to generate comparable returns, but carries a structural advantage that could prove decisive if African governments move towards more protectionist policies designed to support domestic production — making fully imported vehicles progressively less competitive.

For now, BYD looks well placed to retain its position as the continent's electric vehicle sales leader. Over time, however, the manufacturers that put down industrial roots — and align themselves with governments' ambitions for domestic job



People stand near a Chery Holding Group vehicle during the launch of the Chery manufacturing facility at the former Nissan factory in Rosslyn, Pretoria, South Africa. Photo Courtesy



BYD's new Dolphin Surf EV was showcased at a promotional event in Cape Town, South Africa on September 18, 2025. Image via BYD.

creation and industrial development — may find that patience turns out to be the most valuable strategy of all. South Africa's roads are wide enough for both approaches.

The question is which one leads further.



SUVs made by the Chinese automaker Chery are among the best selling in South Africa. Image via Chery South Africa.

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Diaspora

East Africa's new battle for the gateway

Kenya and Tanzania are racing to become the region's preferred trade corridor — but the real prize belongs to the landlocked economies watching from the middle

By: Levis Wangamati
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Worth Noting:

• The proposed refinery in Lamu has added another charged layer to the contest. Kenya's pursuit of Aliko Dangote's proposed facility — at an estimated cost of KSh2.2 trillion and a planned capacity of 700,000 barrels per day — represents an attempt to anchor East Africa's energy future on the Kenyan coast at a moment when Tanzania had previously been considered for a comparable project.



East Africa is entering a new and consequential phase of economic competition, fought not only in boardrooms and diplomatic corridors but at ports, along railway lines and across the trade routes that connect the region to the global economy — and the stakes have never been higher.

Kenya and Tanzania are positioning themselves as East Africa's preferred gateway to international trade. Mombasa and Dar es Salaam have long been at the centre of that contest, but the rivalry is expanding in ways that make it qualitatively different from anything that came before. Lamu and Tanga are emerging as strategic players, particularly in the race to become regional energy and logistics hubs, transforming what was once a relatively straightforward competition between two ports into something far more complex and consequential.

On the surface, the numbers favour Kenya. Mombasa's 2025 cargo throughput reached approximately 45 million tonnes, compared with 27 million tonnes at Dar es Salaam. Kenya's established Northern Corridor provides a functioning land bridge to several landlocked economies, and the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport corridor — the LAPSSET project — promises to extend that reach northward in ways that could reshape regional trade flows for generations.

But Tanzania is not standing still, and it would be a mistake to read the current gap in throughput figures as a settled verdict. Dar es Salaam is strengthening its position along the Central Corridor, while Tanga is being developed as a potential regional petroleum centre of genuine strategic significance. Uganda and Tanzania are advancing plans for

an oil hub at Tanga, encompassing storage facilities, a marine terminal, pipelines and a refinery intended to complement Uganda's planned Hima facility. That changes the nature of the competition decisively. For years, the battle was largely about which port could move containers more efficiently. Now it is increasingly about who can build the complete economic architecture around those ports and transform them into integrated corridors capable of attracting energy investment, manufacturing capacity and long-term industrial development.

The proposed refinery in Lamu has added another charged layer to the contest. Kenya's pursuit of Aliko Dangote's proposed facility — at an estimated cost of KSh2.2 trillion and a planned capacity of 700,000 barrels per day — represents an attempt to anchor East Africa's energy future on the Kenyan coast at a moment when Tanzania had previously been considered for a comparable project. The competition for that prize illustrates how thoroughly the contest has moved beyond traditional port metrics into the realm of energy security and regional industrial strategy.

And behind all of this are the landlocked economies whose choices will ultimately determine which corridors succeed.

Uganda does not have a coastline. Neither do Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan or the eastern reaches of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their access to global markets depends entirely on the efficiency, reliability and cost of the corridors running through neighbouring countries. That dependency gives them something increasingly valuable in a competitive regional environment: genuine choice. If one

route becomes too expensive, too slow or too congested, an alternative corridor becomes attractive. That is precisely why meaningful competition between Kenya and Tanzania could ultimately benefit the wider region rather than simply determining a winner between the two. A trader should not be compelled to depend on one route simply because geography leaves no alternative. Competition can force ports to improve, push transport costs downward and compel governments to dismantle some of the bureaucratic obstacles that make regional trade unnecessarily expensive and time-consuming.

But there is a critical caveat. Infrastructure competition becomes counterproductive — and ultimately damaging — when governments build projects primarily for prestige rather than genuine economic need. East Africa does not require duplicate infrastructure simply because political leaders want to claim ownership of the region's next great economic landmark. It needs infrastructure that works in concert, supports industrialisation and makes it materially cheaper to produce and move goods across borders.

That distinction is not merely technical. It has profound implications for how public investment should be evaluated and how regional cooperation should be structured. A modern deep-water port means relatively little if cargo spends days waiting at a border crossing. A standard gauge railway generates limited economic return if manufacturers lack goods to transport along it. A new energy hub cannot transform a region if the surrounding economies remain unable to produce enough output to justify the infrastructure. The hardware of development is

only as valuable as the economic activity it enables.

This is why the Kenya–Tanzania contest should ultimately be judged not by the size of terminals or the ambition of railway announcements, but by what happens beyond the ports. Which country creates more jobs in tradeable sectors? Which attracts more manufacturing investment? Which lowers the cost of doing business to a level that enables smaller enterprises to compete regionally? Which gives landlocked neighbours a faster, cheaper and more reliable connection to the rest of the world? Those questions carry more weight than any ribbon-cutting ceremony or throughput record.

There is also an important political dimension that deserves explicit acknowledgement. Kenya and Tanzania can compete economically without becoming diplomatic adversaries, and both countries have a compelling interest in maintaining connected infrastructure networks. The region benefits when goods can move through multiple efficient routes. A trader who can choose between Mombasa and Dar es Salaam depending on price, speed and reliability is better served than one who has no option but to accept whatever terms a monopoly corridor offers. Healthy competition and functional integration are not mutually exclusive — properly managed, they reinforce each other.

The wider opportunity is therefore not to eliminate competition but to make competition serve integration. If Kenya improves Mombasa while Tanzania develops Dar es Salaam and Tanga, East Africa gains multiple viable gateways to the global economy. If railway networks connect more effectively across borders

and governments achieve meaningful harmonisation of customs procedures, those gateways multiply in value. If energy infrastructure at Lamu and Tanga develops in ways that serve the region rather than duplicating it, the combined effect could be transformative.

East Africa has spent decades discussing regional integration in forums, summits and policy documents. The next test is whether that integration can move beyond political declaration and become visible in the cost of transporting a container, the price of fuel at an inland station, the hours spent crossing a border and the ease with which a business in Kigali or Kampala can sell goods across the region without navigating a labyrinth of regulatory inconsistency.

The battle for the gateway is already underway, and its intensity will only increase as infrastructure investments mature, energy projects come online and landlocked economies grow more sophisticated in how they evaluate their corridor options. But the winner should not simply be Kenya or Tanzania.

The real winner should be the East African trader who moves goods faster, the manufacturer who reaches new markets more cheaply, the young person who finds skilled employment because a new industry has taken root along a corridor, and the landlocked country that finally has more than one reliable, affordable route to the sea.

Mombasa and Dar es Salaam may be competing for cargo. East Africa should be competing for prosperity — and that is a race in which every country in the region can finish first.

Diaspora

The problem of antimicrobial resistance in pneumonia treatment and its analysis

Today, the treatment of pneumonia—one of the most prevalent and life-threatening infectious diseases of the respiratory system—remains one of the highest priorities for the global healthcare system.



By: **Feruza Boymurodova**
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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the global crisis arising in the treatment of pneumonia—one of the most common and dangerous diseases of the respiratory system—specifically the issue of antimicrobial resistance. The study explores the mechanisms of drug resistance development in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and other leading pathogens. Factors contributing to unchecked drug consumption among the population and the formation of hospital strains are highlighted. Furthermore, measures to establish rapid diagnostics via digital healthcare technologies and expand prophylactic vaccination are substantiated to increase the efficacy of treating respiratory tract infections.

Keywords: Pneumonia, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, resistance, prophylaxis, hospital strains, antibiotic.

INTRODUCTION

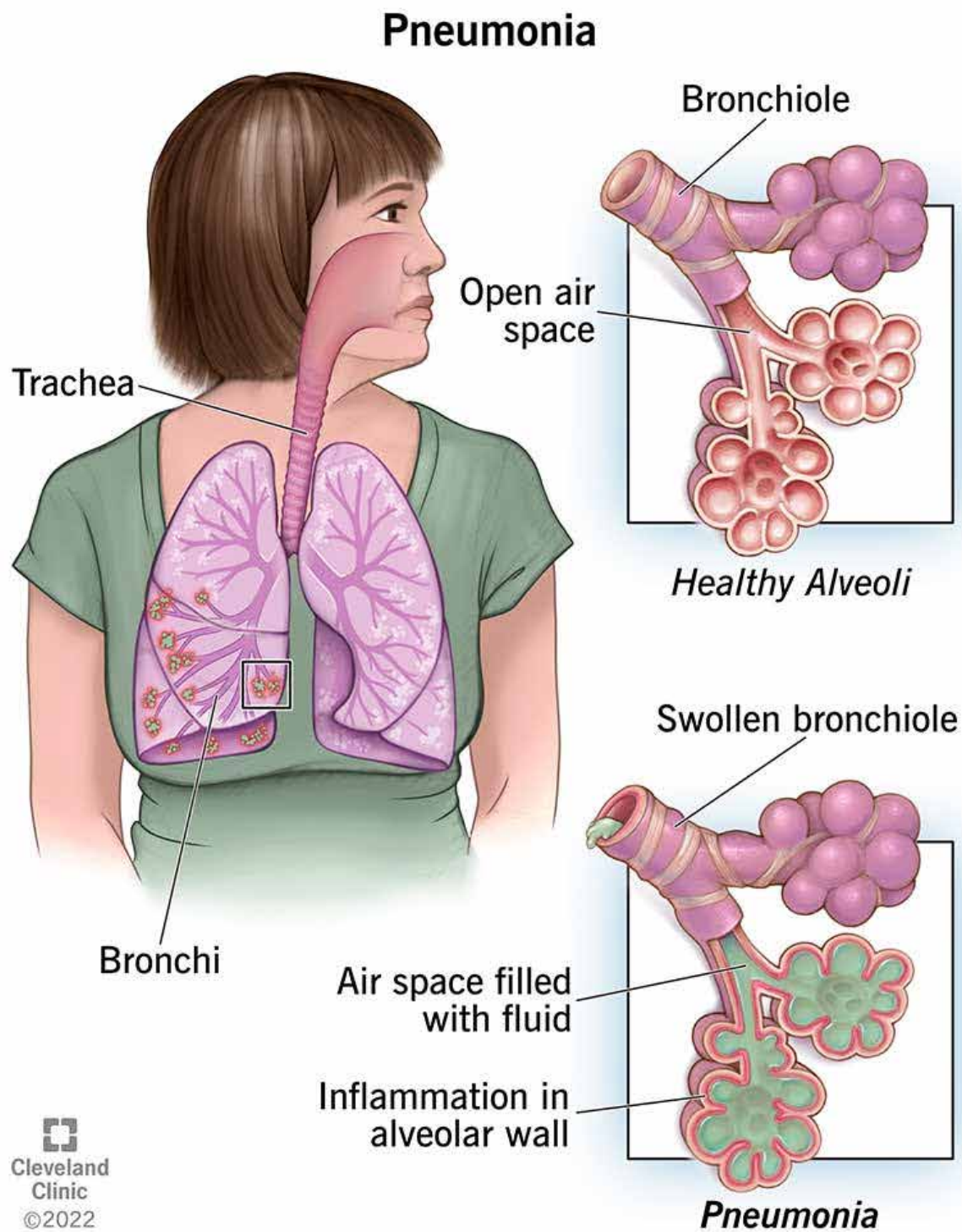
Today, the treatment of pneumonia—one of the most prevalent and life-threatening infectious diseases of the respiratory system—remains one of the highest priorities for the global healthcare system. Despite fundamental advances in modern pulmonology and clinical pharmacology, pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) continues to occupy a leading position worldwide in terms of morbidity and mortality among internal disease pathologies. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) crisis is ranked as one of the top ten serious global public health threats of the 21st century. Annually, more than 17 million people are diagnosed with pneumonia, with men being affected 30% more frequently than women. At the same time, the mortality rate for pneumonia is significantly higher compared to other diseases: standing at 8.04% for men and 9.07% for women.

Pneumonia is categorized into the following types based on its etiology: Infectious (Bacterial): Pathogens include pneumococcus, staphylococcus, and streptococcus. Viral: Caused by various viruses. Fungal: Caused by mold, yeast fungi, and others. Mixed: In this case, the lungs

can be simultaneously infected by two or more pathogens. In addition, helminths and simple parasites can also trigger pneumonia. Symptoms vary depending on the causative agent, as well as the patient's age and general condition. Symptoms include elevated body temperature, chills, weakness, fatigue, dyspnea (difficulty breathing), chest pain, a dry cough or a productive cough with sputum (sometimes mixed with blood), body temperature rising above 38°C, and nausea.

Low drug literacy among the population represents the greatest challenge. At the onset of simple acute respiratory viral infections (ARVI), influenza, or a mild cough, many individuals immediately begin taking potent antibiotics without consulting a physician. However, antibiotics have no effect on viruses; on the contrary, they eliminate normal body microflora, creating conditions for pathogenic bacteria to “acquaint” themselves with the drug and develop resistance. If a pneumonia strain proves to be drug-resistant, a 3–5-day delay can be fatal for the patient, potentially leading to sepsis or pulmonary destruction. The WHO warns that without drastic measures, deaths caused by antimicrobial resistance could surpass cancer deaths by 2050. Digitizing laboratory diagnostics and introducing technologies into hospitals that identify microbial species within hours—rather than several days—using PCR or new-generation rapid tests is essential. This enables physicians to initiate targeted therapy from the very first day. Prior to confirming pneumonia, the physician examines the patient and auscultates the lungs—where moist crackles and dullness on percussion may indicate the disease. Additionally, general and biochemical blood tests are ordered; elevations in ESR and leukocytosis serve as markers of the inflammatory process. PCR is a highly accurate laboratory method that detects the specific DNA or RNA genetic code of a pathogen (bacterial or viral) in biological material collected from the patient.

In pneumonia diagnostics, sputum, broncho alveolar lavage, or nasopharyngeal swabs are collected. DNA Extraction and Amplification: In the laboratory, the microbial genome is extracted using specialized reagents. The PCR machine amplifies (replicates) this target genetic sequence millions of times. Result Identification: If the pathogen (e.g., *Streptococcus pneumoniae*) is present in the biological specimen, the machine recognizes its DNA copies and emits a signal. Advantage: PCR can accurately detect the microbe even if present in minute quantities or in a non-viable state (for instance, if the patient has already initiated antibiotic therapy).



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The most commonly used rapid tests for pneumonia include:

Urinary Antigen Test: Specific proteins of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Legionella pneumophila*—the primary causative agents of pneumonia—are excreted in the patient's urine. A urine sample is collected and applied to a specialized test cassette.

Turnaround Time: Results are available via test lines within 15–20 minutes.

Advantage: Sampling is straightforward, particularly for severe patients unable to produce sputum or for pediatric patients, enabling diagnosis directly in the emergency room. Under current conditions where antibiotic resistance is growing into a global crisis, early initiation of an accurate, targeted therapy drastically reduces the risk of severe pneumonia complications, such as sepsis, lung destruction, and infectious-toxic shock. Digitizing diagnostic capabilities and equipping healthcare facilities with new-generation tests is not merely a techni-

cal upgrade, but the most effective strategy to save lives and overcome drug resistance.

CONCLUSION

The rise of drug resistance in pneumonia therapy represents a major issue that is not only clinical but also globally epidemiological. Insufficient drug culture among the population and the unsupervised use of antibiotics for viral infections have been identified as primary drivers of bacterial genetic mutations and the destruction of normal body microflora. Expanding rapid diagnostics in hospitals and strictly regulating pharmaceutical sales represent the highest-priority strategic directions for controlling and eliminating drug resistance.

Feruza Boymurodova was born on May 22, 2005, in the Kitob district of the Qashqadaryo region. She is currently a student at the Faculty of Medicine at Qarshi State University, actively conducting research at the

intersection of medicine and social projects.

She has participated in the “AI Girls Bootcamp” startup program in Tashkent, as well as the “RISE&GLOW” and “Kelajak” platforms. She has served as a volunteer in the “Salomatlik”, “Vitamed”, and “Oltin Qanot” organizations, and took part in the “Eng yaxshi targʻibotchi” (Best Promoter) competition. On an international level, she has been accepted into the Argentine Writers’ Union, and her scientific articles have been published in international collections.

In her submitted article, as a future physician and researcher, she places a strong emphasis on strengthening public health, advancing medical knowledge, and addressing pressing issues in practical medicine.

Women’s Health: Responsibility, Trust and Service to People

Feruza Fatkhullaevna Sadirova is a physician who has devoted her professional career to protecting women’s health, strengthening reproductive health, and ensuring safe motherhood.



By: **Abdullayeva Rushana**
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Worth Noting:

- After graduating from a higher educational institution, Feruza Fatkhullaevna began her professional career at Maternity Complex No. 6. It was there that the theory she had acquired during her years of study became part of real life. A completely different world opened before the young specialist — a world where every patient represents a woman with her own destiny, her own family, and sometimes an unborn child whose life has yet to begin.
- The work of a gynecologist requires not only profound medical knowledge. It requires endurance, attentiveness, compassion, and the ability to make responsible decisions. After all, a gynecologist is often responsible for the health of two people at once — a mother and her unborn child. Every woman who enters a doctor’s office brings not only a medical problem with her.

There are professions that people choose with their minds. And there are professions to which the heart leads them. The medical profession belongs to the latter. A doctor does not simply deal with a diagnosis or a medical record — a doctor comes into contact with human pain, hope, fear, and the most precious thing a person possesses: life. Feruza Fatkhullaevna Sadirova is a physician who has devoted her professional career to protecting women’s health, strengthening reproductive health, and ensuring safe motherhood. Today, she is also a mother of two children — a son and a daughter. Perhaps this is why the words “motherhood,” “women’s health,” and “responsibility” have not only professional but also deeply personal meaning for her. Feruza Fatkhullaevna grew up in a large family and is the youngest of five children. From childhood, she dreamed of becoming a doctor. Her parents supported her aspiration and wanted their daughter to choose a profession connected with caring for women and protecting their health. But the true value of a dream becomes clear when it turns into daily work. After graduating from a higher educational institution, Feruza Fatkhullaevna began her professional career at Maternity Complex No. 6. It was there that the theory she had acquired during her years of study became part of real life. A completely different world opened before the young specialist — a world where every patient represents a woman with her own destiny, her own family, and sometimes an unborn child whose life has yet to begin. The work of a gynecologist requires not only profound medical knowledge. It requires endurance, attentiveness, compassion, and the ability to make responsible decisions. After all, a gynecologist is often responsible for the health of two people at once — a mother and her unborn child. Every woman who enters a doctor’s office brings not only a medical problem with her. For some, there is anxiety about their future child; for others, fear of a diagnosis; and for others, hope for long-awaited motherhood. At such a moment, it is important for a doctor not only to make the correct diagnosis and prescribe treatment,

but also to listen to the person. That is why Feruza Fatkhullaevna considers trust to be one of the most important components of treatment. In her view, every patient should be treated with respect, attention, and kindness. Her chief physician has always emphasized the importance of treating patients in this way. Patients should be listened to carefully, their condition should be explained in simple and understandable language, and treatment should be provided in accordance with modern medical standards. Behind these seemingly simple words lies a profound truth: sometimes a person needs not only medicine, but also the confidence that they have truly been heard. Medicine is developing rapidly. New diagnostic and treatment methods are emerging, clinical recommendations are being updated, and scientific research is constantly advancing. Therefore, a true doctor cannot stop at the knowledge acquired at university. Continuous professional development becomes part of a physician’s daily responsibility. Feruza Fatkhullaevna pays great attention to self-education. She reads medical scientific literature, follows modern clinical recommendations, and studies scientific articles. In her free time, she is interested in psychology, personal development, and fiction. This approach makes us think: can a doctor truly help others if they stop learning themselves? Probably not. Medicine does not

tolerate stagnation. Yesterday’s knowledge may require a new perspective today, while today’s discovery may change a patient’s life tomorrow. Yet behind professional responsibility lies another important aspect of life — family. The medical profession requires a great deal of time, energy, and emotional commitment. Long working hours, patients, responsibility, and continuous education all become part of a doctor’s life. Nevertheless, Feruza Fatkhullaevna tries to maintain a balance between work and family and finds opportunities to spend meaningful time with her loved ones. According to her, the support of her family gives her strength and inspiration. Perhaps this is one of the greatest challenges facing a modern woman — being a professional, a mother, a wife, a daughter, and simply a human being who also needs rest and support from those close to her. Her own experience of motherhood is also significant. A doctor who cares for women’s health and future mothers every day understands personally how responsible and, at the same time, beautiful the journey of motherhood can be. Behind medical terms are real human stories — the anticipation of a child, the worries of an expectant mother, the joy of the first meeting, and the responsibility parents carry for a new life. But can the value of a doctor’s work be measured only by the number of patients treated or medical proce-

dures performed? Probably not. Sometimes the result of a doctor’s work is the smile of a woman who has finally heard good news. Sometimes it is the peace of mind of an expectant mother after a worrying consultation. Sometimes it is a problem detected in time that could otherwise have led to serious consequences. And sometimes the most important thing is simply saying: “Do not worry. You are not alone. We will help you.” That is why Feruza Fatkhullaevna views the medical profession not simply as a job, but as an opportunity to serve people. Today, as increasing attention is being paid to women’s and reproductive health, it is particularly important to speak not only about modern technologies and medical achievements, but also about the human side of medicine. Because even the most advanced technologies cannot replace a doctor’s attentive gaze, kind words, and ability to truly listen to a patient. The story of Feruza Fatkhullaevna is the story of a person who once chose a profession with her heart and continues to confirm that choice through her daily work. Her story reminds us of a simple yet profound truth: women’s health is not only the health of one individual. It is the health of a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a future mother — and therefore the health and well-being of an entire family and future generation. A doctor can prescribe treatment, conduct exam-

inations, and provide recommendations. But true medical service begins where professional knowledge meets humanity. And perhaps this is why respect for a doctor is born not simply when a person receives medical care, but when they feel that the specialist standing before them genuinely cares about their well-being. After all, preserving health means preserving life, hope, family, and the future. And caring for women’s health means caring for the future of society. Problems in Modern Medicine and Ways to Address Them Speaking about the achievements of medicine, we should not ignore the problems that still exist. The development of healthcare is not only about new technologies, modern equipment, and scientific discoveries. Above all, it is about ensuring that every person has access to timely, high-quality, and affordable medical care. One of the problems facing medicine today is the heavy workload placed on doctors. A large number of patients, limited time for each individual, and the need to handle documentation while making important medical decisions can create additional pressure on healthcare professionals. Under such circumstances, it can be difficult to give every patient the attention they need. To address this problem, it is



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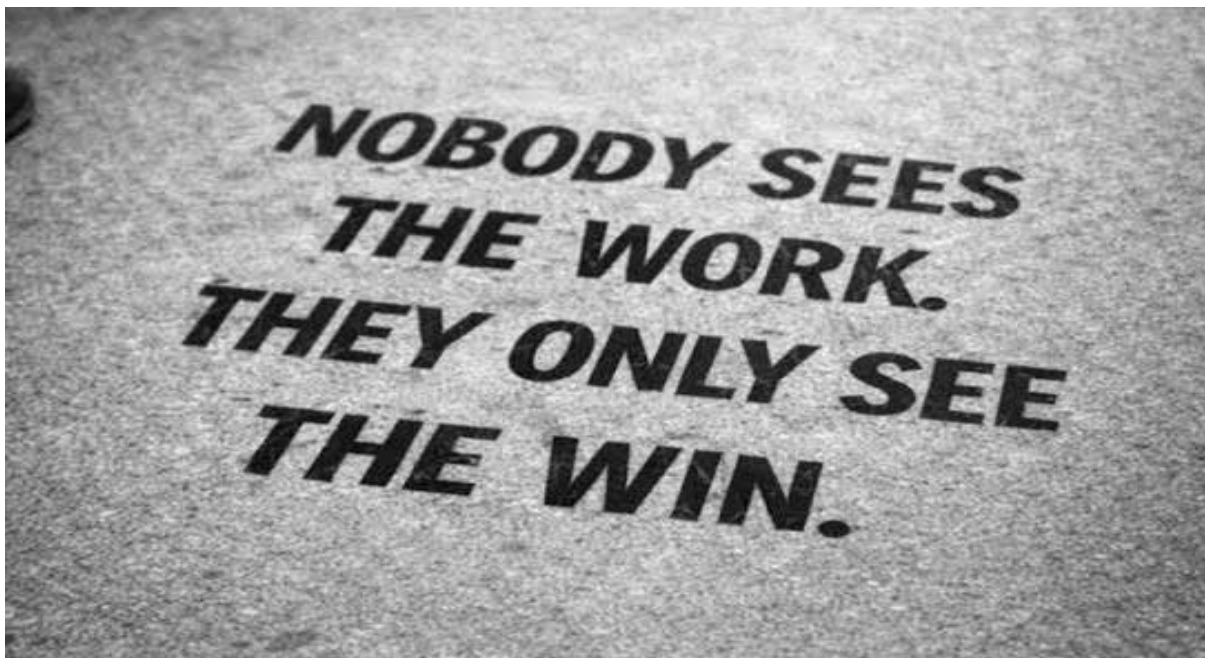


By: Nurimova Lola
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Sometimes a person's greatest effort takes place in silence. No one sees how they spend their nights and mornings, the pages they have erased and rewritten several times, or the emotions they have experienced after failure. Yet people begin to pay attention to a person's life only after the results begin to appear. One day, they walk onto a stage with an award in their hands and a smile on their face. At that moment, those watching from backstage say, "What a lucky person you are!" Perhaps they are right. But only that person knows how many sleepless nights, how much anxiety,

and how many questions such as "Will I be able to do this?" are hidden behind that smile. Success often does not come suddenly, as people may think. It emerges from the accumulation of small tasks completed on ordinary days, without any applause. Reading a page of a book, practicing something over and over again, making another attempt after a mistake — these things may seem insignificant from the outside. Yet, with time, one can realize that these very small steps have carried them a long way. Thomas Edison's famous statement, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration," was not made without reason. Talent may help a person take the first step, but patience and hard work are needed to keep moving forward, especially when the result is not yet visible. That is the hardest part. When a person is working, there is no reward waiting for them. There are no spectators to applaud them either. All that remains before them is themselves and their goal. A person who finds the strength within themselves to continue along their path at such a



moment may later be called "lucky." Yet behind the result that appears to be luck lies years of hard work that no one saw. Therefore, one should not look at someone's achievement today and assume that the path to success they have traveled was easy. Perhaps, right now, someone is moving toward their goal with steps that

no one notices. Perhaps their efforts are of no interest to anyone today. But when the time comes and the efforts made in today's silence turn into tomorrow's results, people will see only the victory. A successful person, however, knows where that victory began. Because the work done for success began in the days

that no one saw.

Nurimova Lola
A third-year student majoring in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Health

Women's Health: Responsibility, Trust and Service to People

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important to improve the organization of medical institutions, reduce unnecessary administrative and bureaucratic work, and make greater use of digital technologies. Electronic documentation should not make doctors' work more complicated; instead, it should save their time and allow them to communicate more with patients. Another important issue is the early diagnosis of diseases among women. Many women seek medical attention only when noticeable symptoms appear. However, regular preventive examinations can help detect many diseases at an early stage and allow treatment to begin in a timely manner. Therefore, it is necessary to improve public health literacy. Women should know which medical examinations need to be performed regularly, why warning symptoms should not be ignored, and how important it is to consult a specialist in a timely manner. Prevention often requires far less physical, psychological, and financial effort than treating an advanced disease. Another important issue is the psychological well-being of patients. Women, particularly during pregnancy, after childbirth, or when experiencing reproductive health problems, may experience signifi-

cant anxiety. Therefore, medical care should address not only physical health but also the emotional condition of the patient. In my opinion, medical psychology and counseling should be further developed, while healthcare professionals should receive more training in communication skills. Patients should not be afraid to ask questions and should have the opportunity to receive clear and understandable explanations about their health condition. Continuous professional development of healthcare workers is equally important. Modern medicine is developing rapidly, and knowledge acquired many years ago needs to be regularly updated. For this reason, opportunities for doctors to improve their qualifications should be expanded, including practical seminars, conferences, workshops, and professional exchanges with leading specialists. Providing medical institutions with modern equipment is also essential. However, simply having advanced equipment does not guarantee high-quality medical care. Medical professionals must also be properly trained to use such equipment, and institutions must have access to regular technical maintenance. There is another issue that deserves open discussion — trust between doctors and patients. Sometimes people come to a medical professional with conclusions they have already formed based on social media or unreliable information found



Women's Health

on the internet. This can lead to self-medication and delays in seeking professional medical assistance. Therefore, it is important to strengthen public confidence in evidence-based medicine and explain the dangers of independently prescribing and taking medications. The internet can be a source of information, but final decisions about diagnosis and treatment should be made by qualified medical professionals. It is particularly important to continue improving maternal healthcare. Pregnancy and childbirth should take place under qualified medical supervision, and women should receive the necessary information at every stage. A caring and attentive approach to an expectant mother is also an investment in the

health of her child. Several key areas can be identified as practical solutions: improving the qualifications of healthcare professionals, reducing unnecessary bureaucratic workloads, developing digital healthcare, strengthening preventive examinations, increasing public health literacy, improving psychological support for women, and providing medical institutions with modern equipment. However, any reform will produce meaningful results only when the individual remains at the center of the healthcare system. A doctor should not see a patient as simply another number on a list. At the same time, patients should understand that responsibility for health belongs not only to doctors but also to each individual.

Medicine begins with science, but genuine medical care begins with humanity. Therefore, the main task of modern healthcare should be not only to treat diseases, but also to develop a culture of prevention, trust, and personal responsibility for one's health. It is precisely this approach that can make medical care more effective, modern, accessible, and, most importantly, truly focused on people. Abdullayeva Rushana was born on June 8, 2000, in Buloqboshi District, Andijan Region. She is currently a student at the University of Journalism and Mass Communications of Uzbekistan.

Why Chelsea are sending Mudryk on loan to rebuild his career

Three and a half years after a record-breaking transfer, the Ukrainian winger needs what Stamford Bridge cannot currently give him — regular football

By: Pascal Okoth
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Worth Noting:

- When Mudryk arrived at Stamford Bridge in January 2023, the circumstances were dramatic even by Chelsea's extravagant standards. The club hijacked Arsenal's long-running pursuit of the winger, prising him from Shakhtar Donetsk for an initial £62m — a fee that could rise to £88m with performance-related add-ons — and handing him an unprecedented eight-and-a-half-year contract. He was 21 years old, electrifyingly quick and widely regarded as one of the most exciting attacking talents in European football.
- Three and a half years on, the story has taken a turn that few anticipated. Mudryk, now 25, is heading out of the door on a temporary basis — not in disgrace, but in search of the one thing a club of Chelsea's size and ambition cannot easily provide a player of his current standing: a guaranteed starting place.



Mykhailo Mudryk

Chelsea have decided to send Mykhailo Mudryk out on a season-long loan, with Leeds United leading the race to sign the Ukrainian winger as the club seeks to give him the consistent playing time that has eluded him throughout his time in west London. When Mudryk arrived at Stamford Bridge in January 2023, the circumstances were dramatic even by Chelsea's extravagant standards. The club hijacked Arsenal's long-running pursuit of the winger, prising him from Shakhtar Donetsk for an initial £62m — a fee that could rise to £88m with performance-related add-ons — and handing him an unprecedented eight-and-a-half-year contract. He was 21 years old, electrifyingly quick and widely regarded as one of the most exciting attacking talents in European football. Three and a half years on, the story has taken a turn that few anticipated. Mudryk, now 25, is heading out of the door on a temporary basis — not in disgrace, but in search of the one thing a club of Chelsea's size and ambition cannot easily provide a player of his current standing: a guaranteed starting place. The timing adds another layer of complexity. Mudryk only recently returned to action after serving a 20-month suspension following a positive test for

meldonium, a substance detected in his system in late 2024. The ban, which was among the longest handed to a top-flight footballer in recent years, severed his momentum at a critical stage of his development and left him facing the challenge of rebuilding match sharpness from scratch. He rejoined Chelsea's pre-season tour, but the landscape at Stamford Bridge has shifted considerably during his absence. Under manager Xabi Alonso, Chelsea have assembled a formidable array of wide attacking options. Morgan Rogers, Jamie Gittens, Geovany Quenda and Pedro Neto all sit ahead of Mudryk in the pecking order, and with the club working to reduce a squad that had swelled to around 40 players, he has been training separately from the main group at Cobham. The message, though unstated, is clear enough. Leeds United have moved quickest to respond to the opportunity. The Yorkshire club submitted an opening loan proposal to Chelsea, and while the initial offer was rejected on financial grounds — specifically around salary allocation — negotiations between the two clubs remain active. Leeds are willing to structure the deal as a straightforward loan without a purchase option, a position that suits Chelsea, who remain committed to retaining long-term control over a player still under contract at Stamford Bridge until 2031. For Mudryk, the destination matters. Staying in the Premier League is his strong preference, and Leeds — freshly promoted and playing top-flight football again — represent an environment where he could expect meaningful game time and the intensity of England's top division that his development requires. Interest has also been registered from RC Strasbourg, Chelsea's sister club under the BlueCo ownership group, as well as Roma in Serie A and Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga. But a move abroad holds limited appeal for a player determined to prove himself in the league where his reputation was made and, thus far, left unfulfilled. It would be too simple to frame this as a story of failure. Mudryk has shown, in flashes, precisely the qualities that convinced Chelsea to outmanoeuvre Arsenal for his signature — the acceleration, the directness, the ability to make something happen in tight spaces. The problem has never been talent. It has been consistency, fitness, suspension and the brutal competition for places at a club that has spent lavishly across every position in the years since his arrival. A loan spell that delivers 30 or more appearances, a return to physical sharpness and goals or assists in a high-pressure league environment would change the conversation significantly. Chelsea have too much invested — financially and contractually — to write Mudryk off. The loan is not an exit. It is a structured attempt to recover an asset that still has considerable value, provided it can be coaxed back to its best. The next chapter of Mykhailo Mudryk's career will not be written at Stamford Bridge this season. But Chelsea are betting that it will ultimately bring him back there, transformed.